

Gnosticism and self-deception In the matters of salvation and knowing God

- 2Ti 3:1** This⁵¹²⁴ know¹⁰⁹⁷ also¹¹⁶¹ that³⁷⁵⁴ in¹⁷²² the last²⁰⁷⁸ days²²⁵⁰ perilous⁵⁴⁶⁷ times²⁵⁴⁰ shall come.¹⁷⁶⁴
- 2Ti 3:2** For¹⁰⁶³ men⁴⁴⁴ shall be²⁰⁷¹ lovers of their own selves,⁵³⁶⁷ covetous,⁵³⁶⁶ boasters,²¹³ proud,⁵²⁴⁴ blasphemers,⁹⁸⁹ disobedient⁵⁴⁵ to parents,¹¹¹⁸ unthankful,⁸⁸⁴ unholy,⁴⁶²
- 2Ti 3:3** Without natural affection,⁷⁹⁴ trucebreakers,⁷⁸⁶ false accusers,¹²²⁸ incontinent,¹⁹³ fierce,⁴³⁴ despisers of those that are good,⁸⁶⁵
- 2Ti 3:4** Traitors,⁴²⁷³ heady,⁴³¹² highminded,⁵¹⁸⁷ lovers of pleasures⁵³⁶⁹ more³¹²³ than²²²⁸ lovers of God,⁵³⁷⁷
- 2Ti 3:5** Having²¹⁹² a form³⁴⁴⁶ of godliness,²¹⁵⁰ but¹¹⁶¹ denying⁷²⁰ the³⁵⁸⁸ power¹⁴¹¹ thereof:⁸⁴⁶ from such turn away.^{665, 5128}
- 2Th 2:1** Now¹¹⁶¹ we beseech²⁰⁶⁵ you,⁵²⁰⁹ brethren,⁸⁰ by⁵²²⁸ the³⁵⁸⁸ coming³⁹⁵² of our²²⁵⁷ Lord²⁹⁶² Jesus²⁴²⁴ Christ,⁵⁵⁴⁷ and²⁵³² by²²⁵⁷ our²²⁵⁷ gathering together¹⁹⁹⁷ unto¹⁹⁰⁹ him,⁸⁴⁶
- 2Th 2:2** That ye⁵²⁰⁹ be not³³⁶¹ soon⁵⁰³⁰ shaken⁴⁵³¹ in⁵⁷⁵ mind,³⁵⁶³ or³³⁸³ be troubled,²³⁶⁰ neither³³⁸³ by¹²²³ spirit,⁴¹⁵¹ nor³³⁸³ by¹²²³ word,³⁰⁵⁶ nor³³⁸³ by¹²²³ letter¹⁹⁹² as⁵⁶¹³ from¹²²³ us,²²⁵⁷ as that³⁷⁵⁴ the³⁵⁸⁸ day²²⁵⁰ of Christ⁵⁵⁴⁷ is at hand.¹⁷⁶⁴
- 2Th 2:3** Let no³³⁶¹ man⁵¹⁰⁰ deceive¹⁸¹⁸ you⁵²⁰⁹ by²⁵⁹⁶ any³³⁶⁷ means:⁵¹⁵⁸ for³⁷⁵⁴ *that day shall not come*, except³³⁶² there come²⁰⁶⁴ a falling away⁶⁴⁶ first,⁴⁴¹² and²⁵³² that man⁴⁴⁴ of sin²⁶⁶ be revealed,⁶⁰¹ the³⁵⁸⁸ son⁵²⁰⁷ of perdition,⁶⁸⁴
