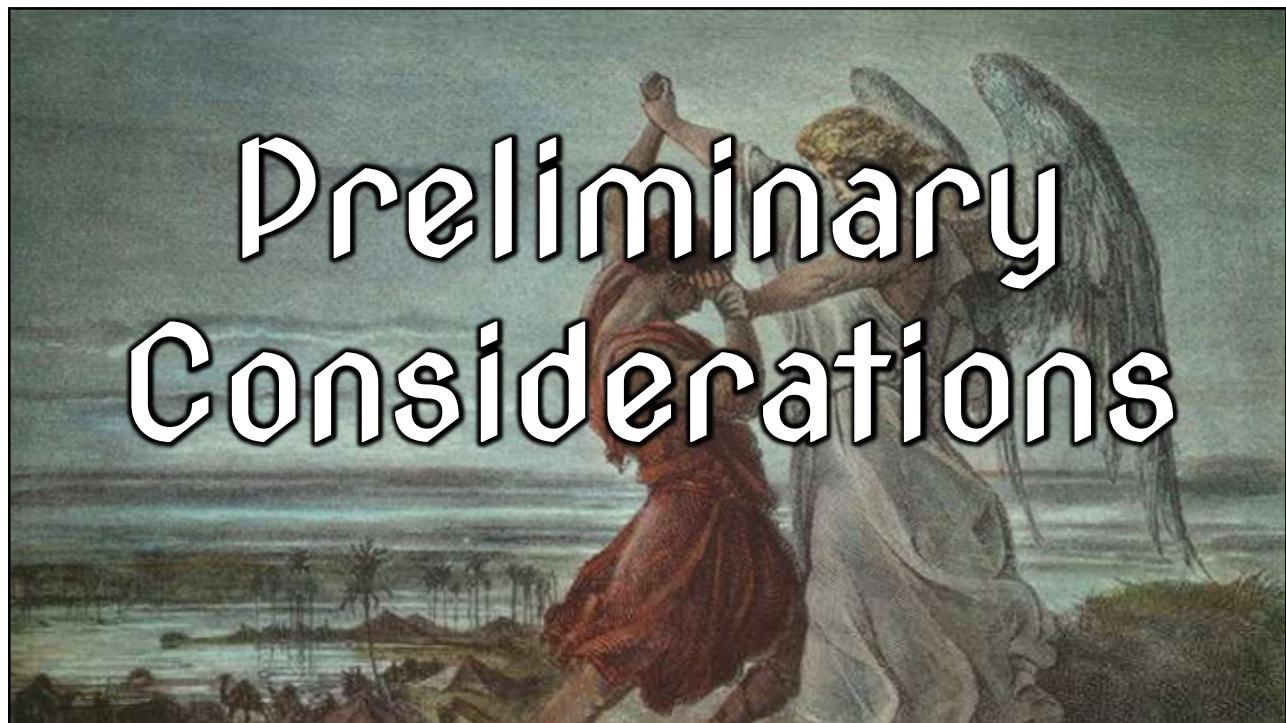






*"Christian" Occultism:  
The Word of Faith Movement  
Pt. 1: Prolegomena*

*Richard G. Howe, Ph.D.*



**Preliminary  
Considerations**

# Judging Heresies not Hearts

<p>☞ Matthew 7:1 ☞ <i>"Judge not, that you be not judged."</i></p> 	
	<p>☞ 1 Cor. 14:29 ☞ <i>"Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge."</i></p> 

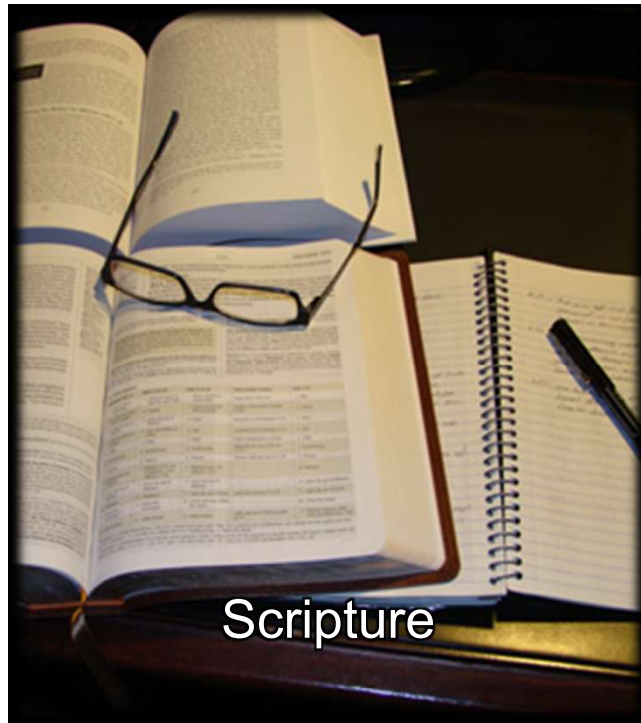
# Test All Things



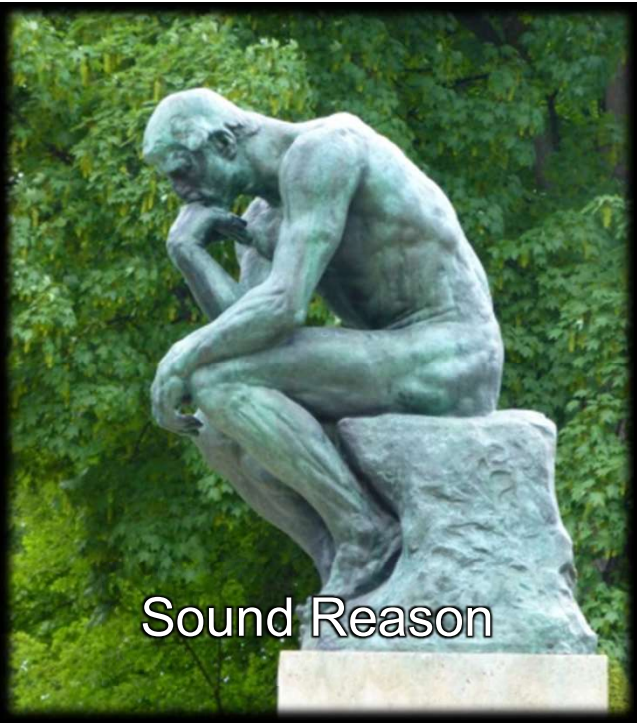
∞ 1 Thess. 5:21-22 ∞

**"Test all things; hold fast  
what is good. Abstain from  
every form of evil."**





Scripture



Sound Reason

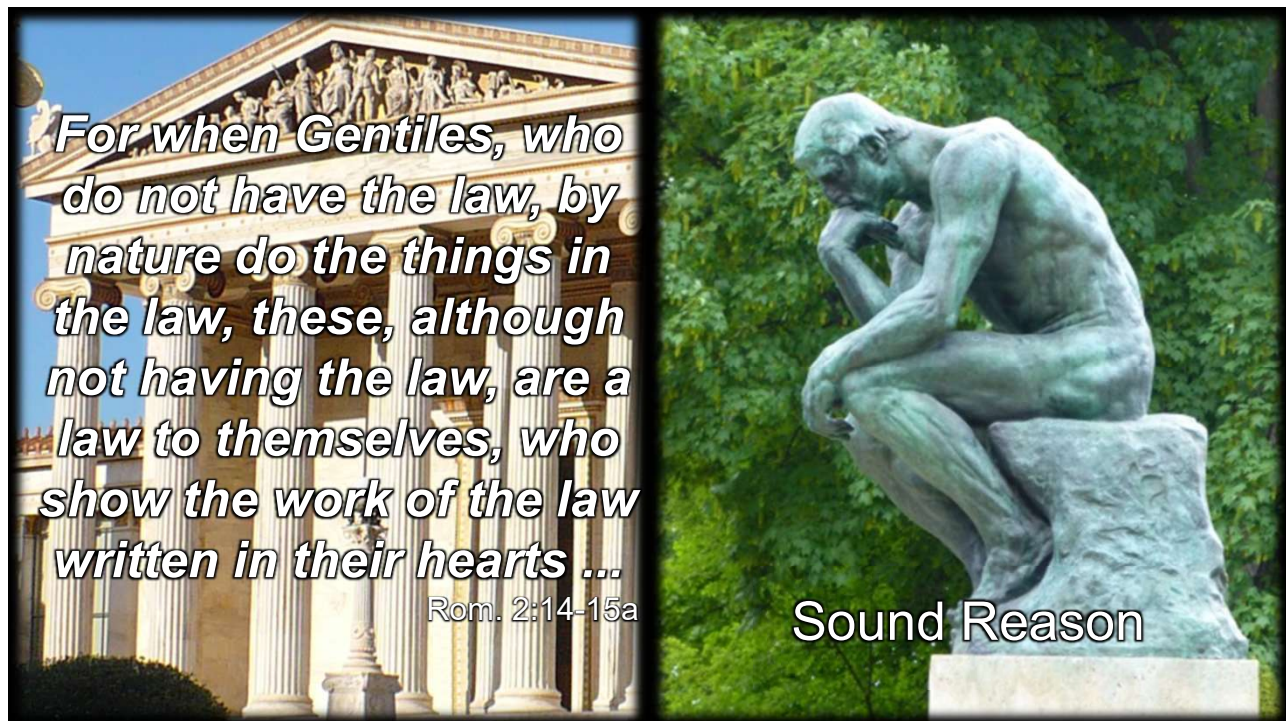
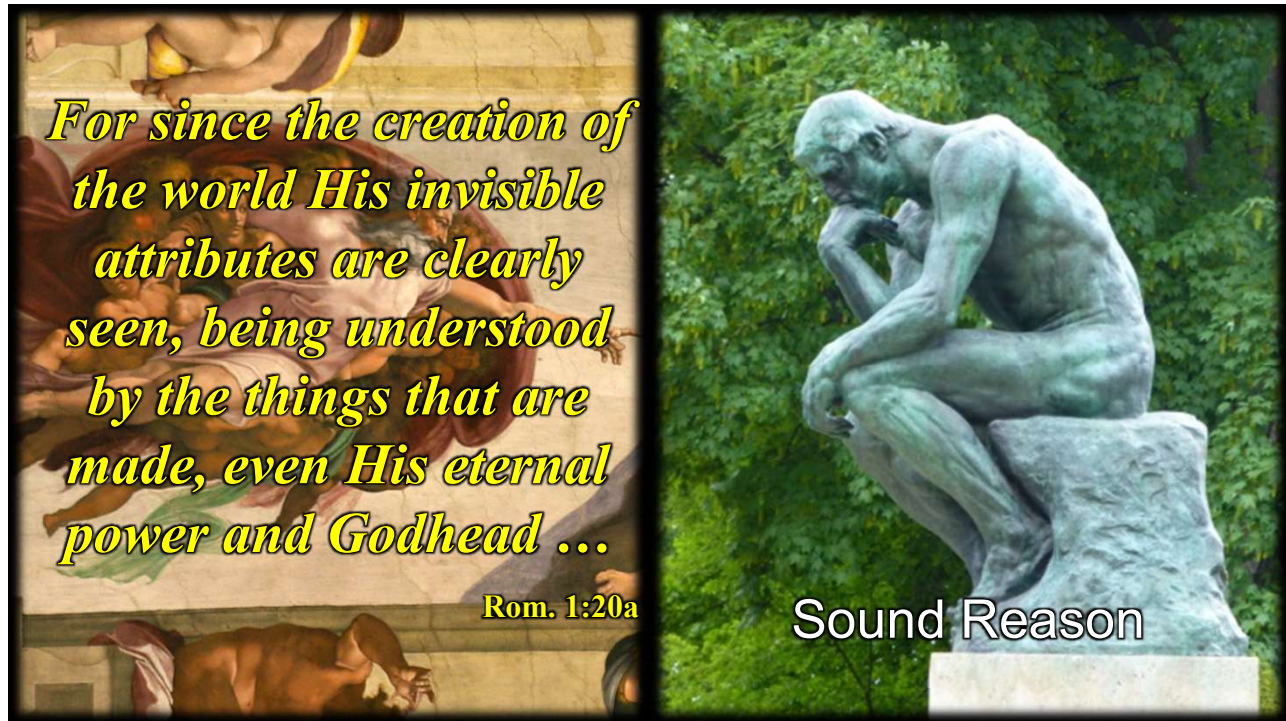
*The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge. There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard. Their line has gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.*

