

A close-up photograph of a sword lying diagonally across a brown, textured leather surface. The sword has a black hilt with a silver-colored guard and a silver-colored blade. The blade is sharp and reflects light. The leather surface has a pebbled texture.

TAKE THE  
SWORD OF THE  
SPIRIT,

WHICH IS THE  
WORD OF GOD





God's Word is a lamp by night, a light by day  
and a delight at all times. It is the anvil upon  
which the opinions of men are smashed.

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**Charles Spurgeon**

The Word of God is either absolute or obsolete.

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**Vance Havner**






## 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (Amplified Bible)

16. Every Scripture is God-breathed (given by His inspiration) and profitable for instruction, for reproof and conviction of sin, for correction of error and discipline in obedience, [and] for training in righteousness (in holy living, in conformity to God's will in thought, purpose, and action),
17. So that the man of God may be complete and proficient, well fitted and thoroughly equipped for every good work.





**LIVING WATER  
DOES NOT COME FROM  
POLLUTED WELLS**



## Deuteronomy 18:9–11

9. When you come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominable practices of those nations.
10. There shall not be found among you anyone who burns his son or his daughter as an offering, anyone who practices divination or tells fortunes or interprets omens, or a sorcerer or a charmer or a medium or a necromancer or one who inquires of the dead,
- 11.



## Deuteronomy 18:12-14

12. for whoever does these things is an abomination to the Lord. And because of these abominations the Lord your God is driving them out before you.
13. You shall be blameless before the Lord your God,
14. for these nations, which you are about to dispossess, listen to fortune-tellers and to diviners. But as for you, **the Lord your God has not allowed you to do this.**



- We are a consecrated (set apart) people



## 1 Peter 2:9

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You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood,  
a holy nation, a people for God's own  
possession, SO THAT you may proclaim  
the excellencies of Him who called you  
out of darkness into His marvelous light.





♦ Emerging Spirituality • Contemplative Spirituality • Higher Thought  
♦ The New Reformation • Renovaré • Spiritual Formations



- We are a consecrated (set apart) people
- The lie that the intent sanctifies the source



## Matthew 7:15-18

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15. Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.
16. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?
17. So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but **the diseased tree bears bad fruit.**
18. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, **nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit.**



- We are a consecrated (set apart) people
- The lie that the intent sanctifies the source
- The deception of “Christian Yoga”





## Correct Statement

- Yoga has exploded as a form of exercise & relaxation. One writer compared its success in western society to McDonald's success in the east.
- Yoga, in various forms, has played a part in the Hindu religion for thousands of years. The word 'yoga' comes from the Sanskrit word 'to control', 'to yoke' or 'to unite'. The history is a little fuzzy but essentially the goal of yoga has been to use various physical, mental and spiritual postures in order to reach an intended spiritual state.

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NZ Denomination Website





## False Statement

- There are many types of yoga in N.Z., some with spiritual elements & some with those elements deliberately removed. For example, your typical gym yoga class, which focuses on 'asana' (physical postures) & 'pranayama' (breathing), is a far cry from yoga's spiritual roots. So in this sense some yoga can be compared to gymnastics or even singing exercises!
- Additionally, just because yoga has roots in a non-Christian practice doesn't mean it can't be redeemed within Christianity.

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NZ Denomination Website



When I noticed how aggressively the west has absorbed Yoga into its churches as well-being exercise, I returned to the India I grew up in for almost twenty years to interview Hindu Yogis asking if the physical aspects of Yoga could be separated from its spirituality and they said **absolutely no!**

The physical exercises are themselves a religious Hindu ritual & **are designed** to bring a person into contact with spiritual beings.

Yoga positions & the breathing exercises **facilitate altered states of mind** so that one may experience a mystical presence.

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**Caryl Matrisciana**

**Former New Ager & Occultist, then a born again, spirit-filled believer**





If you look at the picture of Lord Shiva in Hinduism, you see a snake wrapped around his neck. Hindus believe that the serpent power is in every person and the serpent power is sleeping in you. By practicing Yoga, it awakens that Kundalini power in you. When the Kundalini power is awakened, that goes up to the brain and awakens the psychic power. This is why the positions in Yoga are so important; they are based on serpents' movements to facilitate the flow of the Kundalini serpent energy.