- 2Th 2:4** Who opposeth⁴⁸⁰ and²⁵³² exalteth himself⁵²²⁹ above¹⁹⁰⁹ all³⁹⁵⁶ that is called³⁰⁰⁴ God,²³¹⁶ or²²²⁸ that is worshiped;⁴⁵⁷⁴ so that⁵⁶²⁰ he⁸⁴⁶ as⁵⁶¹³ God²³¹⁶ sitteth²⁵²³ in¹⁵¹⁹ the³⁵⁸⁸ temple³⁴⁸⁵ of God,²³¹⁶ showing⁵⁸⁴ himself¹⁴³⁸ that³⁷⁵⁴ he is²⁰⁷⁶ God.²³¹⁶
- 2Pe 3:10** But¹¹⁶¹ the³⁵⁸⁸ day²²⁵⁰ of the Lord²⁹⁶² will come²²⁴⁰ as⁵⁶¹³ a thief²⁸¹² in¹⁷²² the night,³⁵⁷¹ in¹⁷²² the which³⁷³⁹ the³⁵⁸⁸ heavens³⁷⁷² shall pass away³⁹²⁸ with a great noise,⁴⁵⁰⁰ and¹¹⁶¹ the elements⁴⁷⁴⁷ shall melt³⁰⁸⁹ with fervent heat,²⁷⁴¹ the earth¹⁰⁹³ also²⁵³² and²⁵³² the³⁵⁸⁸ works²⁰⁴¹ that are therein^{1722, 846} shall be burned up.²⁶¹⁸
- 2Pe 3:11** *Seeing* then³⁷⁶⁷ that all³⁹⁵⁶ these things⁵¹³⁰ shall be dissolved,³⁰⁸⁹ what manner⁴²¹⁷ of persons ought¹¹⁶³ ye⁵²⁰⁹ to be⁵²²⁵ in¹⁷²² all holy⁴⁰ conversation³⁹¹ and²⁵³² godliness,²¹⁵⁰
- 2Pe 3:12** Looking for⁴³²⁸ and²⁵³² hasting⁴⁶⁹² unto the³⁵⁸⁸ coming³⁹⁵² of the³⁵⁸⁸ day²²⁵⁰ of God,²³¹⁶ wherein^{1223, 3739} the heavens³⁷⁷² being on fire⁴⁴⁴⁸ shall be dissolved,³⁰⁸⁹ and²⁵³² the elements⁴⁷⁴⁷ shall melt⁵⁰⁸⁰ with fervent heat?
- Luk 21:8** And¹¹⁶¹ he³⁵⁸⁸ said,²⁰³⁶ **Take heed** that ye be not⁹⁹¹ deceived:⁴¹⁰⁵ for¹⁰⁶³ many⁴¹⁸³ shall come²⁰⁶⁴ in¹⁹⁰⁹ my³⁴⁵⁰ name,³⁶⁸⁶ saying,³⁰⁰⁴ I¹⁴⁷³ am¹⁵¹⁰ Christ; and²⁵³² the³⁵⁸⁸ time²⁵⁴⁰ draweth near:¹⁴⁴⁸ go⁴¹⁹⁸ ye not³³⁶¹ therefore³⁷⁶⁷ after³⁶⁹⁴ them.⁸⁴⁶
- Luk 21:9** But¹¹⁶¹ when³⁷⁵² ye shall hear¹⁹¹ of wars⁴¹⁷¹ and²⁵³² commotions,¹⁸¹ be not³³⁶¹ terrified:⁴⁴²² for¹⁰⁶³ these things⁵⁰²³ must¹¹⁶³ first⁴⁴¹² come to pass;¹⁰⁹⁶ but²³⁵ the³⁵⁸⁸ end⁵⁰⁵⁶ is not³⁷⁵⁶ by and by.²¹¹²
- Luk 21:10** Then⁵¹¹⁹ said³⁰⁰⁴ he unto them,⁸⁴⁶ **Nation** shall rise¹⁴⁸⁴ against¹⁹⁰⁹ nation,¹⁴⁸⁴ and²⁵³² kingdom⁹³² against¹⁹⁰⁹ kingdom.⁹³²