Psalm 19:1

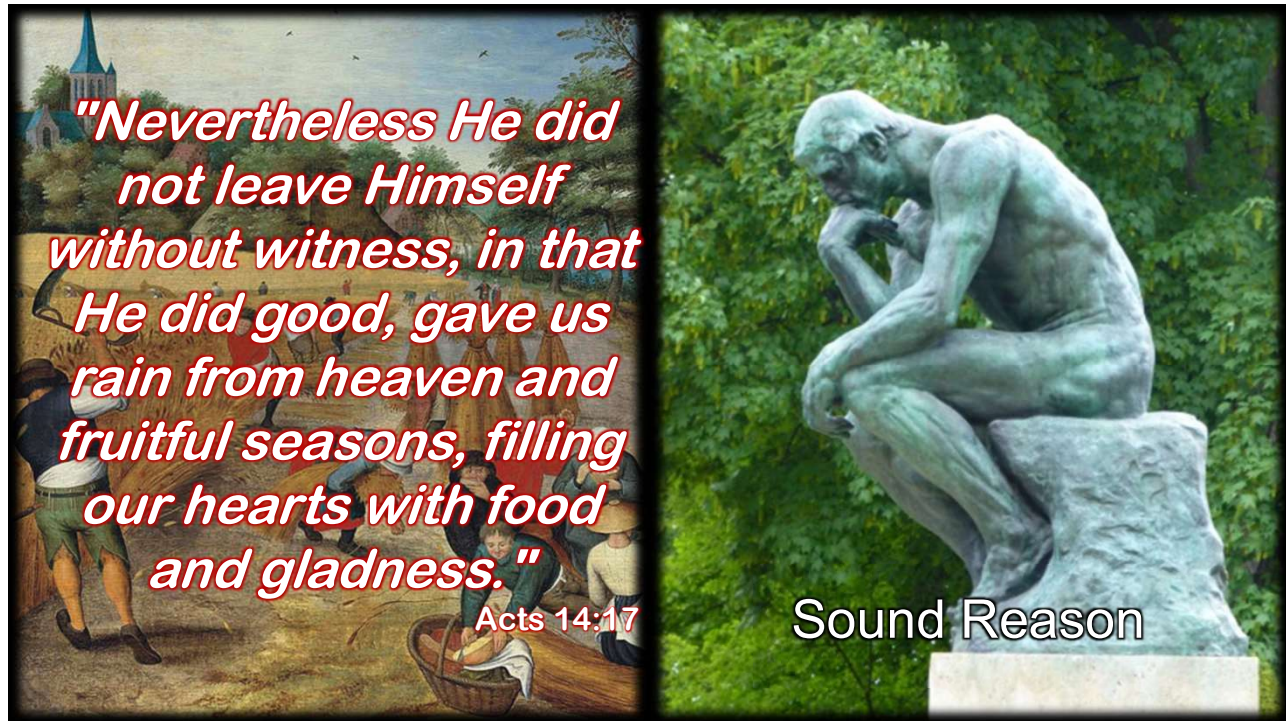


Sound Reason









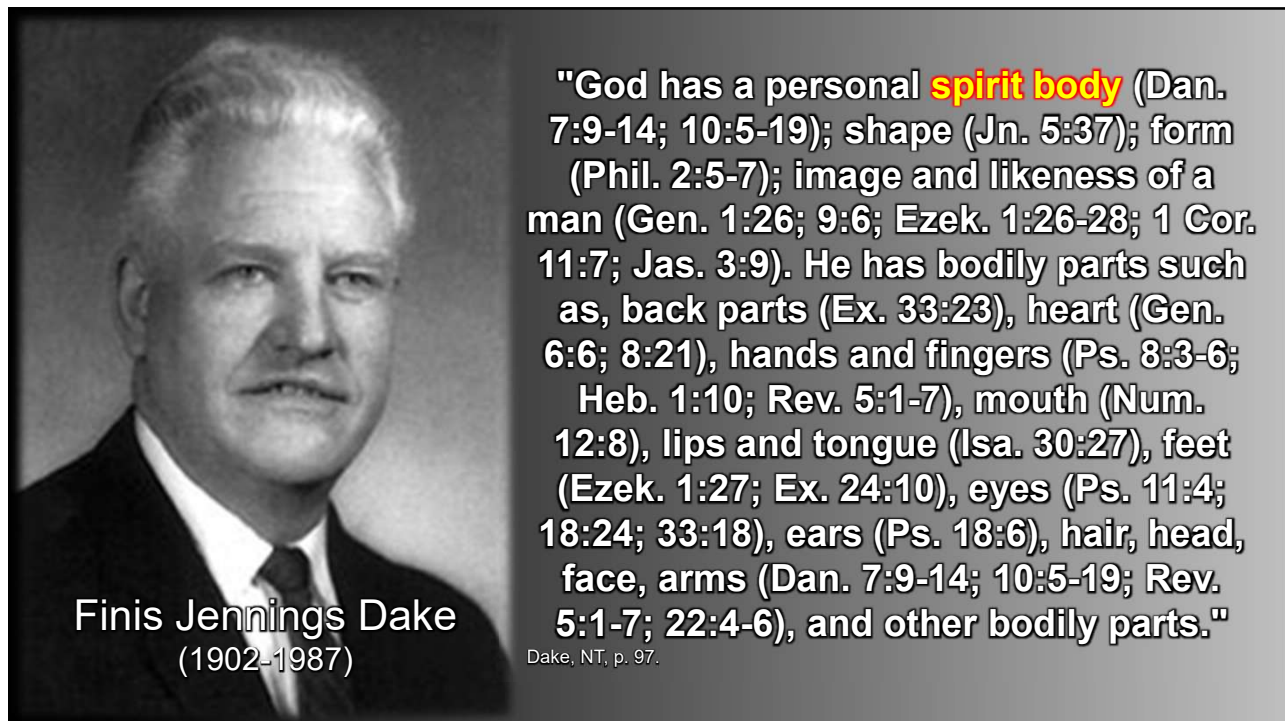
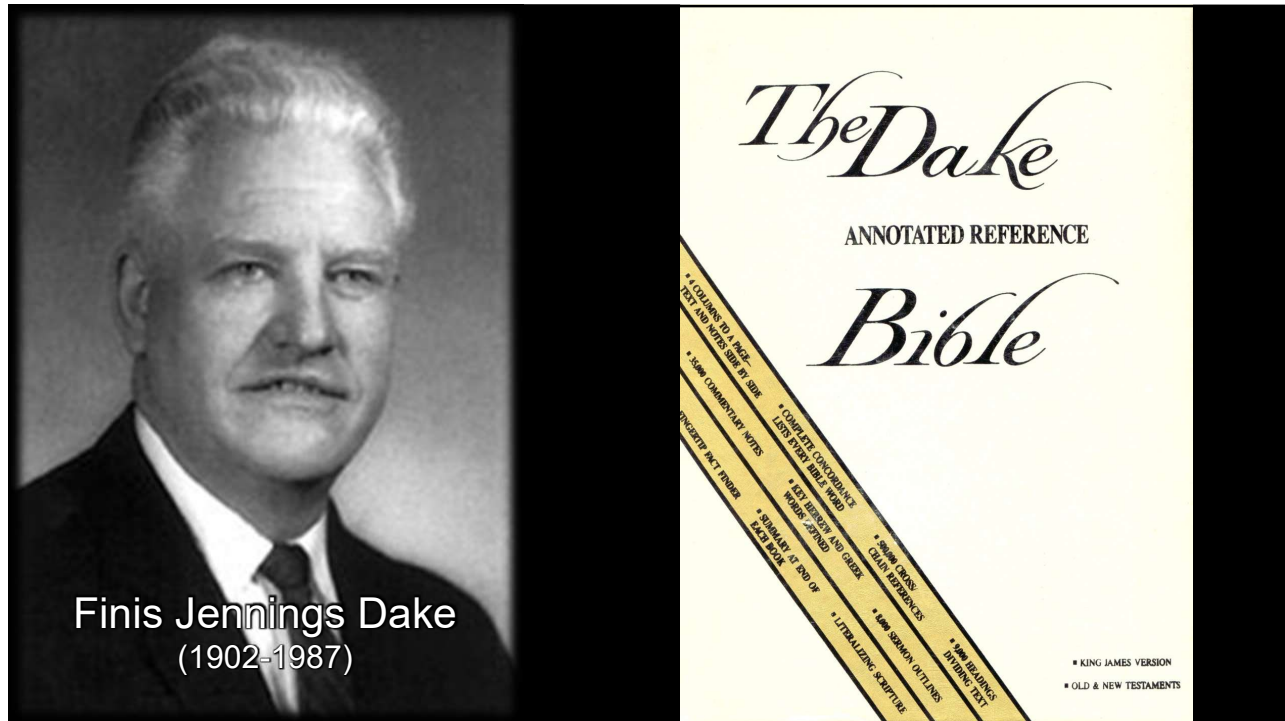
*"Nevertheless He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness."*

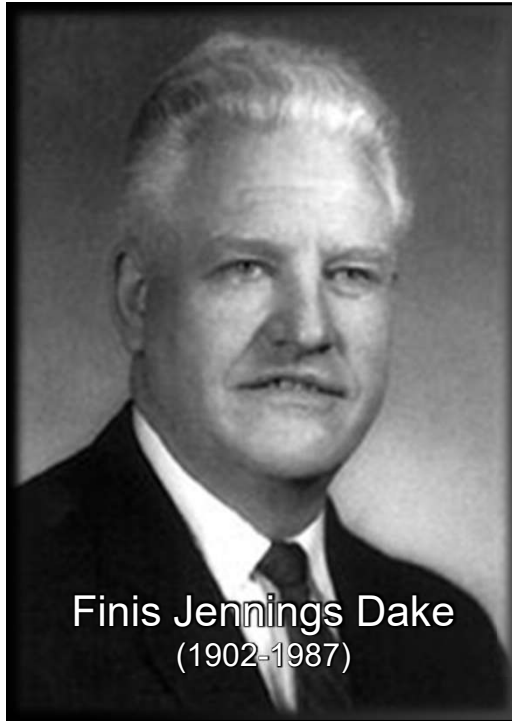
Acts 14:17

Sound Reason

**Bad Philosophical Assumptions Can Corrupt Biblical Interpretation**

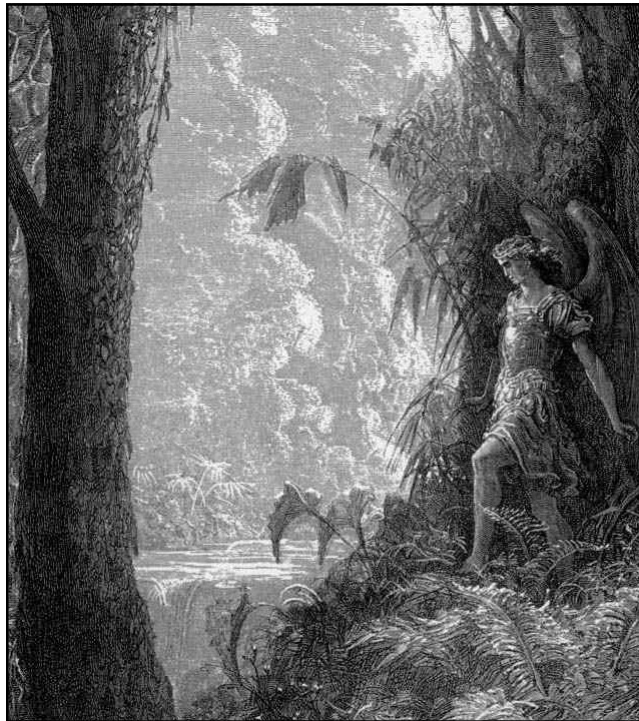






Finis Jennings Dake  
(1902-1987)

7:9-14; 10:5-19) (Dan. 7:9-14; 10:5-19; Rev. 5:1-7; 22:4-6)  
 (Phil. 2:5-7) (Jn. 5:37)  
 (Gen. 1:26; 9:6; Ezek. 1:26-28; 1 Cor. 11:7; Jas. 3:9)  
 (Ex. 33:23) (Gen. 6:6; 8:21) (Ps. 8:3-6; Heb. 1:10; Rev. 5:1-7) (Num. 12:8) (Isa. 30:27) (Ezek. 1:27; Ex. 24:10) (Ps. 11:4; 18:24; 33:18) (Ps. 18:6) (Dan. 7:9-14; 10:5-19; Rev. 5:1-7; 22:4-6)





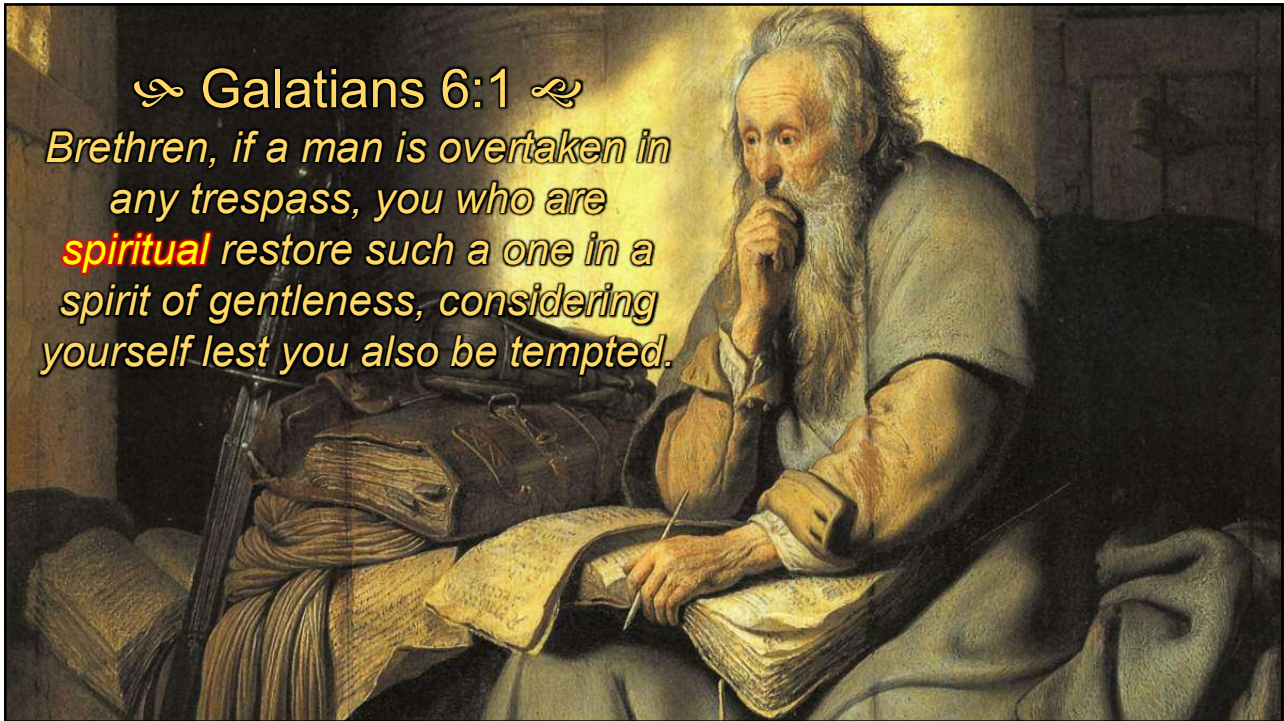
"And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day,

