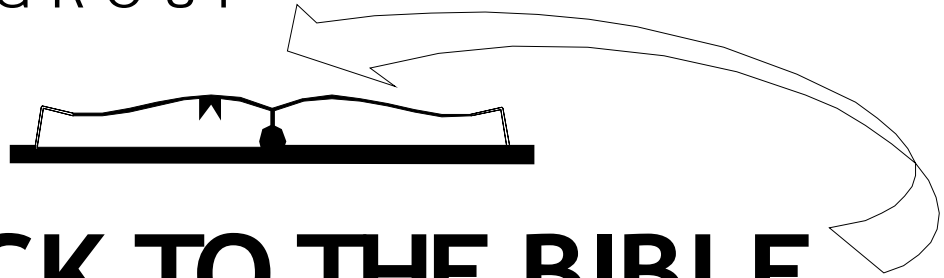


W O R K G R O U P



BACK TO THE BIBLE

Kampen, 15 june 2008, letter nr.35

Dear brothers and sisters, elders and pastors,

So many people have asked questions and so many have reacted, that we will again use this letter to give you an insight into the problems of some of the readers. The website and the possibility to use e-mail have opened the door for many readers to contact us. Also letter-writing and telephone are used, so you can reach us from all sides.

In the future we will pass on to you a bigger Bible-study. In the course of the autumn we hope to publish a study about the biblical concept : **Grace**.

Now over to an amount of reactions and questions answered. One of the reactions comes from a Christian in Texas in America. Some of the names are not the real names.

1...mrs. Ria

*“Dear members of the workgroup,
Thank you very much for all the work you spend on checking out teachings to the Bible. If only I had known before this was allowed.*

It was taught to me not to judge.

But I did not feel happy about many teachings and did not give myself over to them, pure grace. Like for example healing-rooms, but also the teaching of healing

That does not alter the fact, that the accuser caused me much grief. Because I thought I was causing the problems and it was my fault when I refused to do things or did not obey certain people.

Glory to God, nowadays I am somewhat more stable and once again very glad with the articles you searched through and opened up to us.

It is necessary for the Netherlands to return to the God of the Bible, to the God of Israel. Oh, to experience that the honour goes to God Himself, not to all false gods. Shalom in everything.

Warm greetings from sister Ria.”

2...mr. Rinus

“Dear brothers,

For a long period of years I received your publications, concerning the name : Back to the Bible. I always was very interested in what you sent to me. But now ,in this phase of my life, I am restricted as far as reading goes. My reading capacity Makes it impossible for me to read

for a long time, or even to read at all. So I am compelled to ask you to stop sending the letters.

You have been a blessing to me. I thank you very much, wishing you God's indispensable blessing in your work.

Yours in Christ, Rinus."

3...mr.Schonebeek (by phone)

"Am I speaking with someone from the workgroup Back to the Bible? Yes, you do, just tell us what your question is. The brother begins and asks what the workgroup believes about all kind of matters. Every time a question is answered by us, the brother answers that he disagrees with us and that he is convinced that extra-biblical events are allowed notwithstanding these events do not occur in the Bible. His only motif is that God is sovereign enough to do new different things. Whatever we argued against it, it did not reach him. After a conversation on the phone for 88 minutes (at our cost) it turns out, that the brother did not read any of our publications at all. His opinions were completely build on his observations in the different conferences and churches where he had been. When we pointed out that he could at least read the publications on our website, he confesses that he does not have internet and that he does not want this either. When we offer him to send some material from the workgroup by normal post, he refuses because he does not want us to know his address. Then he launches the last question. Do we read the book of Revelation? When we answer positively, our brother says that he is convinced that our web address is from satan. According to him every address of the internet begins with: www....., this is the number 666, the number of the beast in Revelation!

After this long and deadly tiring conversation, we are left behind with a question. How is it possible that intelligent Christians are so headstrong and blind towards the most plain facts?

4...mrs. Van de Laan

"Good evening,

First I will introduce myself. My name is.....and I live in a big city on the west side of the Netherlands.

I found your site because of a conference that took place in our church, called : Holy Spirit Soaking Conference".