Luk 21:11 And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences, and fearful sights, and great signs shall there be from heaven.

Luk 21:12 But before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into

Luk 21:29 And he spake to them a parable, Behold the fig tree, and all the trees;

Luk 21:30 When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand.

Luk 21:31 So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand.

prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name's sake.

* The move of the last days will be one of great deception that floods the earth. The deception is not for those in the world but for all those who think that they truly worship God and His Christ. Satan's attack is focussed on destroying the body of Christ and the remnant of the Jewish people (God's covenant people). By trying to counter Bible prophesy and destroy the people of God, Satan hopes to stop the second coming of the Messiah and reign himself as god of this world. Obviously those who are deceived do not know it and will go to the extend of killing to defend what they believe is of God. The roots of this deceptive strategy that will bring about the prophesied great apostasy goes as deep and far back as a hundred years of church history. With the church unaware and passive in the matters of truth the subtle deception came slowly but surely.

* **Mysticism:** the timeless quest for higher hidden truth, spiritual experiences and knowledge of God by using imagination, intuition, so called Holy Spirit revelations and subjective feelings rather than fact, reason and the undistorted Word of God.

* Wherever Eastern mysticism and Western rational collide and intermingle, one will find there the seedbed for a deceptive experiential pseudo gospel that mimics the real thing.

* **Num 3:4** And Nadab and Abihu died before the LORD, when they offered strange fire before the LORD, in the wilderness of Sinai, and they had no children: and Eleazar and Ithamar ministered in the priest's office in the sight of Aaron their father.

* When man develops his own way to approach God he opens himself up for deluding spirits and the judgment of God.

* The essence of all false religions is the selfish and rebellious hearts of men, unwilling and unyielding to God's ways.

* From the beginning the choice was put before men to choose to either live from the tree of life or eat from the tree of knowledge that promise to make man wise. The tree of knowledge always promises deeper and higher revelations that will lead man to "godhood". Man had a choice to either be led by God or to rely on self and knowledge to survive. Mysticism is the outflow of the serpents original temptation to man. Mysticism per definition is the

endless quest for more knowledge that promise to make man wise. This deeper knowledge is based on experiences. Those who try to find God through more and secret knowledge remain unsatisfied. FOR THIS VERY REASON GOD CHOSE TO SHOW HIMSELF TO MAN BY WAY OF PERSONAL REVELATION AND TO SAVE THOSE WHO HAVE SIMPLE FAITH IN THE TRUTH.

* The spirit of the age is thrusting the organised church toward ecumenical unity under the leadership of Rome. Any body that opposes this move is labelled as a legalist that moves against the “spirit” and is seen as divisive.

* Believers are created by passively accepting everything that we are taught without testing every word.

* In the last days church CHARISMATIC PERSONALITY has replaced the true and simplistic message of the truly anointed.

* Gnosticism promised a secret knowledge of the divine realm that is accessible for the initiated.

*Gnosticism is the basic serpentine lie that promise “godhood” or divine status to those who gain the correct amount of mystic knowledge. In essence man remains at the centre of his own life and everything is designed to help him achieve his own ambitions. MAN IS IN CONTROL AND THE DIVINE BEING IS THERE TO SERVE MAN AND HELP HIM TO ALSO BECOME A ‘GOD’.

* Gnosticism teaches that knowledge rather than faith is the way unto salvation. This knowledge will help man take control of his own destiny and completely cut out the omnipotent God. This knowledge is not just obtained out of scripture but also from personal experiences.

* All doctrines of cults and the occult are based on personal experiences and revelations and stands as final word above the Word of God.

* Gnosticism is an occult salvation system stressing knowledge of spiritual things, especially so called spiritual laws that govern the spirit world, combining ideas from the occult and Christianity.

* Gnosticism is also the believe that the “god-man” inside is released through the gaining of mystic knowledge.

Gnosticism

* **Man is co-substantial with God** or in other words having the same substance and nature. The gaining of mystic knowledge will release the spirit of man to become one with God. This deifies the creature above the creator.

* **Elitism.** The mystic knowledge is only taught to those who have ability to overcome the force of REASON and the flesh. The receivers of these mystic revelations are told not to question or doubt but to quiet the mind and just passively receive.

* **Intuitive.** The concept of God is subject to the depth of revelation and illumination by mind or feelings. Because self is the focal point of Gnosticism, the god that is created out of these revelations is a god in the image of its creator. This is nothing but idolatry.

* **Self knowledge.** Once again the focus is on self and to discover the mystic secret that man is actually a god and needs to be united with the divine being. The only self-knowledge that man needs is the truth about his own selfish and sinful condition.

* **Re-definition of the new birth.** Salvation is reckoned as the direct result of gaining this mystic knowledge. Thus knowledge implies salvation. The knowledge that comes through force of reason and the Word of God must be

avoided because it hinders the “knowledge’ that comes by mystic experiences.

* **Divinity.** Gnostics believe that the divine being is hidden in every man and waits to be released through mystic knowledge. This sounds exactly like the serpents lie in the Garden of Eden.

* trying to find God in the creature rather than in the revelation of His son Jesus the Christ leads unavoidably to pantheism.