and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden." Gen. 3:8

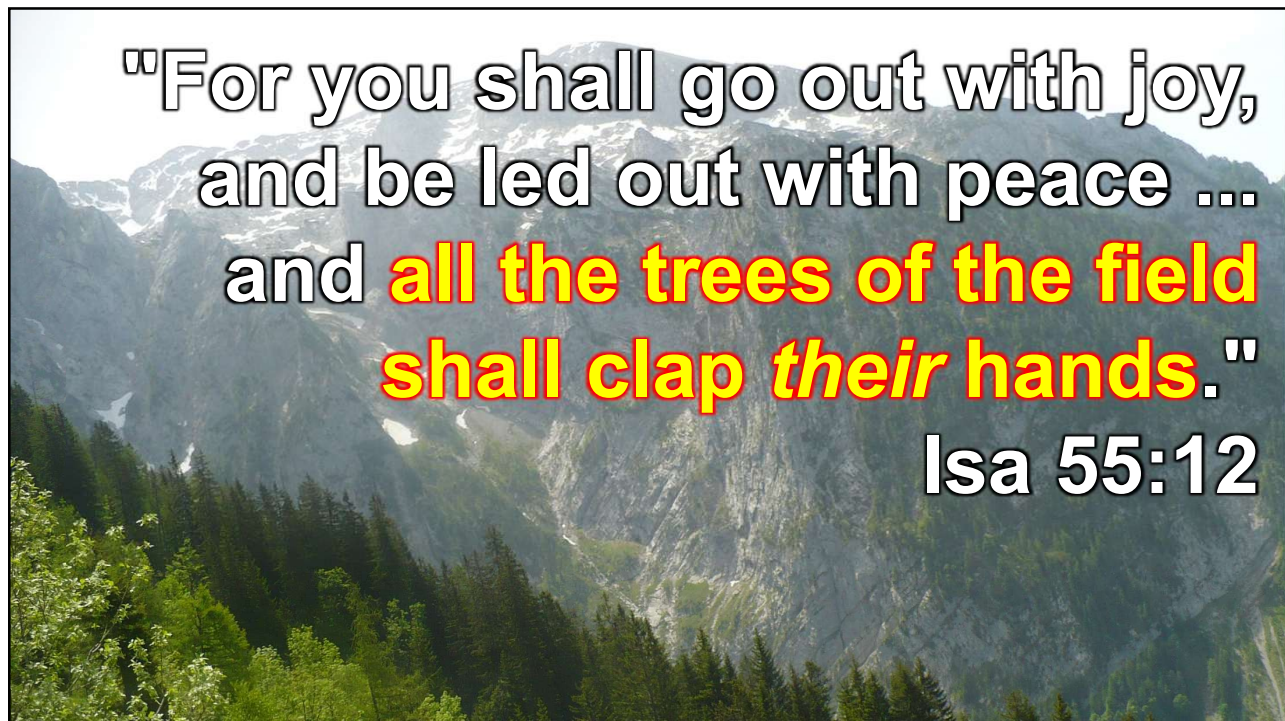
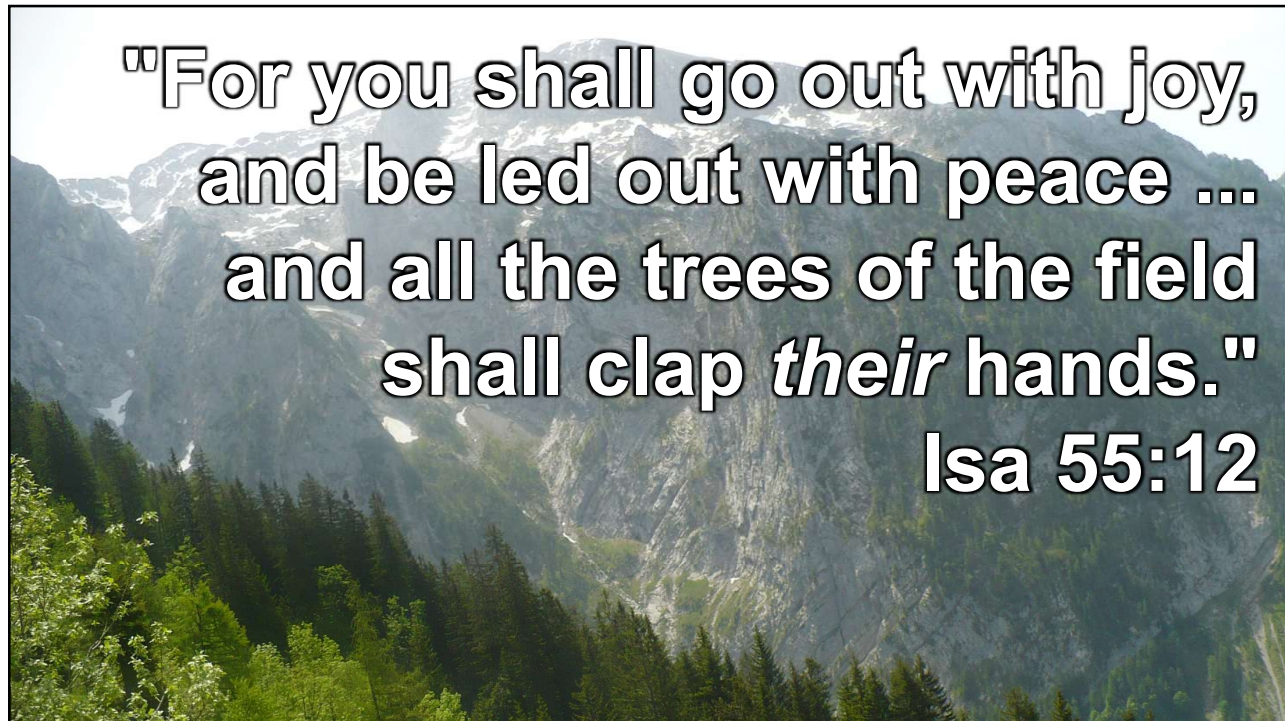
"God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."  
John 4:24

✧ Galatians 6:1 ✧

*Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are **spiritual** restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.*



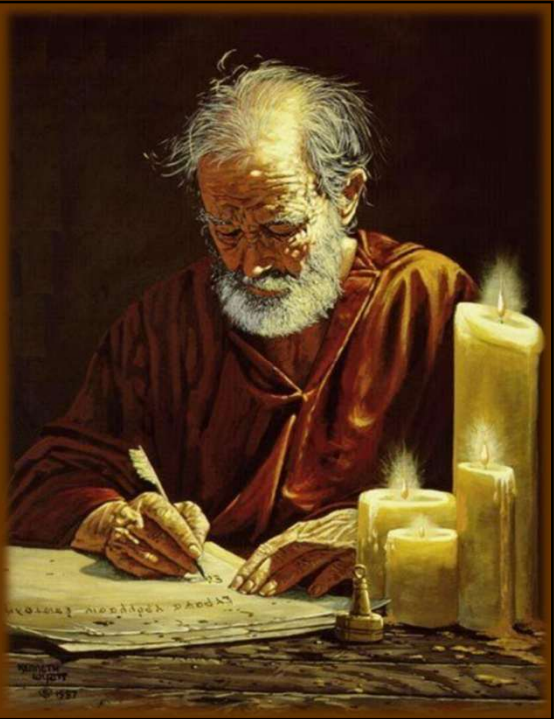






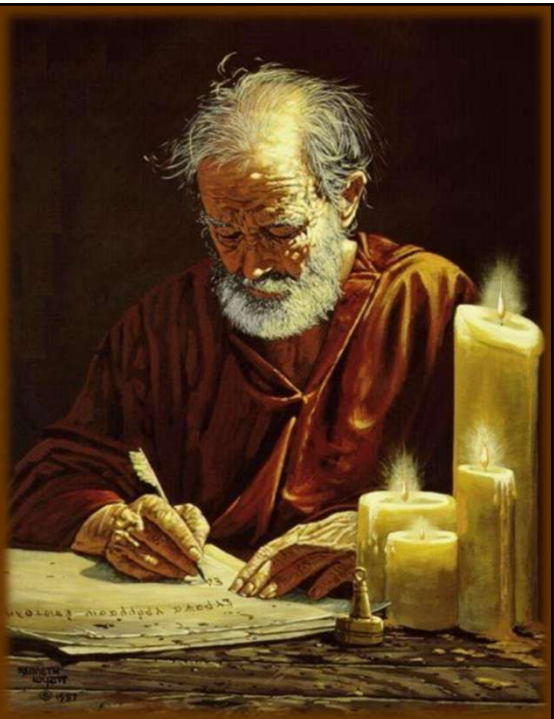
***"For since the creation  
of the world His  
invisible attributes are  
clearly seen, being  
understood by the  
things that are made,  
even His eternal power  
and Godhead ..."***

Rom. 1:20a



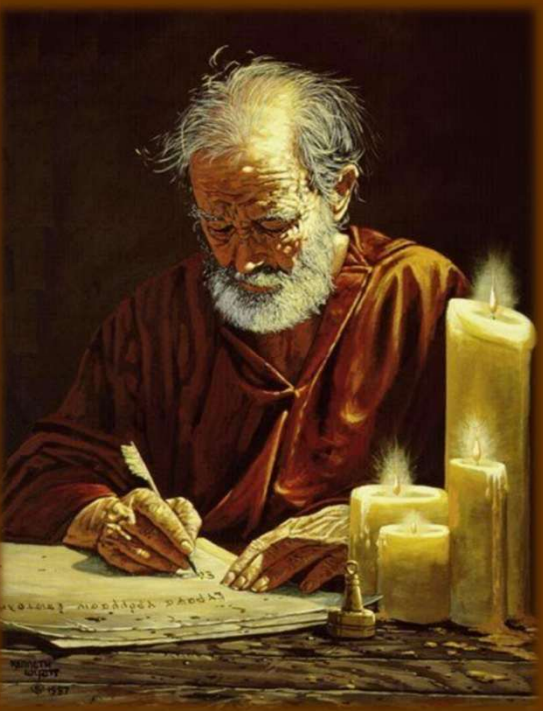
***"For since the creation  
of the world His  
invisible attributes are  
clearly seen, **being  
understood by the  
things that are made,**  
even His eternal power  
and Godhead ..."***

Rom. 1:20a



~~"For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the exegesis of Scripture, even His eternal power and Godhead ..."~~

Rom. 1:20a



"For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the **exegesis** of Scripture, even His eternal power and Godhead ..."

Rom. 1:20a

**ex'sə·jē'sis**

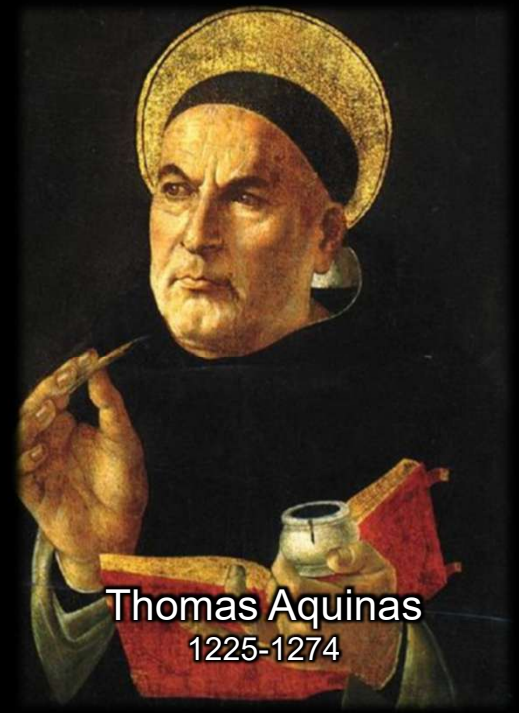
From 'ex' (ἐξ) "out of" and 'agō' (ἀγώ) "I lead;" literally "to lead out"

The excavating of truth from Scripture by a close and careful examination of the text, taking in consideration a number of factors including: lexicography (word usage), syntax (word arrangement), grammar, principles of hermeneutics, the immediate context, the broader context (the book and author in which a passage occurs), and historical context.

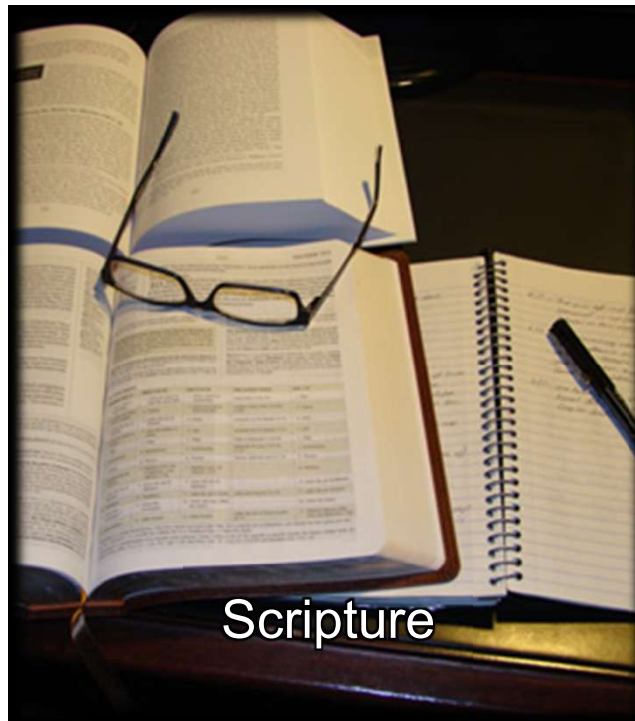


***"Now, what we have said sets aside the error of certain Jews who attributed anger, sadness, repentance, and all such passions in their proper sense to God, failing to distinguish what in Sacred Scripture is said properly and what metaphorically."***

[SCG, I, 91, §18]



**Thomas Aquinas**  
1225-1274



Scripture

✠ 1 John 4:5-6 ✠

***They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them. We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.***