A sister pointed us towards your article about the origin of "soaking". Personally I had never heard about it, till I read your letter. Because of that article, I have, in the meantime, read all your news-letters. This really opened my eyes. And now I recognise very many things you are writing about in my own church. Now I am seriously considering leaving my church. Please pray God will lead me and give me wisdom.

In my opinion your work is very good, also the articles are clear and easy to read.

Please send me your newsletters by e-mail.

Now I have two questions:

....Giving of tithes.

The Bible speaks about it in Malachi. Can you give me some more information?

...Laying on of hands, combined with anointing with oil. In our church we do "altar calls", then people are anointed with oil. Is this according to the Bible?

Greetings from sister Van de Laan."

Answer workgroup:

4.1 Giving of tithes. Let us read what it says in Malachi 3:7-11b: *"Return to me and I will return to you, says the Lord Almighty. But you ask: How are we to return? Will a man rob God? Yes you rob me. But you ask: How do we rob you? In tithes and offerings. You are*

under a curse-the whole nation of you-because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this, says the Lord Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.”

It is a statement of the prophet, meant for Israel. It is part of the warning and a promise for improvement if the people of Israel will be obedient. It is therefore out of context, if we as New Testament-Christians mean this refers to us. No longer we fall under the Jewish law, we fall under grace. In other words: giving of tithes is not a divine command. If we feel obliged to do so, we put ourselves again under the law, though Paul in his letters strongly advises against it. In Christ we have been set free.

Should we then, as Christians give nothing to the work of the Lord? Of course we should, but based on another text then in Malachi. Right through the whole Bible gifts are brought for the work of God. Well known is the building of the mobile tabernacle in the desert. It is built completely thanks to voluntary gifts. The same thing goes for the temple of Salomo. In both cases the people gave so much, the builders had to put a stop to it. The people did not give their tithes, but as much as was in their hearts. In the New Testament the same thing happens. Immediately when the church came into being, the people gave voluntarily for those who needed it.

When later on Paul discovers that the church in Jerusalem is in want, he organises a collection for them among the churches in Asia. There also he advises the members of the church to put away as much as they could miss. So here also no tithes, but just voluntary gifts.

In 2Cor.11 Paul writes extensively about this gift to Jerusalem. This is good study material for those who are interested.

4.2 Laying on of hands and anointing with oil. Just a few times anointing with oil is mentioned in the New Testament and that is in James 5:14 and in Mark 6:13. It concerns anointing a person who is ill. The Bible makes it clear to us, this is a good thing to happen. We are told this takes place in the house of the sick person, not in the church. It is possible there are practical reasons, because of the mobility of the patient, who probably is seriously ill. In Mark 6:13 anointing is mentioned, it was done by the disciples of Jesus, who had been sent out. When the churches came into being after the Day of Pentecost, this act probably has been passed over to the elders of the church, as told in James 5:14.

In the Old Testament anointing with oil occurs several times. Here it nearly always has to do with the assigning of a king or a prophet. Also sometimes it happened when a high priest was assigned. Here the anointing clearly was connected with sanctification, the setting apart for a certain office.

5...mr. and Mrs. Demets from Belgium

*“Dear members of the workgroup,
Do you know the pastoral course Help by Blessing?”*

Answer workgroup:

Pastoral Course “Help by Blessing”

The foundation : “De Kracht van Vrede” (the Power of Peace) has been founded by Teo van der Weele and has been existing for already quite a long time. Through the years he has gone deeply into pastoral assistance. He has “helped” many people, has many contacts with people of Youth with a Mission and missionaries on leave in the Netherlands. Since a number of years he also trains pastoral workers of churches and meetings. Out of this work the course “Help by Blessing” has come into being.

5.1 Theological basis

Reading his (course) books we do not find Teo's faith convictions are very clear. He is a member of a church but during the years he made his own theological principles. According to him they correspond to the constitution of the Evangelical Alliance and the Lausanne Covenant. This is true as far as Teo does not deviate from the general and well-known Christian testimonies confessed by every evangelical community in the Netherlands and all over the world. We mention a few examples: faith in the Trinity of God, faith in the infallibility of the Bible as the inspired Word of God and the community of the saints of Christians amongst each other. Looking now at his theological education, we have a few question marks. Mainly he followed his education at the Fuller Institute/University in America.