	Fundamental Christianity	Gnostic thought
Based on	God’s Word	Man’s word and experiences
Acknowledge	Deity of Jesus	Divinity of man
Glorifies	God	Self
God	Believes in a personal God who is all good	God is a force with good and bad side
Salvation	Faith in the complete work of Christ alone	Salvation that comes through personal mystic knowledge
Faith basis	The Word of God	Experiences
Life purpose	The will of God	Finding self and striving through works to become one with God
The Bible	The complete Word of God	Experiences can add and supersede scripture

* There is an over emphasis on the prophetic in the last days because it is traditionally wrongly confused with supernatural signs and wonders. The prophetic is also supposedly revealing new and hidden knowledge of God.

* New revelations into and about the spirit world is one of the driving forces of the latter day great deception. Although man is not created to try and control the spirit world it is his arrogant ambition to lord it even over the unseen and have all created beings as his servants.

* So called prophetic revelation gives the receiver unquestionable authority over his subjects because everybody is afraid to question “god”.

* False teachings are accompanied by supernatural manifestations in order to give convicting power to the message. People wrongly look at the power manifestation and swallow the arsenic teaching without question.

* The paradigm shift that will usher in the great deception is one that moved the focus from orthodox, scriptural views of Christ to subjective impressions of Christ based on experiences and ideas.

*To maintain the interest of followers, new ideas and new revelations are continually in the making.

* The elevation of the prophetic to star status gave way to the individual abuse of scripture to manipulate the masses for personal gain.

* The false teachers and prophets of the last days elevate their “revelations” to the same level of authority as Scripture.

* The true nature of the false prophets is prediction and soothsaying rather than prophesy.

- * The language of the Gnostic latter day movement is saturated with words like “new thing”. By this is actually meant “new mysteries revealed, new knowledge, new power and new self potential”
- * IN THEIR LACK OF FAITH IN THE FOUNDATIONAL TEACHINGS OF THE BIBLE MANY CHRISTIANS TURNED AWAY FROM THE WORD TO SEEK EXPERIENCES IN MYSTICISM. The devil is quick to supply a substitute thrill to the flesh!!
- * Eastern mystic worldviews have subtly infiltrated the church and is incorporated under the guise of Christian terminology and language.
- * The greatest danger of the last day deception is that scripture itself is used and presented in a perverted way to deceive the hearers into experiences.
- * It is a fact of history that humans far easier believe in mysticism and supernatural manifestations than in the unleavened and unspectacular word of God.
- * Experiences are being set up as the foundation for truth.
- * Mysticism and a faith based on experiences will be the trademark of the apostate church.

2Ti 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; 2Ti 4:4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. 1Ti 4:1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

Signs of mysticism in the church

- * The cross of Christ is not the sole basis for redemption.
- * The Scriptures are not the complete single revelation of God to man.
- * Experience is the way to perfection and knowledge.
- * Experience takes precedence over scripture.
- * Intuition is given preference over scripture and becomes a substitute for the Holy Spirit.
- * Faith in the Word is replaced by faith in the Church, man and self. (Faith in your faith)
- * Mediators other than Jesus Christ are acknowledged and believed in.
- * Allegorical methods of interpretation replace the literal.
- * Salvation is based on Experiences in addition to faith in Christ.
- * The coming of Christ for His bride is spiritualised into meaning something else.
- * The presence of God is sought in a mystical sense.
- * The church is seen as the ongoing incarnation of the literal presence of Christ.
- * Inner healing and psychology are substituted for the power of the gospel of the cross and the blood.
- * Experiences are sought rather than God’s righteousness. The truth is only a shield when yielded to in obedience. A man can be full of fantastic “demonically induced” experiences and feelings and yet fail to glorify God in

simple obedience. His experiences have become the basis for his salvation and eternal hope. It is not the truth you know that will save you but the truth you are.

- * A euphoric form of love and unity with no regard for scripture or sound doctrine.
- * Signs and wonders are sought instead of true repentance.
- * Hyper faith, positive thinking, positive confession and self-deification are taught as the gospel.
- * Development of the Christ within to establish a kingdom now, becomes the focus.
- * Meditation void of the scripture and reality and as a matter of fact with a passive mind and no questioning.
- * An obsession with spiritual warfare with the focus on new revelations and strategies to fight darkness.

* True spiritual warfare seems to be first and foremost the fight to subdue and bring the self and flesh to a daily cross-life.

* Our warfare is against reasoning of false philosophies, Gnostic concepts and carnal dogmas.

Imaginations, theories, religion, fables, metaphysics, theosophy and meditation that deifies the quest for knowledge. Every thought or form of godliness that opposed the gospel.