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Western Yoga practitioners think this energy is a neutral force. It is not. Yoga exercises do not release the energy from within a person's own spine. The sensations of Kundalini energy and an altered state of consciousness are produced by a demonic presence.

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God is not deceived by appearances. Putting Christian labels on conjuring techniques does not change His mind about them. Whatever conjures up a spirit is always an offense to Him and sin for us. Whether ignorantly conjuring up a spirit by the Kundalini energy released by Yoga exercises, or deliberately conjuring up spirit guides through meditation, the silence, contemplative prayer, it is all part of enchantment or divination: “discovering things secret by the aid of superior beings, or other than human means.”

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**Former New Ager & Occultist, then a born again, spirit-filled believer**



- We are a consecrated (set apart) people
- The lie that the intent sanctifies the source
- The deception of “Christian Yoga”
- Spiritual formations, contemplative prayer





Today I personally believe that while Jesus came to open the door to God's house, all human beings can walk through that door, whether they know about Jesus or not. Today I see it as my call to help every person claim his or her own way to God.

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**Henri Nouwen**  
**Sabbatical Journey, pg. 51**





When we empty our mind from all thoughts  
and our hearts from all experiences, we can  
prepare in the center of our innermost being  
the home for the God who wants to dwell in us.

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**Henri Nouwen**

**Reaching Out: The Three Movements of the Spiritual Life, pg. 147**



## Romans 8:9

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But you are not living the life of the flesh, you are living the life of the Spirit, if the [Holy] Spirit of God [really] dwells within you [directs and controls you]. But if anyone does not possess the [Holy] Spirit of Christ, he is none of His [he does not belong to Christ, is not truly a child of God].



## New Age, Occult, Eastern Mysticism

repetition of a “sacred” mantra

focusing on one’s breathing

visualising images or icons

non-ordinary forms of communication

Spirit Guide to lead & direct

Intent: Experience intimacy with God





In contemplative prayer we are entering deeply into the spiritual realms” and “sometimes it is not the realm of God, even though it is supernatural. In the silent contemplation of God ... there is such a thing as a supernatural guidance. While the Bible does not give us a lot of information on that, there are various orders of spiritual beings, and some of them are definitely not in cooperation with God and His way!

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**Richard Foster**  
**Celebration of Discipline**



## **New Age, Occult, Eastern Mysticism**

repetition of a “sacred” mantra  
focusing on one’s breathing  
visualising images or icons

non-ordinary forms of communication

Spirit Guide to lead & direct

Intent: Experience intimacy with God

## **Spiritual Formations**

repetition of a “Christian” mantra  
focusing on one’s breathing  
holding to mental images

non-ordinary forms of communication

Spiritual Director to guide & direct

Intent: Experience intimacy with God



## **Matthew 7:7-8**

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Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

## **Matthew 21:22**

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If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.



## Romans 8:26-27

26. In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know how we ought to pray, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groans too deep for words.
27. And **He who searches our hearts** knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.



## Psalm 46:10-11

10. Be still and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations,  
I will be exalted over the earth.”
11. The Lord of Hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our fortress



## Colossians 3:2

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Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things

## 2 Corinthians 10:5

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... we destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and that we are to take every thought captive to obey Christ



## **Romans 7:25**

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So then, with my mind I serve the law of God.

## **Romans 8:5**

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... those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.

## **Romans 12:2**

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Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.



## **John 14:6**

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I am the way, and the truth, and the life.  
No one comes to the Father except through Me.