Here he came, amongst others, into contact with the well-known management guru Peter Drucker. This Drucker, does not confess to be a born-again Christian, but he is spreading his social philosophies about the Gospel via his friendship with Rick Warren. Also Teo states he has learned a lot from the late John Wimber, the founder and leader of the Vineyard Movement, who was also teaching at the Fuller Institute. This institute is known by the evangelical Christians in America for its extreme charismatic teachings. Teo does warn for extreme use of certain matters, but does not keep his distance from them. We give some examples:

...Deliverance from demons (see page 75 workbook);

...Pastoral self-care-spiritual war (see page 75 workbook);

...Five Steps in the Healing procedure on page 101 Study van der Weele;

"from the family: family demons from generation to generation, demonic oppressive torture, bondage by evil spirits, a curse, black or white magic, oppressive personalities, a diagnosis from a medical doctor, parents, publications, meanings of pastors, teachers etc."

...From the same Five steps in the Healing procedure study Teo van de Weele page 102:

Pointed at the devil/demons; punishing (break their power, influence), binding (refusing them to exercise their power), throw out (removing their presence)"

Next to the influence of John Wimber we notice also the influence of the theology of Youth with a Mission in the workbooks of Teo. About this theology the workgroup wrote before and gave off a warning. (See for example letter nr 24 dd.18-04-02 and letter nr.33 dd.10-10-07). The facts about Salvation are mentioned in their meetings, but nearly always the emphasis is laid on the person, his/her needs and the human necessity to change and to better his/her life. The working of the Holy Spirit and his residence in the Christian is practically not mentioned. The same is happening in the explanations of Teo. The necessity of accepting the death of Jesus Christ before God can work in somebody's life is not mentioned. Also in Youth with a Mission extreme charismatic teachings and utterances are exercised. This Youth Movement was the first group that introduced the Toronto-Blessing in the Netherlands and organised big meetings in Zwolle. Teo van der Weele has had much to do with Youth with a Mission and it is logical to think he has been influenced greatly in his own life by this movement.

5.2 Influenced by John Wimber and Youth with a Mission

John Wimber is one of the first American speakers who approved of extra-biblical teachings and applied them in their meetings. He testified he struggled a long time with it, but then God gave him by way of a dream of a befriended brother, His consent to his extra-biblical experiences. After that these were abundantly confirmed in his meetings and from then on his extra-biblical experiences/ teachings were spread over the evangelical world. The most outstanding experience is the so-called Toronto-blessing in Canada.

Now we do not say that Teo van der Weele passes on this "blessing". We only make clear that Teo does not shut out extra-Biblical experiences and teachings, considering his earlier contact and appreciation of the late John Wimber. And now we get to his teaching about helping by

blessing. Here, we believe, Teo has an extra-biblical standpoint. According to his judgement every Christian can and is allowed to bless. The book of drs. André de Haan, underlines his standpoint. In this book the author speaks positively about the “method” of Teo van der Weele. This book belongs to the workbooks of the course “Help by Blessing”.

5.3 Is blessing by people biblical and is every Christian allowed to do it?

We will not study every text about blessing, it would make this letter too long. According to the concordance there are many texts in the Old as well as in the New Testament. In the Old Testament blessings often are meant for special situations and often are about outward blessings. For example somebody gets many children, many riches, or bountiful harvests or much cattle. These blessings are seen as caused by the hand of God. These blessings come about without reason, sometimes because God is blessing the persons concerned.

In some cases people are blessed by persons with certain functions such as priests, kings and prophets. We do not find that ordinary people bless other people. Teo van der Weele as well as André de Haan have that opinion though. In their books they give no arguments for their views.

In Hebrews 7 the writer speaks about the blessing of Abraham by Melchizedec, he says in the verses 6 and 7: *“However, he, (Melchizedec), who did not trace his descent from Levi, yet he collected a tenth from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. And without doubt the lesser person is blessed by the greater”*. In the complete text Jesus is compared with Melchizedec as the High Priest. Here it is made clear blessing cannot be done by anybody just like that. Also in the New Testament several times is spoken about blessings and to bless. Nowhere we find ordinary Christians blessing other Christians. But Teo van der Weele as well as André de Haan share this opinion. There are no arguments about it in their books.