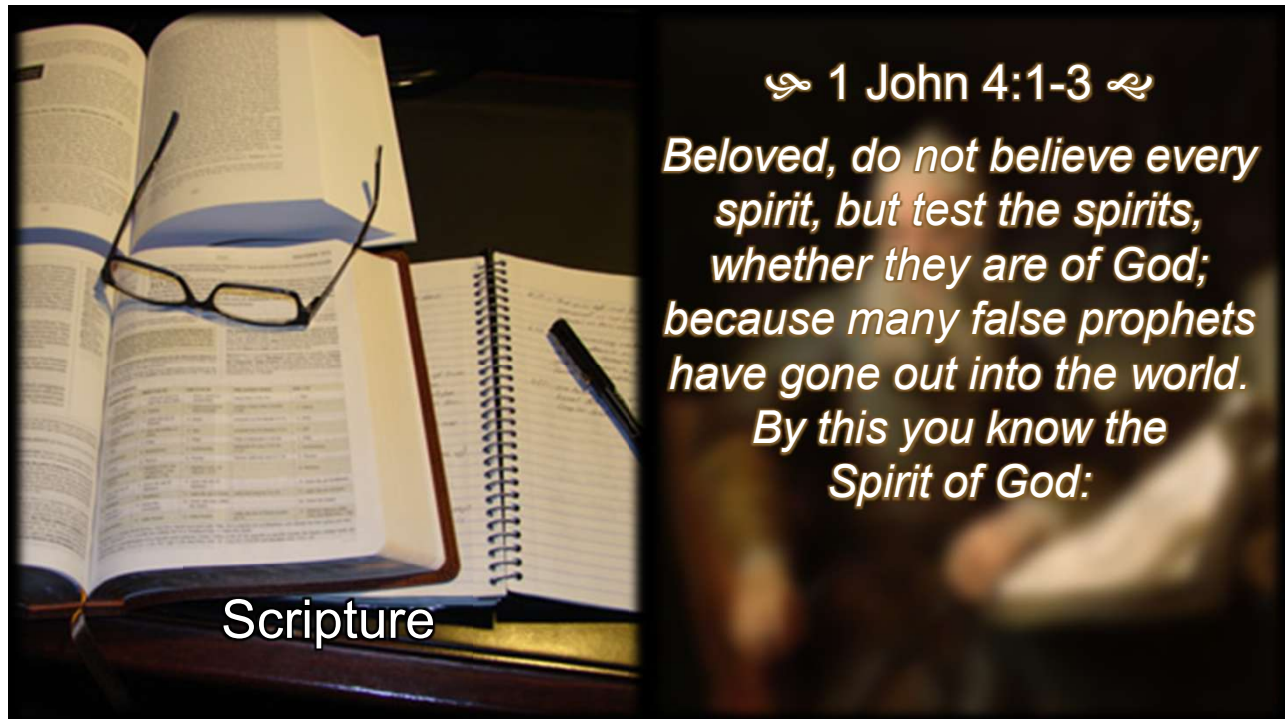
the false apostles

the true apostles

Scripture

☞ 1 John 4:5-6 ☞

*They* are of the world. Therefore *they* speak as of the world, and the world hears *them*. *We* are of God. He who knows God hears *us*; he who is not of God does not hear *us*. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

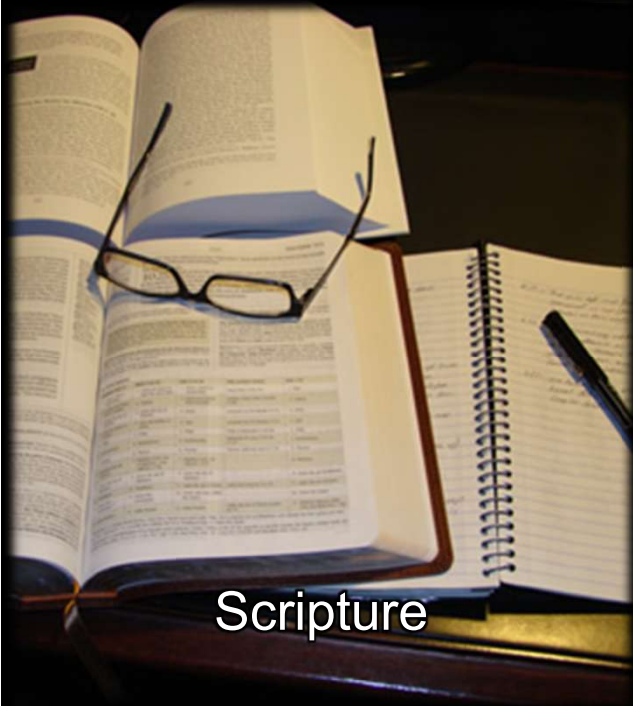


Scripture

☞ 1 John 4:1-3 ☞

*Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God:*





Scripture

☞ 1 John 4:1-3 ☞

*Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.*

☞ 1 Timothy 4:1 ☞

*"Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons ... "*



## ✧ Matthew 7:22-23 ✧

*"Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' {23} And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!' "*

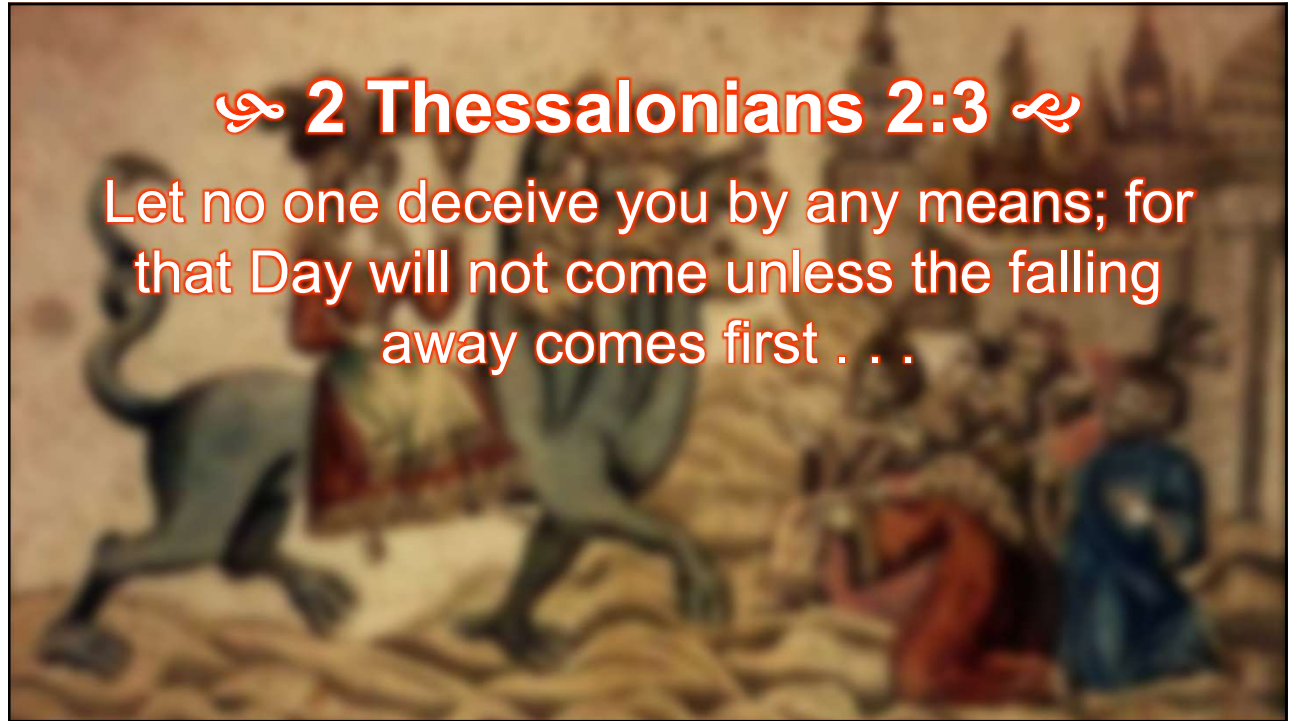
## ✧ 2 Timothy 3:1 ✧

*But know that in the last days perilous times will come . . . having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!*

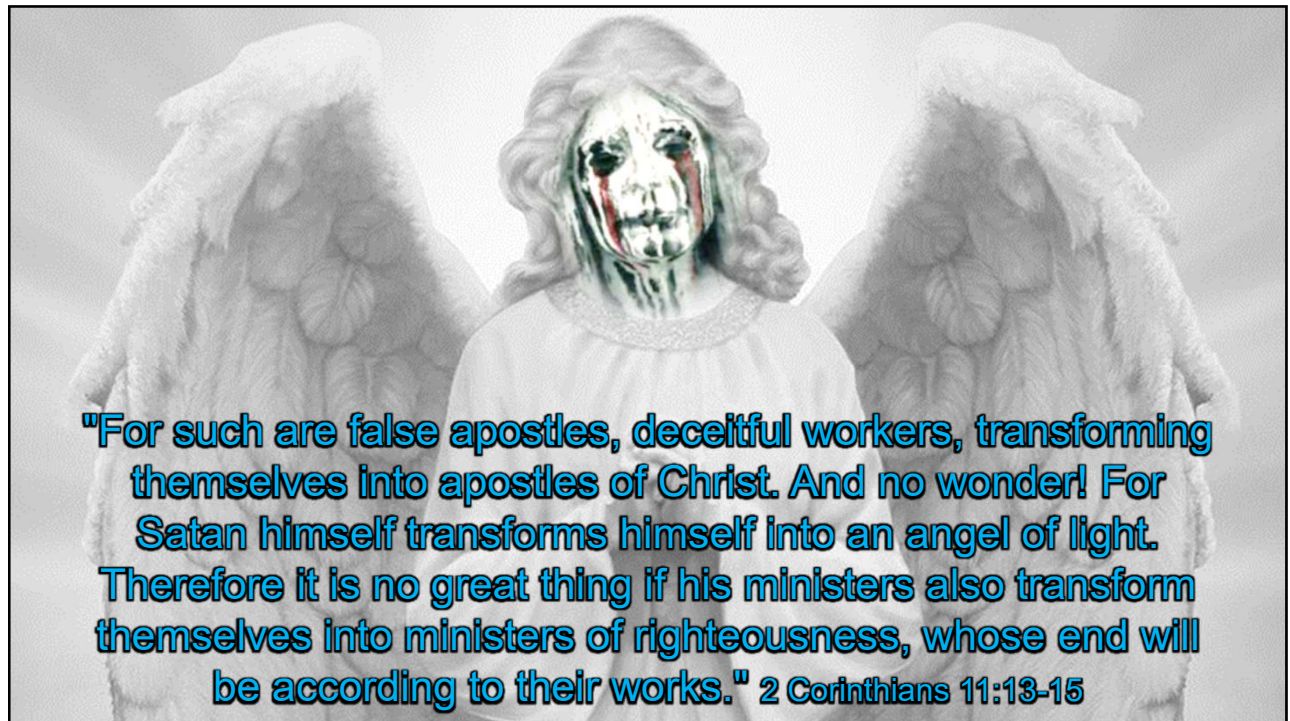


## 🌀 2 Thessalonians 2:3 🌀

Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first . . .



"For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works." 2 Corinthians 11:13-15



*For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves **will come in among you**, not sparing the flock. {30} Also **from among yourselves** men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Act 20:29-30*



☞ Jeremiah 44:17-18 ☞

*"But we will certainly do whatever has gone out of our own mouth, to burn incense to the queen of heaven and pour out drink offerings to her, as we have done, we and our fathers, our kings and our princes, in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem.*





☞ Jeremiah 44:17-18 ☞

*"For then we had plenty of food, were well-off, and saw no trouble. But since we stopped burning incense to the queen of heaven and pouring out drink offerings to her, we have lacked everything and have been consumed by the sword and by famine."*



**Romans 14:1**

**RECIEVE**

one who is weak  
in the faith

but not to disputes  
about doubtful things

**Romans 16:17**

**AVOID**

one who causes  
offenses and divisions

contrary to the doctrine  
which you have learned





✎ Matthew 22:29 ✎

*Jesus answered and said to them, "You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God."*



***Christian unity must be a unity in the truth on the things that matter.***

LIBERALISM    UNITARIANISM

∞ Ephesians 4:15 ∞

*. . . but, speaking the truth in love, [that we] may grow up in all things into Him who is the head — Christ . . .*



