

New Age Spirituality

QUICK REFERENCE COUNSELING KEYS Excerpt

East Meets West . . .

Rudyard Kipling wrote:

*“East is East, and West is West,
and never the twain shall meet.”¹*

But the two have met in the New Age Movement.

A hungry wolf sees a flock of sheep. In order to get past the shepherd undetected, he shrewdly covers himself with wool to look like a sheep. By looking like a sheep, he can get close to and attack the sheep. A wolf in sheep’s clothing, a woolly wolf, might look soft and innocent, but his true nature is to kill and destroy.

New Age Spirituality presents itself as innocent and helpful. Like a wolf in sheep’s clothing, it can look good on the outside. In reality, however, it is deceptive and destructive. Thousands of people follow lies about God and His world because they fail to recognize New Age Spirituality for what it is.

Are you putting your faith in a cloaked lie? How can you know if you are? Read on to understand the lies of New Age Spirituality that may be influencing you!

Q: “Does the Bible teach anything about reincarnation?”

Although the Bible does teach that man’s soul is eternal, we are appointed to die only once, then to be resurrected.

*“It is appointed for man to die once,
and after that comes judgment.”
(Hebrews 9:27)*

Q: “What does the Bible say happens after I die?”

After death both believers in Jesus and unbelievers will experience a resurrection and will face God’s judgment.

*“Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.”
(John 5:28–29)*

Q: “Will I get a different body from the one I have now?”

After you die, your soul will not migrate into a different kind of body. Your soul will enter a new body that will never die. Your new body will be similar to your present body, and you will be recognizable.

*“Not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. . . . So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable.”
(1 Corinthians 15:39, 42)*

New Age Spirituality²

New Age Spirituality is made up of a large, loosely structured network of individuals and organizations bound together by a worldview that chiefly consists of . . .

- the central belief of pantheism
- the common hope of global enlightenment
- the creation of one's own reality through positive thinking
- the cycle of ongoing reincarnation

The Roots of the New Age³

Hinduism, the dominant religion of India, teaches the following:

- All existence is one substance . . . monism.
- All existence is divine . . . pantheism.
- All things, even rocks, are inhabited by God . . . panentheism.
- All people go through many life and death cycles . . . reincarnation.
- All reality is illusion (Maya).

*“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.”
(Matthew 7:15)*

The Appeal of the New Age⁴

Many people are deceptively drawn into New Age Spirituality because . . .

- It offers something positive for everyone (health enthusiasts, psychologists, ecologists).
- It rejects moral absolutes (no distinction between good and evil).
- It incorporates a broader view of unity to the point that all religions are the same.
- It generates curiosity in the supernatural.
- It increases one's sense of personal worth.
- It preys on the spiritual vacuum in a person.
- It abandons accountability for sin.
- It satisfies one's desire to be like God.
- It offers a deceptive alternative to those who will not accept the simple message of Christ.
- It nourishes one's hope for a perfect world.

The ultimate appeal of New Age Spirituality is rooted in original sin.

*“The serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’”
(Genesis 3:4–5)*

Biblical Answers to New Age Arguments

- **Argument:** “We can create reality from ‘universal energy.’”

Answer: Only God can create reality. Only God can create something out of nothing (*ex nihilo*). (Isaiah 45:18)

- **Argument:** “God enables everyone to be wealthy because ‘whatever the mind of man can conceive and believe, it can achieve’”⁵

Answer: Jesus says not to focus on earthly, temporal things, but instead to focus on eternal treasures. (Matthew 6:19–21)

Key Verse to Memorize

“See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.”
(Colossians 2:8)

Key Passage to Read and Reread

Genesis chapter 3

“The LORD has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.”
(Psalm 103:19)

Confronting New Age Spirituality

Around AD 50, the apostle Paul confronted pantheists in Athens, giving us the model found in Acts 17:16–34.

- **Communicate** concern. (Acts 17:16)
- **Converse** with reason. (Acts 17:17)
- **Claim** that Jesus is God in human form. (John 1:1–3)
- **Commend** their desire for spirituality. (Acts 17:22)
- **Clarify** the truth about God. (Acts 17:30)
- **Challenge** reincarnation. (Hebrews 9:27)
- **Confront** the concept of karma. (Acts 17:29)
- **Continue** to have hope. (1 Peter 3:15)

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.”
(John 1:1–3)

Related Topics . . .

- The Bible: Is It Reliable?
Truth on Trial
- Cults:
The Truth Twisters
- The Occult:
Demystifying the Deeds of Darkness
- Spiritual Warfare:
Strategy for the Battle

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New Age Spirituality:
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1. John Bartlett, *Familiar Quotations: A Collection of Passages, Phrases and Proverbs Traced to Their Sources in Ancient and Modern Literature*, edited by Emily Morison Beck, 14th ed. (Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1968), 872.

2. For this section see Erwin W. Lutzer and John F. Devries, *Satan's "Evangelistic" Strategy for This New Age* (Wheaton, IL: Victor, 1989), 11–25.

3. For this section see Douglas Groothuis, *Confronting the New Age: How to Resist a Growing Religious Movement* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1988), 15–32; Russell Chandler, *Understanding the New Age* (Dallas, TX: Word Publishing, 1988), 43–50; David K. Clark and Norman L. Geisler, *Apologetics in the New Age: A Christian Critique of Pantheism* (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1990), 11–12.

4. Mary Baker Eddy, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* (Boston, MA: Christian Science Publishing, 1906), 472–73; Foundation for Inner Peace, *A Course in Miracles*, 2nd ed. (New York: Viking, 1996), 1:402, 405; 2:403.

5. Napoleon Hill, *Think and Grow Rich* (New York: Fawcett Books, 1937), 32.