* Evidence of the Gnostic Christianity can be seen in the egocentric religious life with self as the object of devotion.

* The Gnostic Christian worldview is comfortable to self because there are no real parameters and everything becomes relative to the experiences of the "believer" so that judgement becomes an impossibility.

* Spiritual warfare appeals to the Gnostic Christian because the imagination is titillated and the excited "warrior" find they can do battle with creatures of the netherworld. This kind of warfare is far easier than the true warfare that is focussed around the truth and disciplined life of obedience. The focus is placed on the battle in the "imaginaries" instead of the battle to subdue the flesh and walk and speak the truth. The fairytale land of Gnostic Christian warfare is far easier than the hard road of the cross.

* The Gnostic Christian is driven by a life long journey into self. His pursuit is perfection and godhood and a form of godliness that sets him apart from the flesh and the world. In short his pursuit is to become a spiritual "guru" with self deceptively and subtly still in control.

* The elite for whom "authority" is reserved enter into the inner court of God, not by the way of the cross but by way of mystic and personal revelations.

* The great danger of Gnosticism is that it reduces God and Christ to the level of man and that it deifies man to the level of godhood. Everybody is a son of god and this leads to the teaching of the "little gods".

* Pride is a trademark of the elite group because they have been favoured to receive special truths.

* There is a thrust toward ecumenical unity with no regard to doctrine. The only basis for unity becomes the "experiences and revelations" of the individuals. Everybody experience God, it is just a matter of different

terminology for the same thing. God all of a sudden is reduced to an emotional experience and a power force.

* Those that are doctrinally sound and lack the “experiences” are made to believe that they are not truly spiritual.

* The literal interpretation of the Word is rejected and everything is interpreted to have a symbolic meaning. Rejecting the literal meaning of the Bible opens it up for indiscriminate interpretation. Perversion of the mind leads to perversion of scripture.

* Gnosticism teaches that the objective of man’s life is primarily his own self improvement and his own ultimate perfection. This perfecting process depends on the attainment of unity within himself, a harmony between the physical and spiritual forces, and unity of the human with the divine which is in essence the new birth. This unity with the divine becomes a sensing and feeling rather than a mere belief.

* The Gnostic believer believes that Christ is coming in and through the believer to establish the “victorious Church” in opposition to Christ literally coming for His bride.

* The exaltation of self to the level of the divine is the apostate churches link to the new age and further back to the Garden of Eden.

* The focus of Gnostic Christianity is on the god-man within and the ability of that man to walk in **power manifestations** and victory in this world. In contrast to this Gnostic POWER focus God reveals his church as victorious through her conformity to the cross, simplicity and weakness in the flesh.

* Mystic knowledge is seen as the formula to have victory over the lower self. In contrast to this God’s way is the way of the cross and obedience to the Spirit and the word.

* The Gnostic focus on Jesus is that he is a type of what all men could achieve and that He did not come to earth to bring salvation through His blood on the cross but that He came to teach mysteries with secret meaning that will save the initiated.

* Gnosticism confuses the soul for the spirit and consequently everything that entices and titillates the soul is accepted to supersede any rational interpretation of scripture.

* Truth is taken to be within our own experiences and consequently even the final authority of God’s word must bow to relativism.

* Gnostic Christian teaching teaches that the “spirit-man” gains strength through knowledge of the scriptures. This is a subtle lie that places the focus on the “good” of scripture study. The strength in actual fact depends on the grace of God and the power of His Holy Spirit. Once again the focus moved subtly to self dependence instead of complete abandonment to God’s will.

* To many times the cry within us for more of God is in actual fact the cry of the soul for some sort of manifestation and soulish experience.

1 John 2:3 Now by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments.

* Simple obedience to the word and the Spirit brings the true knowledge of God to us. Unfortunately this obedience demands a death to the flesh and the senses and often times is without the sway of emotions. The soul interprets this stale and un-emotional demand as not from God. It is because people do not know God in truth that they are led away in error by the deceptions of

soulful experiences. The soulful longing for some experience of God is soon quenched by the demonic comfort of emotional highs. Once the deceived man's faith is established in his experiences even the truth of the Bible becomes relative and subject to it.

* Part of the end-time deception is the focus of teachings on prosperity, well-being and authority. This does not challenge the centrality of the self-life that is the root cause of deception. The bride is never above the groom, the servant never more than the master, the body never more than the head. He learned obedience through what he suffered and so will His body.