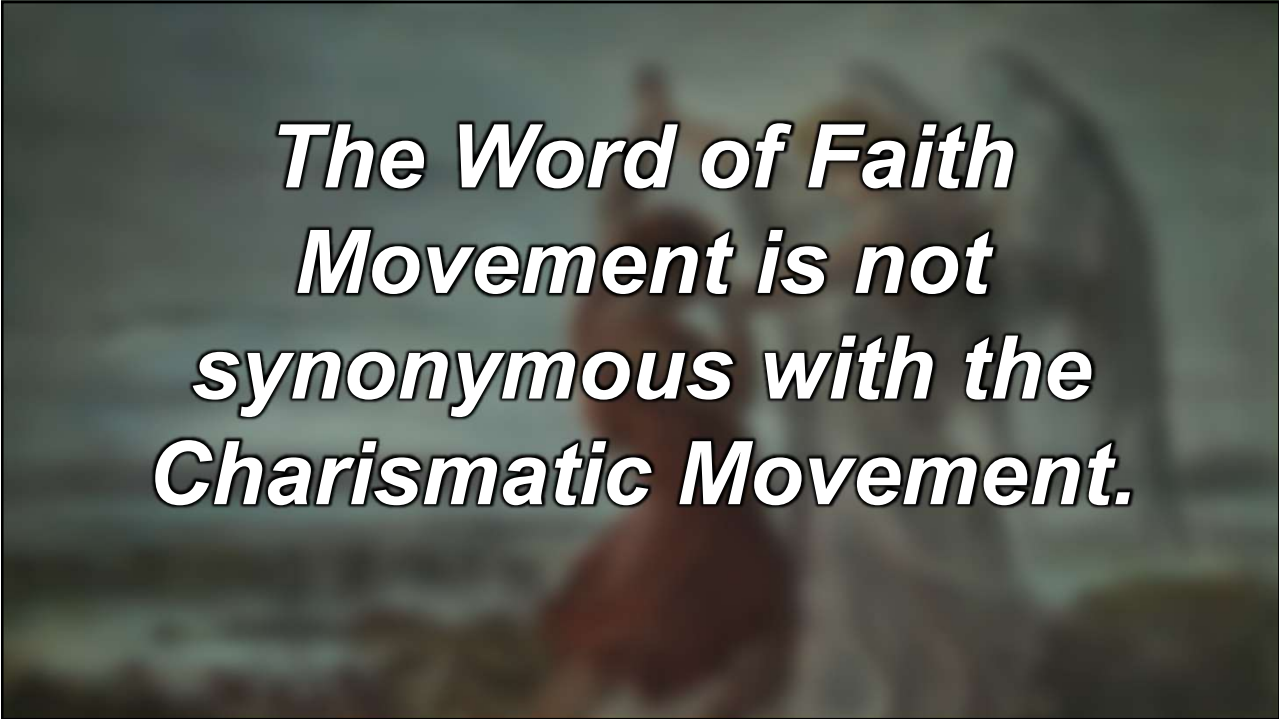
Some of  
the Players



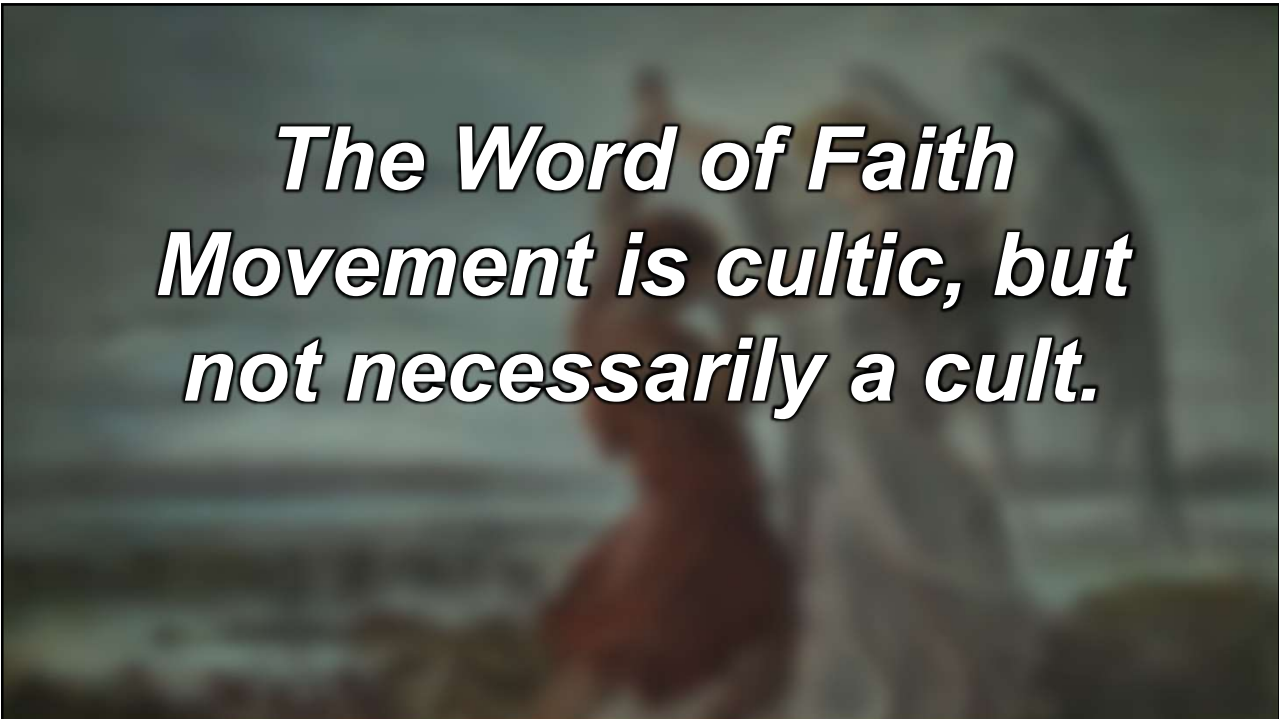




# Background Issues



***The Word of Faith  
Movement is not  
synonymous with the  
Charismatic Movement.***



***The Word of Faith  
Movement is cultic, but  
not necessarily a cult.***



***Matthew 18:15 does not  
require that we first go to  
the Word of Faith teachers  
with our disagreements.***

***It is completely proper to  
"name names."***

## ☞ 1 Timothy 1:18-20 ☞

*"This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck, of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme."*



## ☞ 2 Timothy 2:16-17 ☞

*"But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort."*






***In criticizing the Word of Faith teachers, we are not "stretching out our hands against God's anointed" which 1 Samuel 24:6 and 26:9 forbid.***

***Consider the Word of Faith Movement in light of Matthew 7:21-23.***

## ☞ Matt. 7:21-23 ☞

*"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who **does the will of My Father in heaven**. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who **practice lawlessness!**'"*



## ☞ John 6:28-29 ☞

*"Then they said to Him, 'What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?' Jesus answered and said to them, 'This is the work of God, that you **believe in Him whom He sent.**'"*

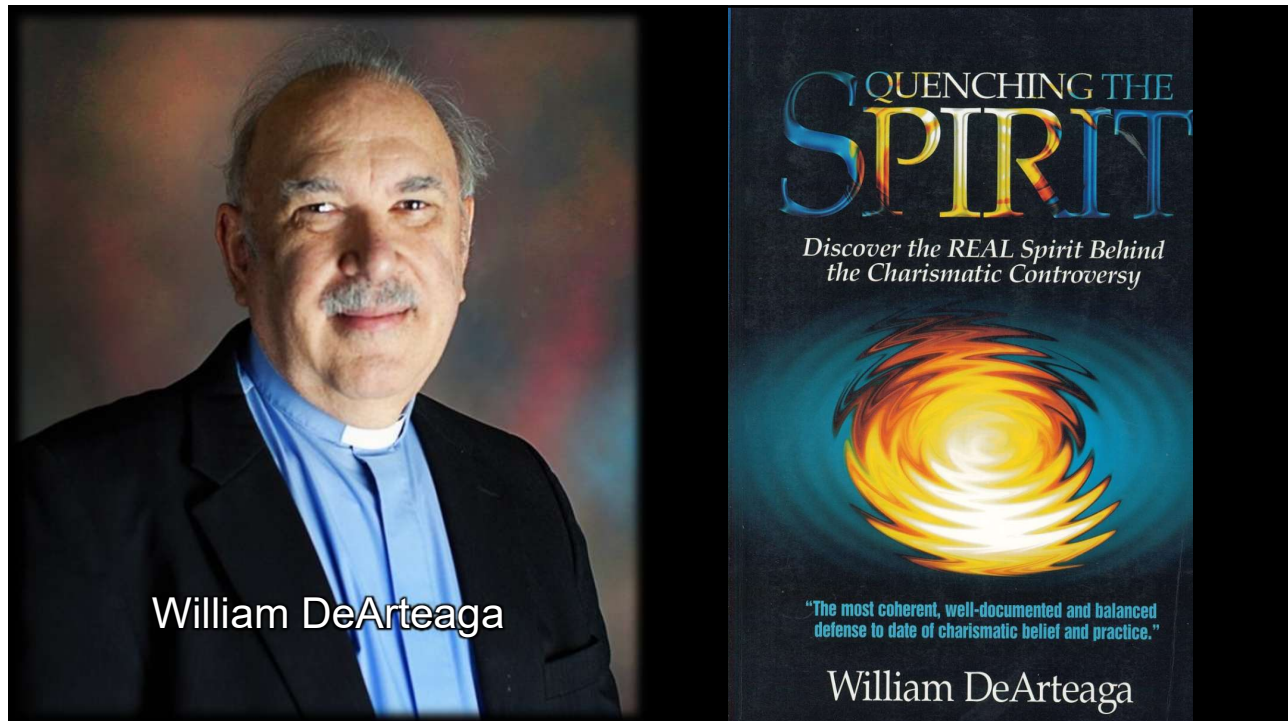
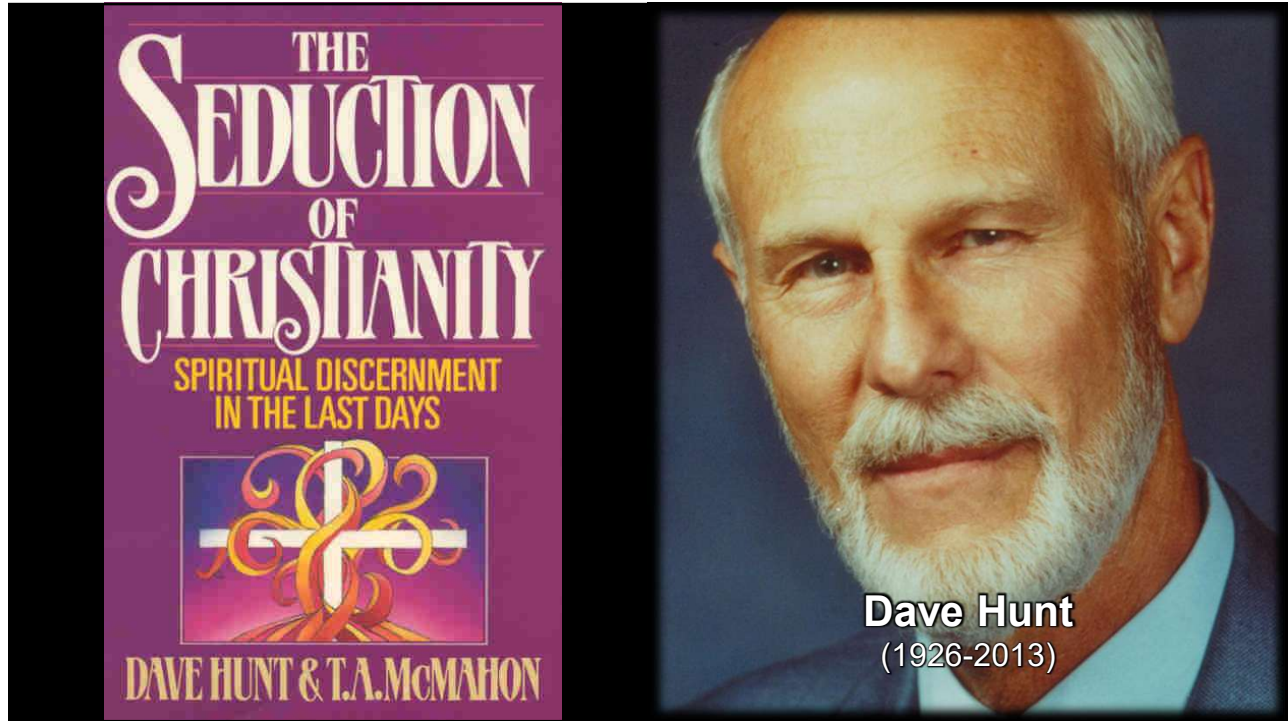


# A Point About Logical Inferences

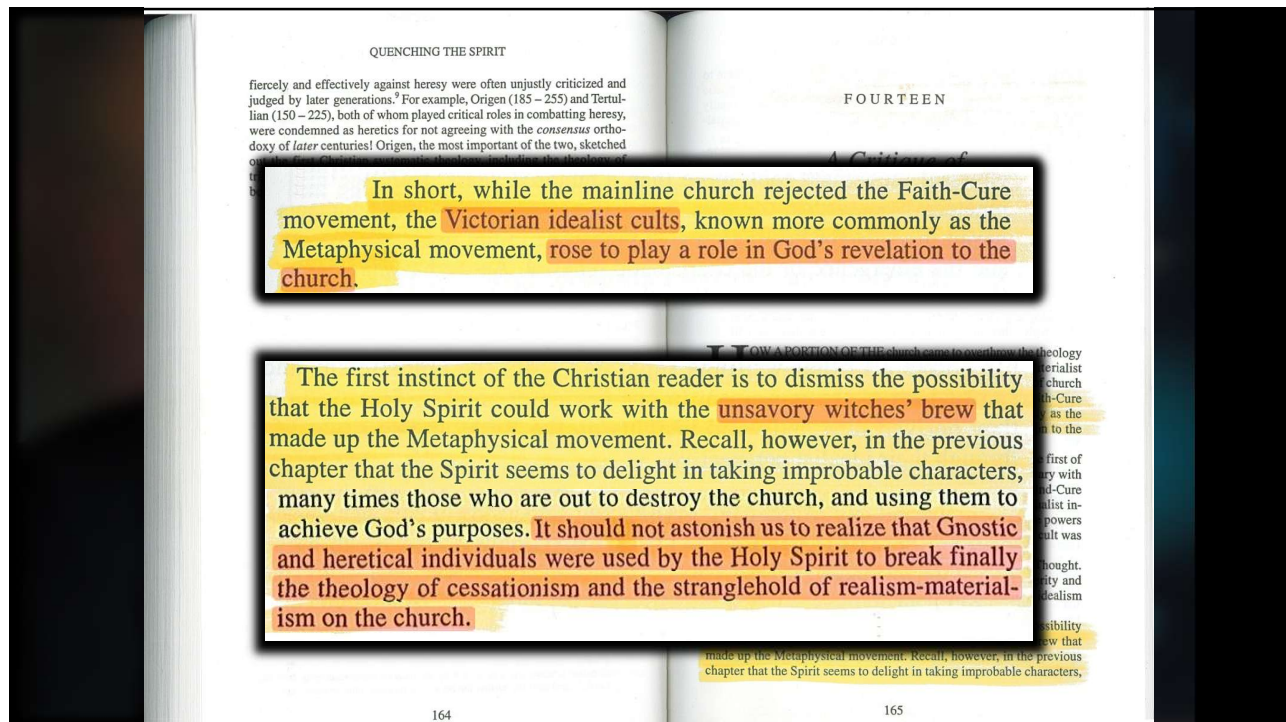
Church of Satan  
founder Anton LaVey  
is bald.

**Therefore, Richard Howe  
is a Satanist!**

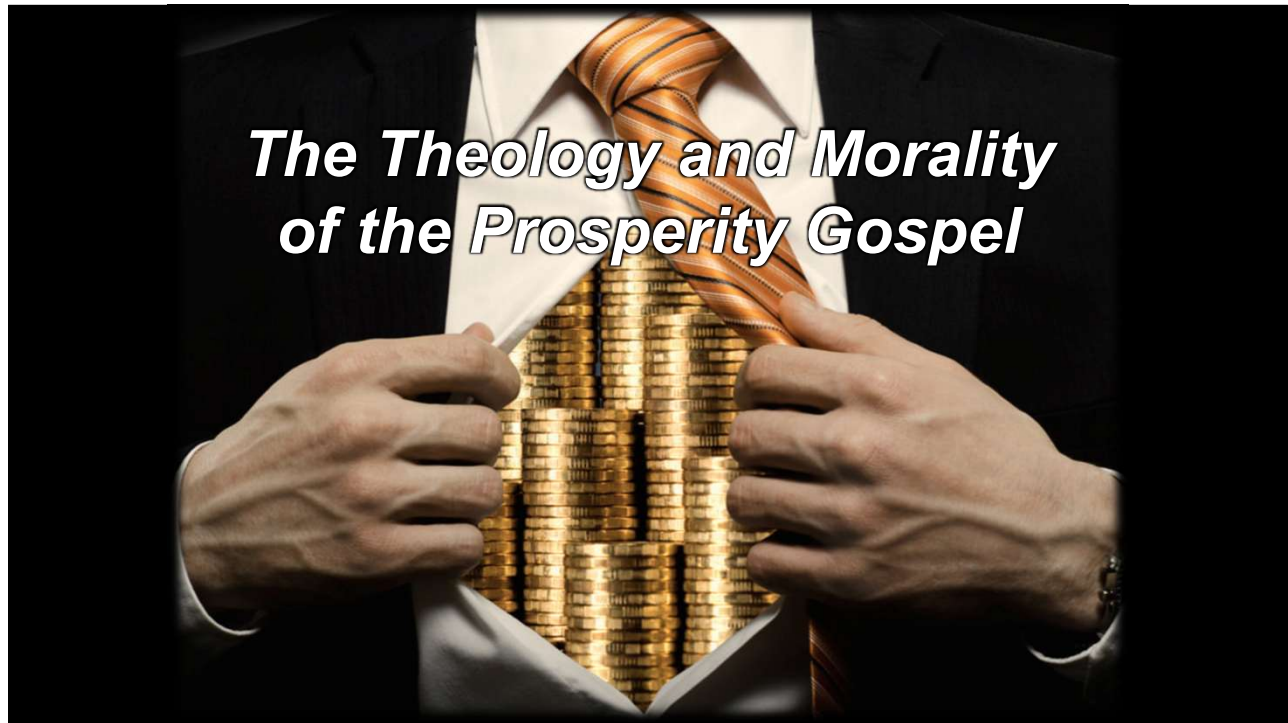
SES faculty  
member Richard Howe  
is bald.