## **John 8:31-32**

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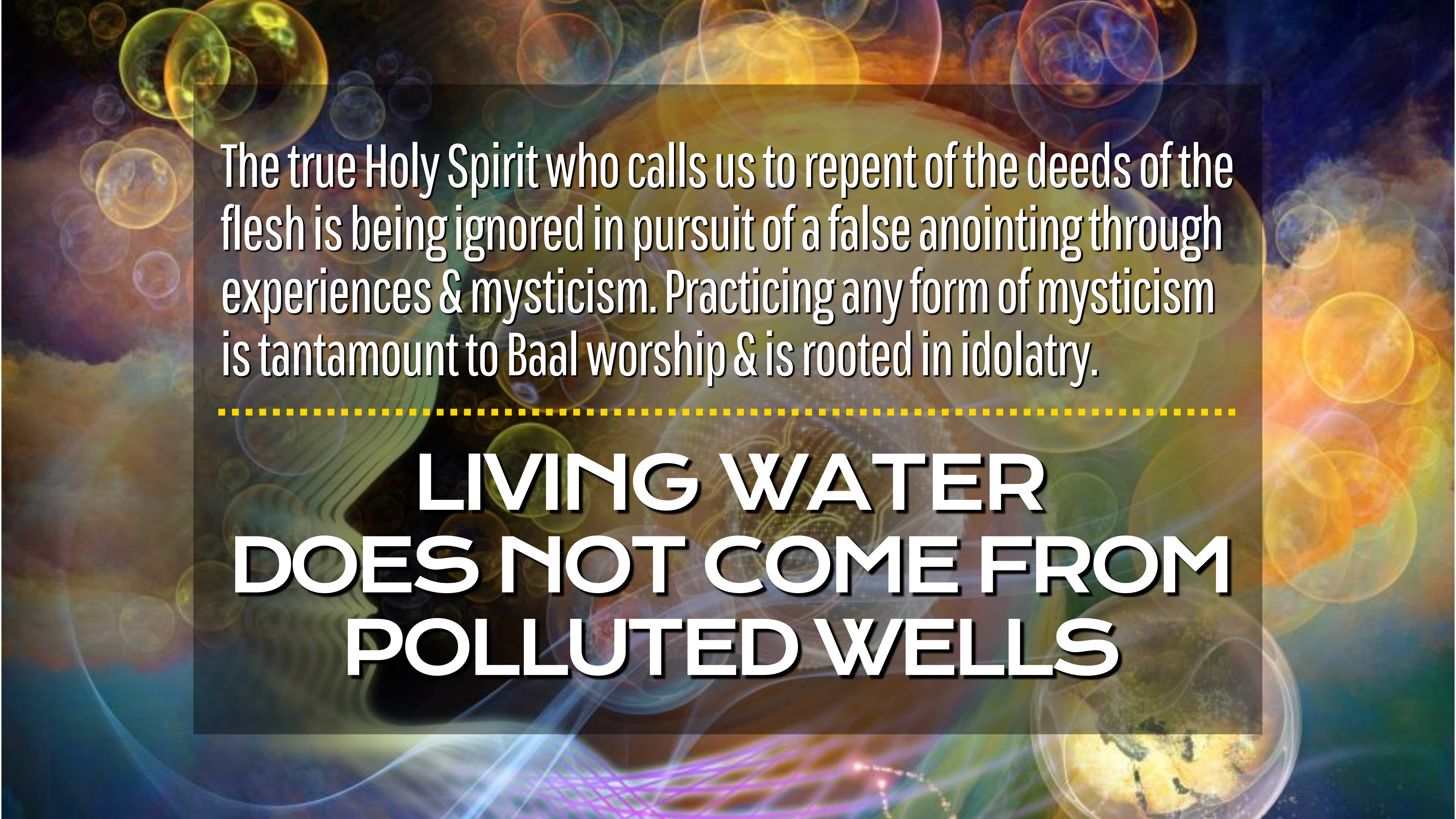
If you abide in My word [hold fast to My teachings and live in accordance with them], you are truly My disciples. And THEN you will know the Truth, and the Truth will set you free.

## **Proverbs 14:12**

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There is a way which seems right to a man and appears straight before him, but at the end of it is the way of death.



The background is a vibrant, abstract composition. It features a central, slightly blurred image of the Earth, showing continents and oceans. Surrounding this central image are numerous out-of-focus, glowing circles in various colors, including yellow, orange, blue, and purple, creating a bokeh effect. The overall color palette is rich and varied, with a dark, deep blue or purple background that makes the glowing elements stand out. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent dark rectangular area in the center.

The true Holy Spirit who calls us to repent of the deeds of the flesh is being ignored in pursuit of a false anointing through experiences & mysticism. Practicing any form of mysticism is tantamount to Baal worship & is rooted in idolatry.

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