* The Gnostic Christian justifies his deception that can not be tested by scripture to the "revelation" that acts is not yet fully written and that these new experiences add on to the book of acts and therefore can not be tested.

* The word mysticism can be written over false prophecies that are in actual fact sorcery, healing signs and wonders that are in fact power demonstrations to deceive people into error, personal experiences – with the emphasis on experiences- that are in actual fact demonic stirrings of the soul. All these signs, wonders, prophecy and experiences are designed by demonic entities to deceive the believer and lead him away from the truth and simple faith.

* It is from its emotional intensity that mysticism derives its self-authenticating quality.

* The way into demonic deception begins with a passive reasoning faculty and an overexcited emotional faculty.

Gnostic heresies.

* Elitist mentality

* Consider themselves essentially divine.

* Believe they are the manifest sons of God.

* Believe their divinity comes from within themselves.

* Are overcomers and conquerors of evil and the world.

* Are in the process of becoming perfect and immortal in this age.

* Claim to be members of the High-priestly order.

* Will reign on earth as gods.

* Have the ambition to establish the reign of the sons of God on earth.

* Interpret the Bible as symbolic.

* Reject Israel as the chosen nation of God and replace it with the "church" as the new Israel.

* Anti-Semitic.

* Make the Bible relative and subject to personal experiences.

* Reject the personal coming of the anti-Christ.

* Always receive new deep truths that lead to new interpretations of scripture.

* Believe in the attainment of perfection here in the earth.

* Describes the spirit of man as the God-man.

* Kingdom now theology.

* Prosperity and power gospel.

* Mystery Babylon is riding on the back of Pentecostal and Charismatic Christianity subtly controlling the beast by waves of emotions, signs and wonders.

* The purpose of Satan is to illuminate the soul of man not with truth but with a constant demonic consciousness.

* The church of ILLUMINATION looks forward with confidence to a constantly increasing **feeling** of good will and tolerance among various creeds. The semantic revolution –motivated by the drive for ecumenism- made it clear that it is the same ‘god’ that all **experience** and those words brought separation between creeds.

* When the soul under the influence of demonic power takes the place of the spirit, thoughts and ideas become abstract and esoteric in nature. Behaviour assumes one of two extremes, legalism or liberalism. Extremism characterizes the god-man because he sets himself up as elite and above the rest and the consequent judge of all. Elitism leads also to manipulation and control in a system that must “guide” the uninitiated.

* The gospel of the last age is designed to feed the soul of man and keep him strong in his soul. This subtle gospel of self-gratification is cleverly candy coated in Bible words and terms.

* Any gospel that feeds self-gratification and keeps the self strong and alive will eventually lead to arrogance, pride and control.

* The Gnostic gospel avoids strong words like sin, condemnation, judgment and guilt because it has been poisoned by psychology that protects the soul.

* When self is not crucified, the Bible will be twisted to such an extent that it can substantiate the actions of the individual.

* The Gnostic gospel adds to the wisdom of the cross and the efficiency of the Blood by bringing in the subtle teachings of so-called pastoral psychology.

* The Gnostic way of spirituality has seeped into the church and spirituality is suddenly measured by something that is perceived intuitively or psychically as opposed to simply believing and obeying the scriptures. Most modern Christians will stop believing if their senses are not stimulated by some sort of experience.

* Gnostic faith is not based on reason, faith and grace but has become a matter of self-conscious experience. An inner self-conscious feeling of holiness seems to be more important than obedience.

* The Gnostic gospel has slowly moved its focus towards the worship of the Holy Spirit and thus violated a Biblical principle. This focus has as its goal to motivate and substantiate the power experiences in the meetings.

* Always keep in mind that strongholds always refer to the belief in wrong teaching and misinterpretation of the scriptures. Strongholds are errors in the minds of men. The stronghold of wrong teaching about the Holy Spirit opens the hearer to be led by demonic influences. Lying spirits – through the instrumentality of selfish men- teach error and then confirm it with manifestations of signs and wonders. Once the signs and wonders become the basis of confirmation the error becomes imbedded in the mind and opens the hearer to the next lie. In effect the teaching was not tested against scripture but against soulish experiences.

* Instead of teaching faith in God the Gnostic gospel encourages believers to have faith in their faith. God is removed from the equation and replaced with self.