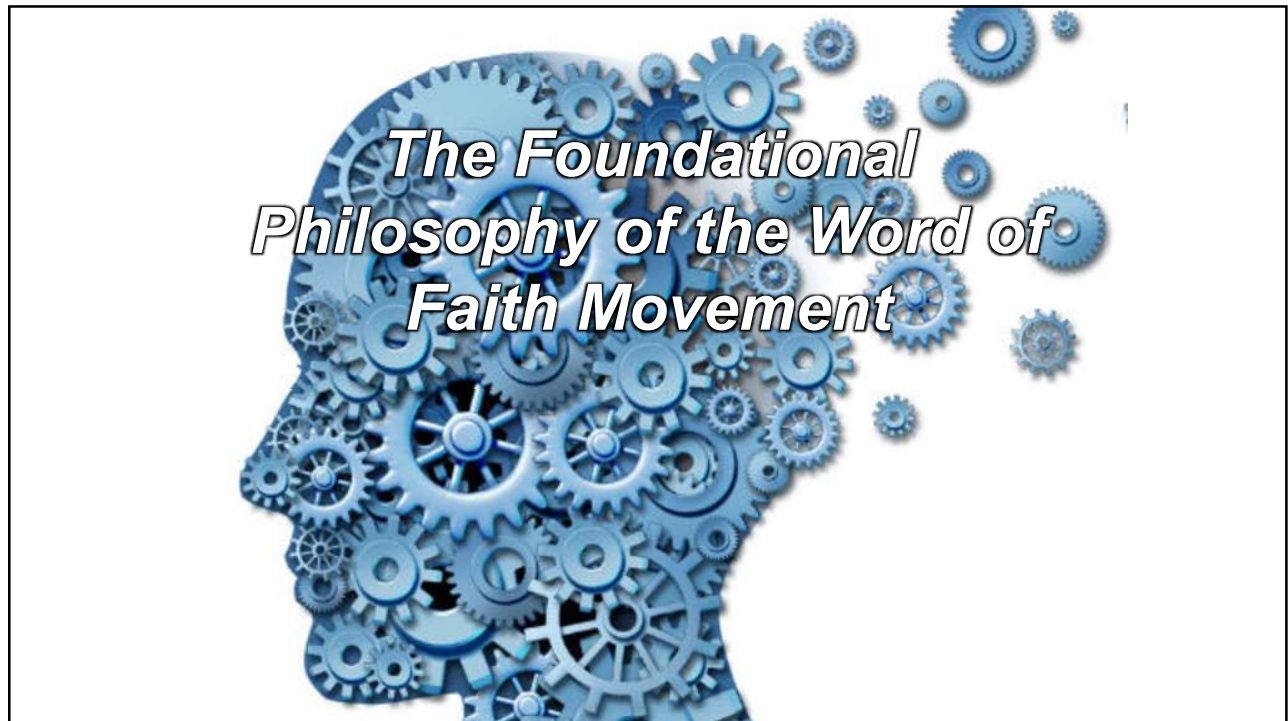




# Two Major Concerns



***The Theology and Morality  
of the Prosperity Gospel***



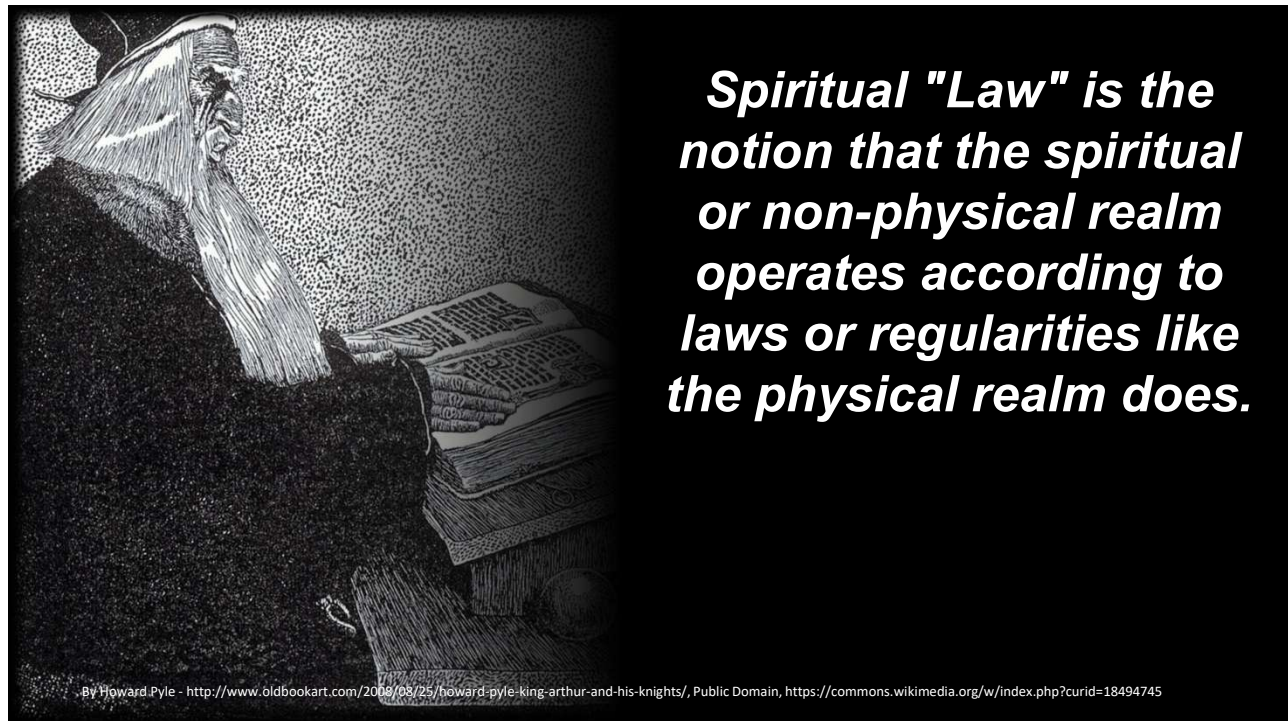
***The Foundational  
Philosophy of the Word of  
Faith Movement***



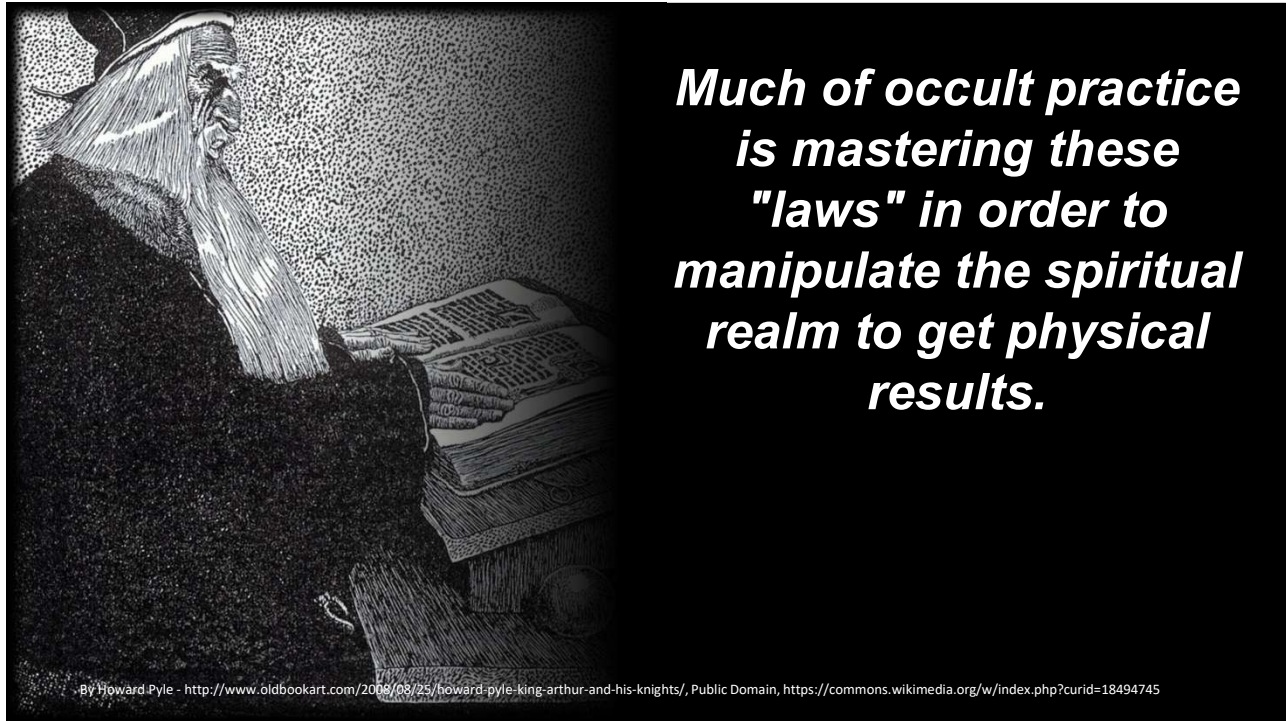


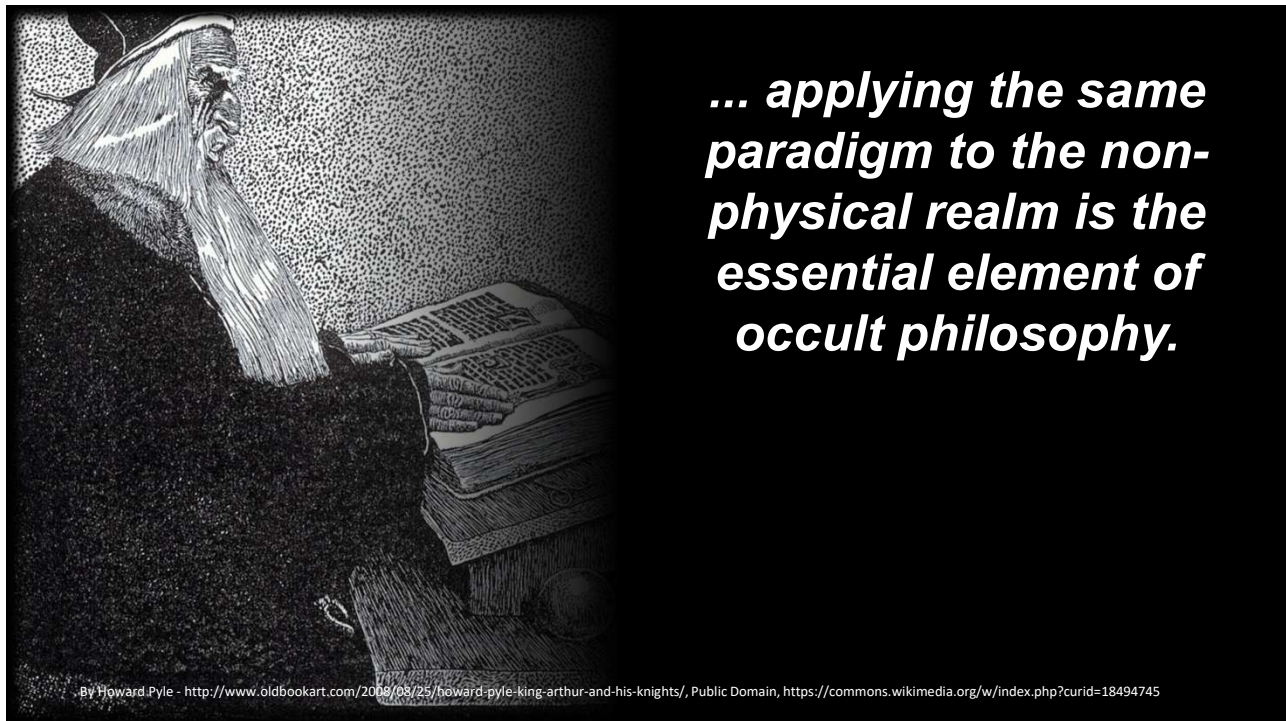
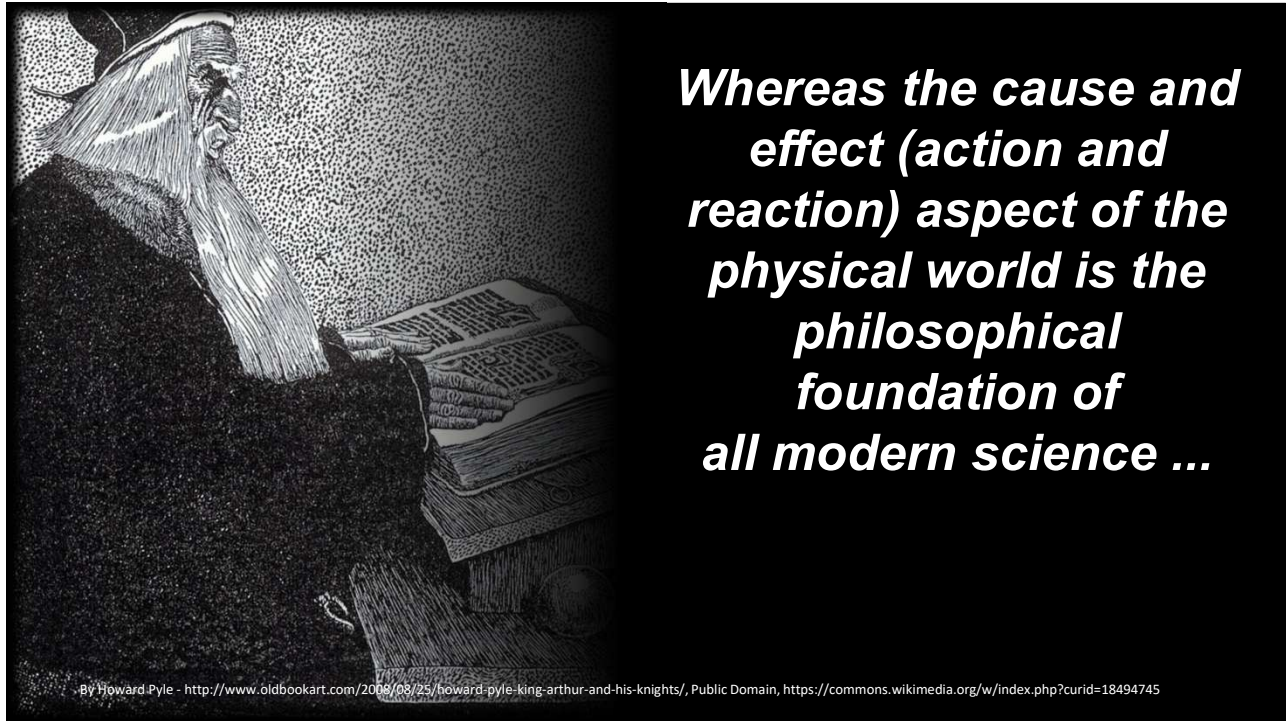
# The Philosophy of the Occult