Also in the New Testament blessings and being blessed are mentioned several times. Cases of ordinary Christians blessing other Christians are not mentioned. When someone is blessed, always the apostles are involved. Or is Jesus Himself, who declares the blessing. When the seventy disciples are sent by Jesus to the houses to preach to the people, first they have to give a peace greeting to the house. This clearly has to do with the existing Jewish customs. Here is no biblical basis for the supporters of “Help by Blessing”.

The conclusion of our workgroup “Back to the Bible” is that it is not biblical for everybody to bless everybody. Only on special occasions, like commissioning children, weddings and baptism in water is it possible for the assigned person to speak out a blessing. Also there is the blessing at the end of the church service or meeting.

5.4 Which words do the blessing assistants pronounce?

According to the workbooks of Teo van der Weele the assistants have to learn to bless the person who has come for help. He does not mean they have to pray or pronounce a blessing. No, he means that the assistant has to come into contact with God and receive from Him some words or sentences he can speak over the person who needs help. He points to the danger of extreme actions, but he encourages the assistant to expect words of God during the process. What if the assistant receives from God no words or perhaps the wrong words? The person who came for help, will assess the blessing very highly and judge it to be of great importance. We feel here we are treading on thin ice. Here a new gift of the Holy Spirit is created and its foundation is not biblical. There is a very real danger that the assistants themselves make up words or unconsciously utter words they believe that are from God. In the past these faults have been made regularly. For the person asking help, whose situation is already problematic, this brings about extra confusion. All in all this is in our opinion, one of those extra-biblical matters, that were introduced by Teo van der Weele via the contact with the Fuller Institute and via the late John Wimber.

As workgroup we disapprove of this manner of blessing, because it does not occur in the Bible. Of course a prayer for the person is certainly wanted. Also with a prayer of the assistant to ask God to bless the person in question, we happily agree.

5.5 Why does Teo van der Weele not make use of the Bible?

Nowhere Teo declares the assistants have to use their Bibles. His complete account of "Help by Blessing" in his books is about the situation of the person in need of help, all kinds of psychological aspects of the aid-care, all kinds of experiences, but the use of the Bible as a foundation is not mentioned. This is very insufficient, after all this is all about Christian pastoral work. We wonder, is the person who wants help only in need of psychological assistance? In our letters the nrs. 31,32,33 we extensively wrote about and warned for this pitfall. It seems to us Teo van der Weele has fallen into it and on top of that he added extra-biblical matters to the pastoral course. We do not advise you to follow this or any other course he has written.

6...mrs. Rebecca, Texas.USA.

May 3, 2008

Hello Dear People in the Netherlands Who Worked and Studied and Wrote "BACK TO THE BIBLE"

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you! I've been reading on line what you have written..Who translated it into English? Thank you. Can you read English I hope?

I actually found your writings by going to www.google.com yesterday and looking for something very strange called the "Bear Anointing" which seems to be more devilish lies and deceptions coming from unseen world of deceiving satanic spirits which have come into the church world and into the minds and thoughts and writings of so called Christian teachers like Dutch Sheets here in the USA.

The church I used to attend with 11,000 had him come and speak to us about the spirit of Baal. Not Jesus mind you but they sent a plane for him and brought him from Colorado to say a brief hello to the congregation. Services on Friday, four on Saturday and four on Sunday and then at another location. They are also building a new church and campus down the road to hold all the new people flooding in. Suddenly one day it occurred to me that the pastor never used the WORD of GOD except to give a little Scripture and then make up stories of his own to illustrate and I thought why haven't I noticed this before???? Then I went to a so called Bible Study where they had published a booklet for us and it had quotes from the Pope even. Roman Catholics are not Christians (according to me). The Pope worships the demon god that calls itself Mother of God and Our Lady of ...fill in the blank. And there were quotes from non believers in the book and about four Scriptures. On giving your story of how you met JESUS and got saved. It made me very angry and upset and so I have not returned to the apostasy there or in my new friends home.