* The Gnostic teachings in the church like to place the focus on the spirit-world and in specific spiritual warfare and the knowledge of demons. Although this is of vital importance to the church in the end times the approach and focus of these subjects are wrong and leads the believer away on flights of fancy. The true spiritual battle is to overcome the strongholds of lies and

establishing of truth in simplicity. The end time battle can truly be summed up as a battle between simple truth and experiential theology.

* The Gnostic gospel is not concerned with moral life and obedience to scripture but with spiritual enlightenment and freedom from the bondage of creation. This attitude makes it free to flow in any deceptive direction the devil chooses to lead.

* When Christianity adjusts itself to science fiction it is trying to make up with fantasy what it lacks in correct teaching.

* The just shall live by faith or trust in the character of God is replaced with the just shall be authenticated by their "experiences" in the spirit world.

* The new age Gnostic gospel is nothing but the revival of ancient Babylonian dark ages of mysticism and superstition.

Gnostic forms of spirituality

* A show of humility with deep piety, having a form of godliness but without the authenticity and power.

* Spirituality is structured around subjective experiences with little regard for scripture.

* Superior knowledge, new discoveries, and new revelations.

* Spirituality is focussed on a subjective Christ consciousness rather than faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

* Continual search for deeper experiences rather than deepening faith and confidence in the word and character of God. Seeking quick experiences and knowledge rather than being taught through hardships, sufferings and disciplining of the flesh.

* Spiritualizing the Word rather than taking the literal meaning.

* Spirituality is measured by experiences.

* Looking towards an inner voice for direction and guidance.

* Love feelings and self more than God.

* Looking towards self for solutions.

* Spirituality is sought in success, achievement and works.

* Have faith in your faith because that is what God also has to use to be successful.

* Teaching of formulas and so-called spiritual laws that man can use for his own benefit.

* Teachings about the spirit-world and the kingdom of darkness that is nothing but fantasy trips and overdeveloped imagination. The believer becomes a warrior of fantasy land and not of truth.

* Over-emphasis on the gift of the prophetic. This focus is on signs, wonders and "words of prophesy" that is nothing but the manifestation of soothsaying. Again the soul is bewitched by the power manifestations. The true prophetic gift reproves the church and brings them back to truth and obedience to God as well as tell the times and seasons to the church.

* The Gnostic prophetic gift has taken the leap into revealing the "mysteries" of the spirit world to the church. This once again fascinates the church with flights of fancy. The new thing excites the soul and feeds the self-life. These revelations of the war in the heavenlies can not be scripturally substantiated and is very dangerous. The believer becomes preoccupied with a fantasy war while he loses the true battle for truth. It is like watching a wrestling match

on television and then afterwards claiming the victory belt for yourself as if you were doing the fighting. If the devil can't get us to ignore the reality of the spirit world, he will certainly try to make it a space-age fantasy world with nights and swords and thus effectively draw our attention away from the true battle for truth.

* People are encouraged to search after the gifts of the Spirit before they are disciplined in the scriptures.

* An overemphasis on love as the bond of unity at the cost of truth. This love has no boundaries and will do anything for ecumenical unity.

* If the church does not contend for the faith, she loses the right to be the vehicle of God's truth and will be given over to the lie and delusions.

* The perpetual enemy of the true faith is not atheism but Gnosticism.

* According to the Gnostic Christian the scriptures is mainly concerned with the gospel of man. In reality the scriptures reveal God's plan and how and where man should fit in.

* The Gnostic is not looking for the glory of God as revealed through His Son but for a kind of "manifest sons of God" that will make man look good.

* The theology of the Gnostic Christian is nothing but narcissism.

* The Gnostic faith is based on knowing God through feelings, mystic thoughts, voices, visions and dreams.

* When the experiences cease spiritual fervor wears down to rise again only when there are new bursts of fantasy and emotions. Such people are very immature, unstable and inconsistent and are swept to and fro by all kinds of erroneous teaching.

* To the Gnostic Christian faith is produced subjectively through experiences and then turned inward on self until a feeling of knowing God comes about. One of the clear signs of a false prophet is his lack of love for the commandments of God and true understanding of the glory of God.

* Any man drawing the attention to God through experiences and avoiding the scriptures as the only way to know God is false and must be avoided.

* Gnostic prophets subtly send out a message that their knowledge of scripture far exceeds the scriptures and as a matter of fact adds on to and in ways re-explain the scriptures.

*