*The term 'occult' should not to be  
confused with the similar sounding  
word 'cult'.*











## Natural Science

Mastering the laws that describe the behavior of the physical realm to enable us to control physical things and forces for the purpose of manipulating the physical world



## Occultism

Mastering the "laws" that describe the behavior of the non-physical realm to enable us to control non-physical things and forces for the purpose of manipulating the physical world

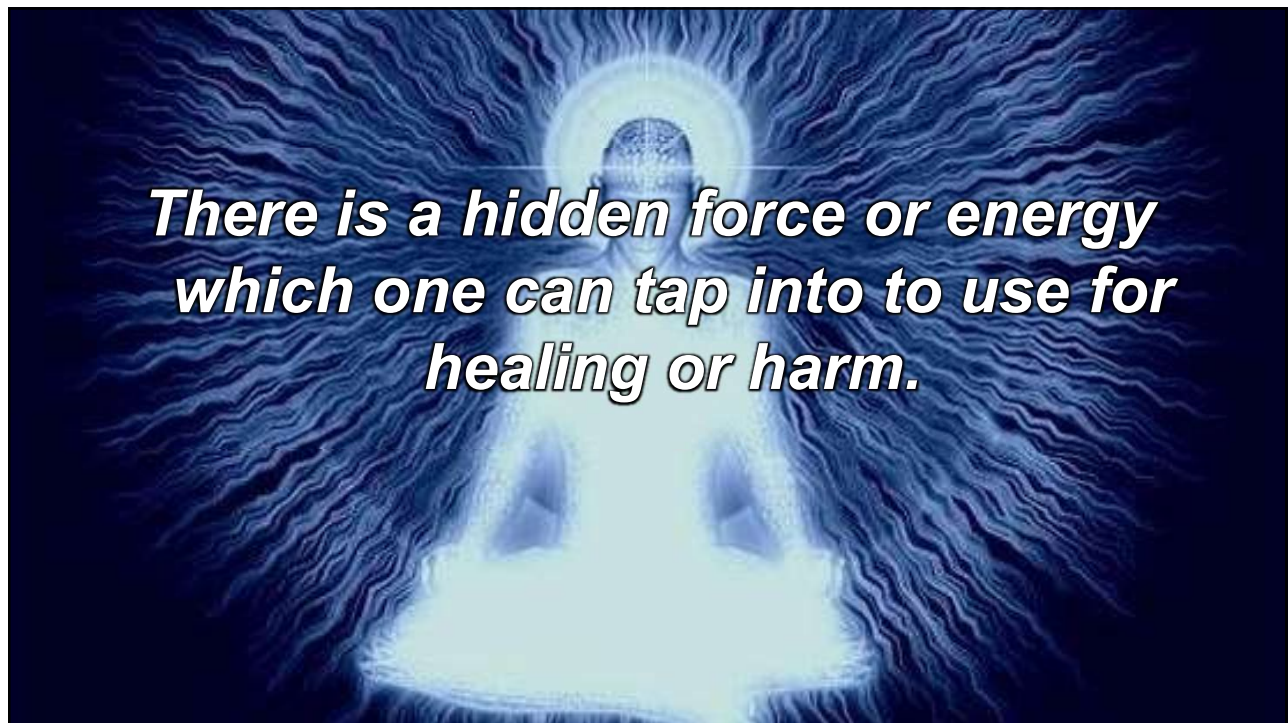
## Natural Science ✓

Mastering the laws that describe the behavior of the physical realm to enable us to control physical things and forces for the purpose of manipulating the physical world

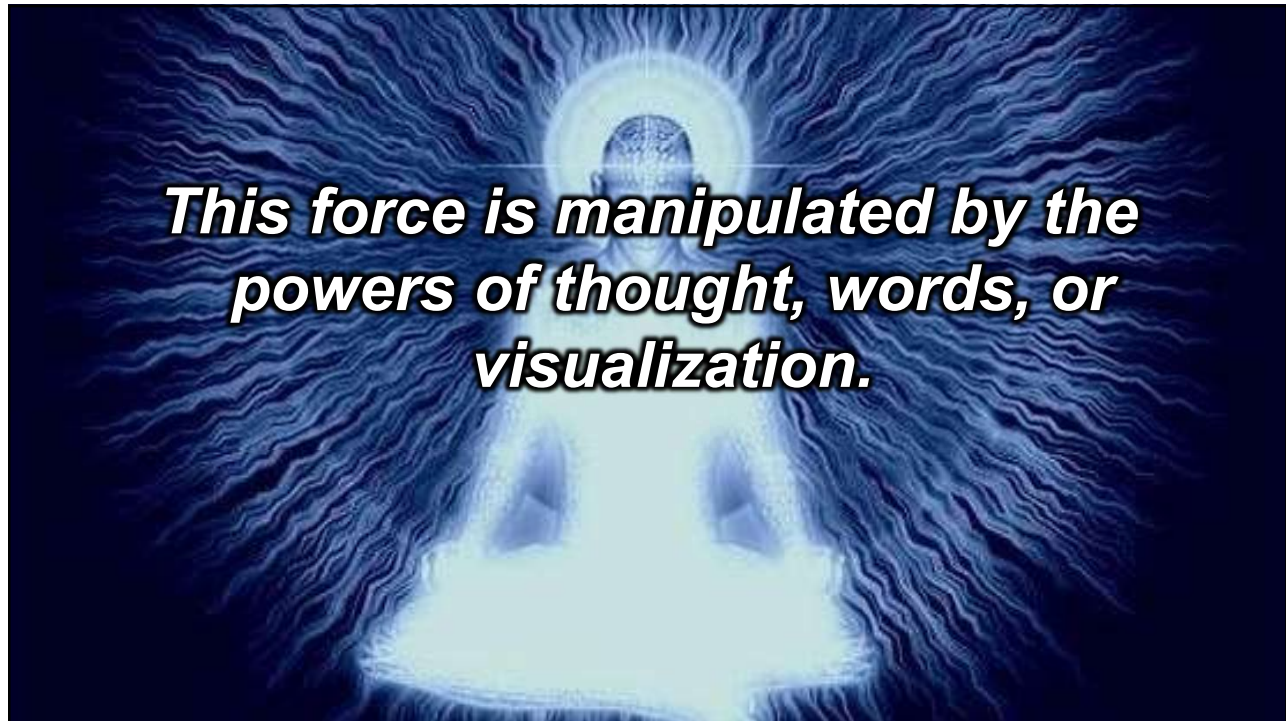


## Occultism

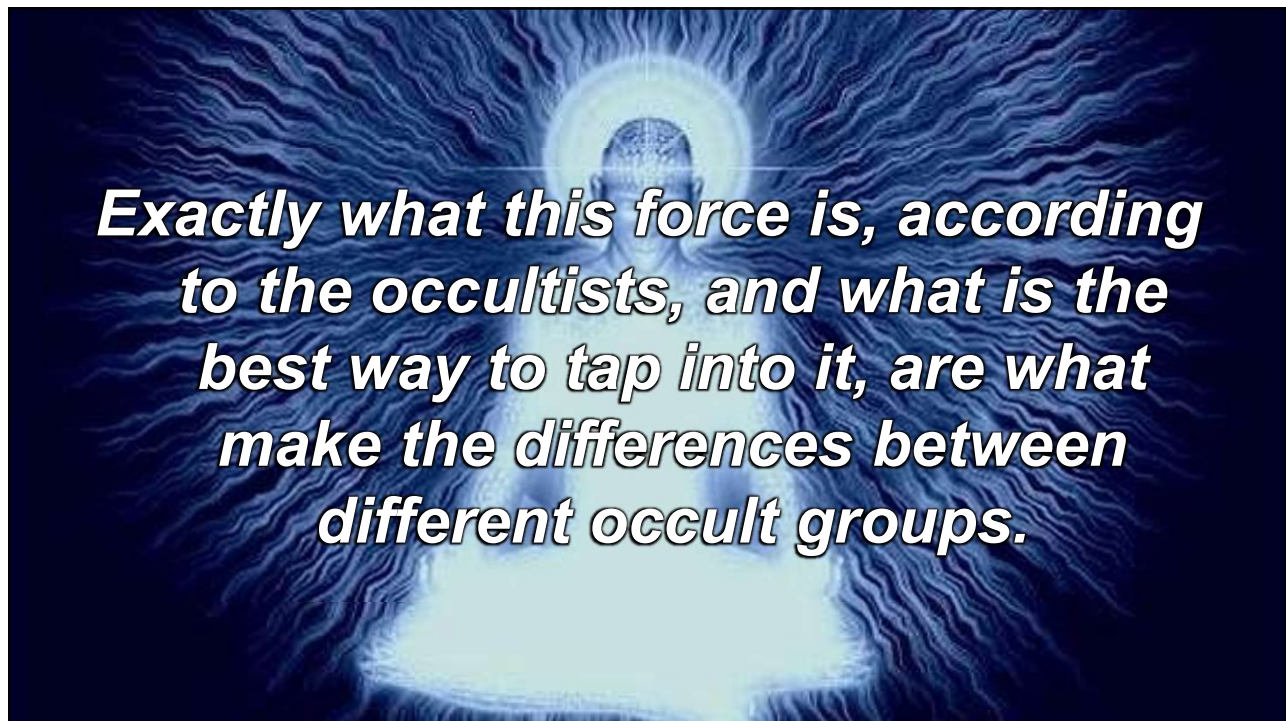
Mastering the "laws" that describe the behavior of the non-physical realm to enable us to control non-physical things and forces for the purpose of manipulating the physical world



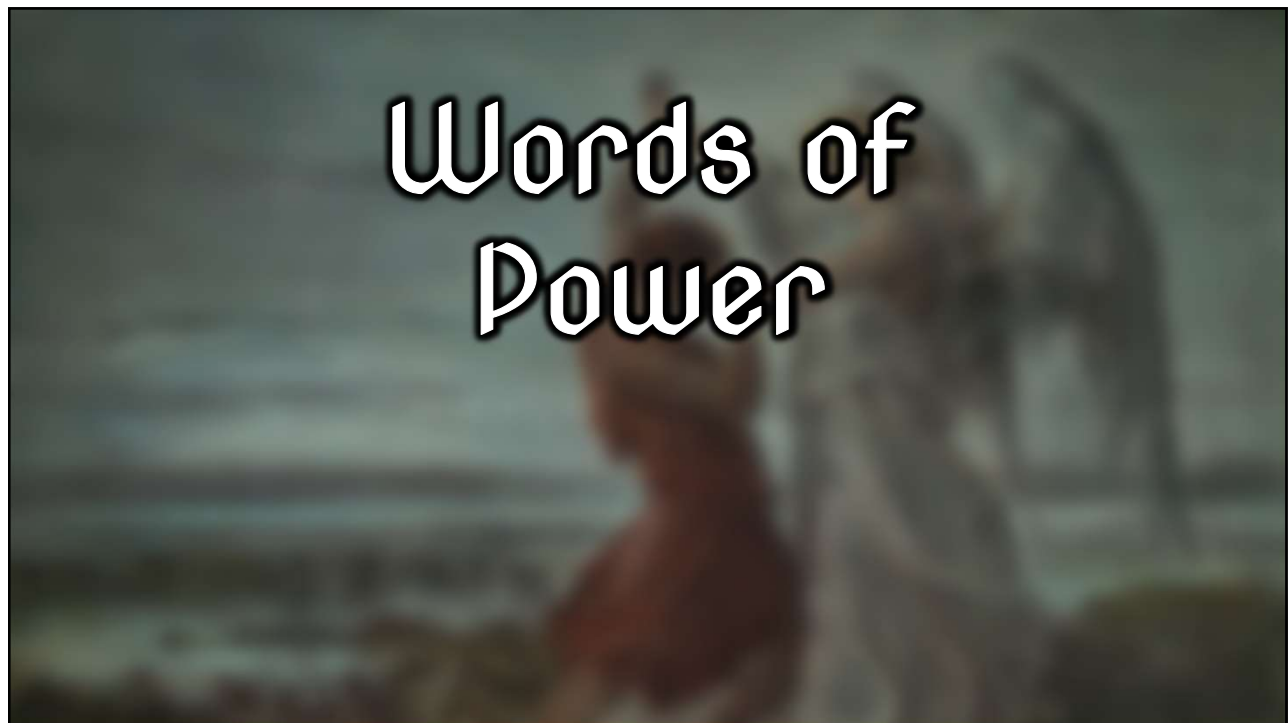
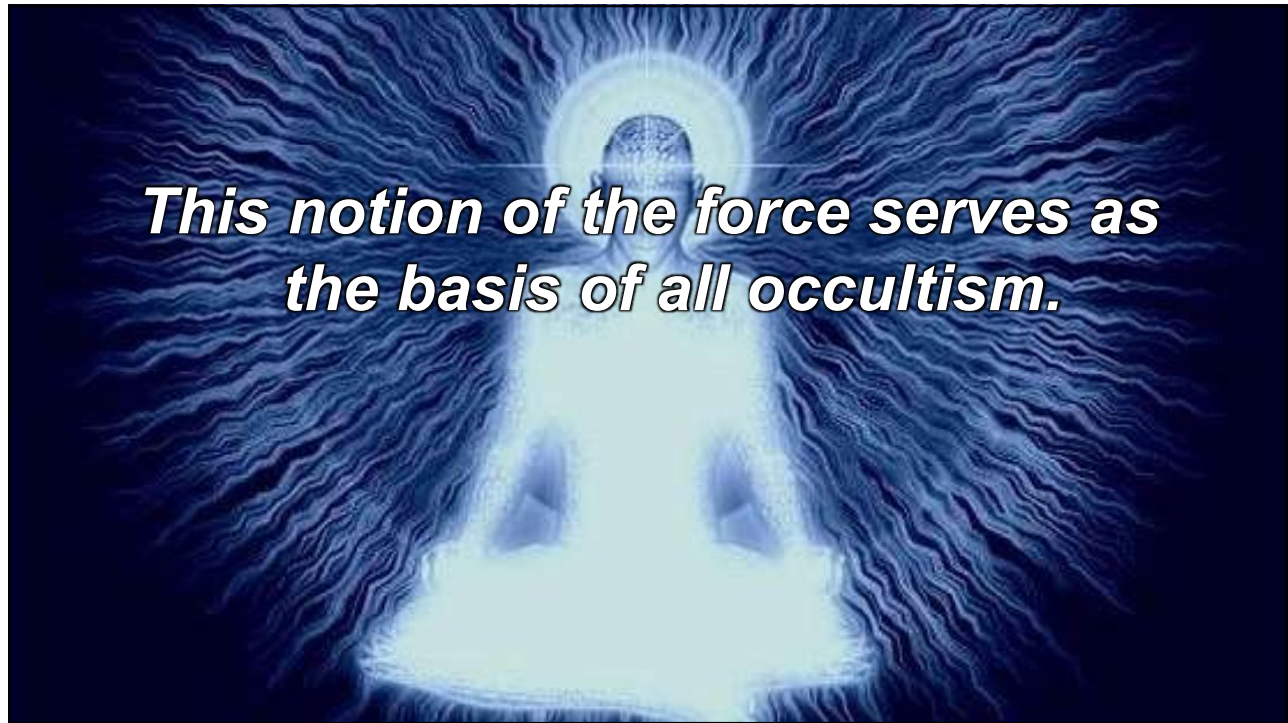




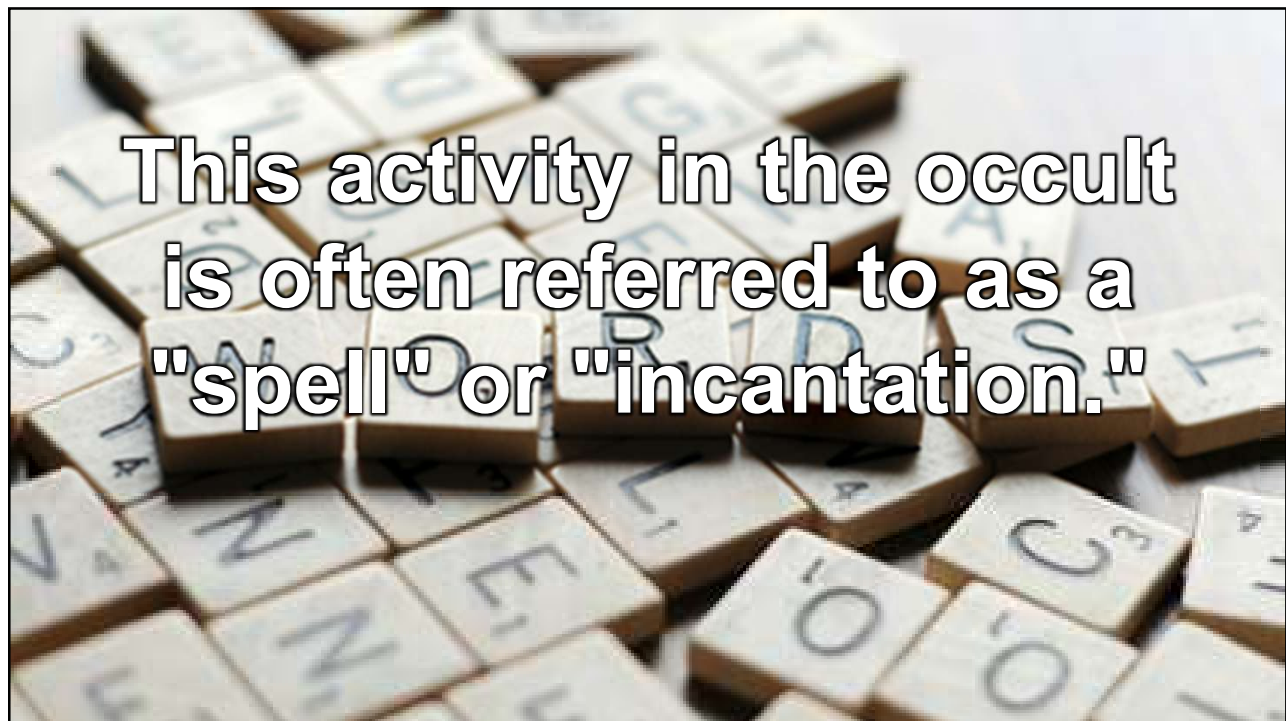
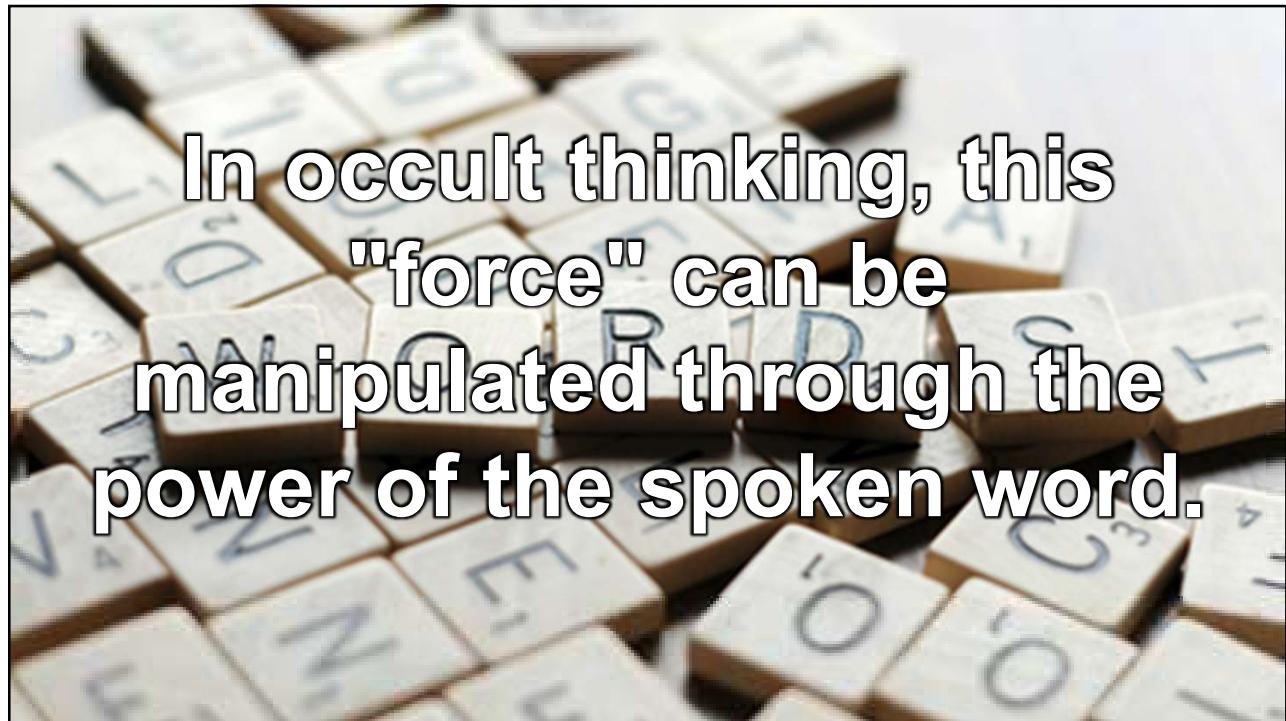
***This force is manipulated by the powers of thought, words, or visualization.***



***Exactly what this force is, according to the occultists, and what is the best way to tap into it, are what make the differences between different occult groups.***








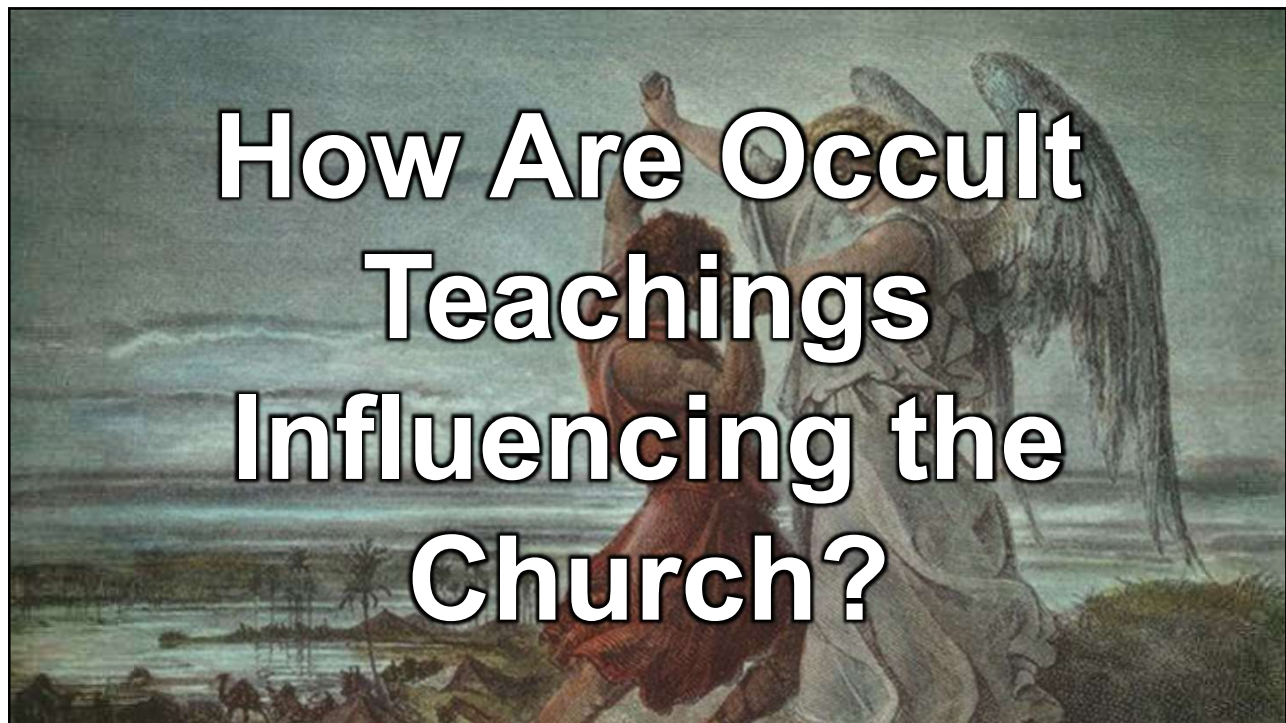
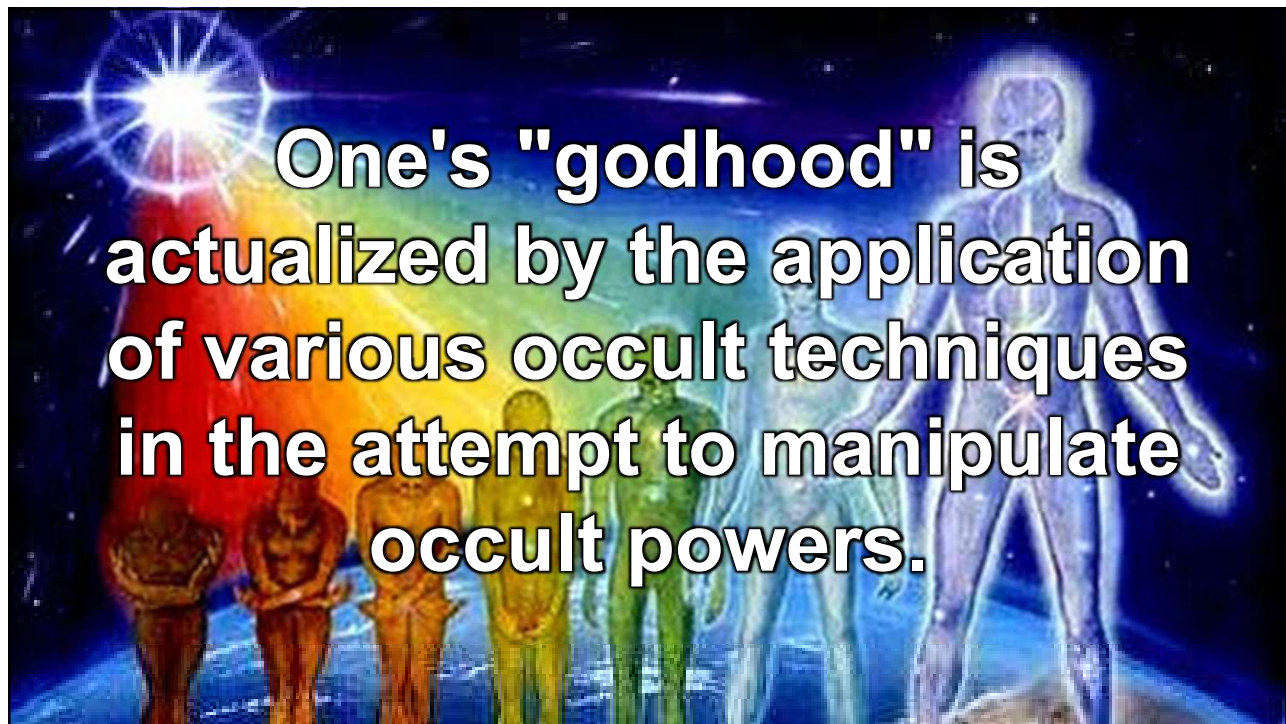
# Human Divinity



**The goal of occultism is to realize one's own divinity or godhood.**







Spiritual Law	The Force	Words	Godhood
			
The Occult	Word of Faith Movement	The Bible and Sound Reason	