I am shocked that Dutch Sheets has gotten so way way off. The Bear Anointing. I wrote my friend and replied to her email and asked her where in the WORD did she find HOLY SPIRIT talking about the "bear" anointing? Have not heard back yet. I need prayer and I am going to study the WORD and pray today because I get so upset and angry. I am not calm at all. I need the PEACE of JESUS. The darkness is so bad and what is happening to the USA since 1962 when the Supreme Court banned prayer and made it against the law for any school children to

pray to the GOD of the BIBLE. I've got to do more about this. The GATES of hell will not prevail. All things are possible for JESUS and HE does answer our prayers.

Luke 18:1 And he spake a parable unto them *to this end*, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;

I better get the Scriptures out and go to www.htmlbible.com or www.blueletterbible.org or get out my STRONG's CONCORDANCE and find out what GOD in HIS WORD says about anointed and anointings.

I just thought that when I was born the second time spiritually by the Grace of GOD and by faith in JESUS and the WORD of GOD and trusting in HIS Substitutionary Death on the CROSS for me and all of us bearing our sins upon his own body, becoming sin for us and becoming the Scape Goat and being the promised Lamb of GOD who would come down here to this valley of the shadow of death earth, world system ruled by fallen angels..and HE paid in full all of our sin debts to FATHER GOD and then HE gives freely to us who trust our life and all to HIM HIS own GIFT of RIGHTEOUSNESS. Accounted to us for our faith in HIM JESUS GOD. Fully GOD and fully man. Born of a virgin. Father is GOD the HOLY SPIRIT.

Can you read English? I can't read your language but was so happy to see it translated into English.

I went to your web site and read some of the letters there and heard about Rien van de Kraats. How is he? How are you doing? Seems that the last published work was last year in 2007 (updated: february 2008, july 2008). These letters and all the work you have done are a great blessing and encouragement to me.

Things are really crazy in the church here in Fort Worth.

This woman intercessor who is talking about BEAR ANOINTING

I was going to a fast growing church and looked in their home groups for a praying group of women to get with to pray. What a SHOCK when I got to her house and went upstairs and the room was dark with just candles. She said that THE LORD had told her that there would be only 12 women that night and sure enough.

She would not let us pray spontaneously. We had to do something called make a DECREE.

I just opened my BIBLE and with help from a woman holding a candle near by I read. This is a wealthy home. They have electricity. But she did not want the lights on. Music was being played which was odd and I wished that we played the old hymns.

I just need to pray about having a prayer meeting here in my apartment. I would like to do that and a BIBLE study. I was born again back in 1984 while terribly terribly tormented with spirits of fear and very depressed and had forgotten my vocabulary and could not speak either but I asked GOD where could I find TRUTH and I "saw" a book and I leaned to see what it was and it was a HOLY BIBLE. So I got up and went to the book case and found one and began to read it or call words but I kept reading it and kept reading it and finally the FEAR of the LORD came to me and I realized that there was no such thing as re incarnation but that there was a real place, a real hell and that I was going there. Very very frightening.

I kept reading the BIBLE and finally about four months later I got born into JESUS and cleansed by HIS BLOOD and given a new heart and HIS HOLY SPIRIT and then some people I met laid hands on me and three days later I was suddenly totally free and totally well. That was twenty four years ago and I am seventy one now.

I am so alarmed at God's Judgment on the USA,. All the judgments and curses listed in Deuteronomy 28 for disobedience are active upon us since we banned prayer to the GOD of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob back in 1962. I worked in public schools for years. Back in 1958 there was order and we could correct the children and spank them even and keep them after school and we had order and good learning and development. Although I was lost my parents took us to a Baptist Church and I had some idea of the Bible.

How are you? I am thanking GOD for all of you,

Most sincerely,

Your Sister in CHRIST JESUS here in Fort Worth, Texas.

Miss Rebekah Moore

"His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor His delight in the legs of a man; the Lord delights in those who fear Him, who put their hope in His unfailing love." - Psalm 147:10-11

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. Joshua 1:8

7....mr John,

"Dear brothers and sisters,

This week I found your website on the internet.

A group of my friends and I have been taking part in a well known Pentecostal Church in a big city in the western part of the Netherlands.

By grace God has during the last period opened our eyes for many things in Christianity and in our own church that are not right.

To be honest, this was not always easy, because many things I absolutely believed in, proved not to be from God.

We had to get eye to eye with the fact that many well known preachers, who are accepted world wide in Pentecostal circles, caused many people to stray.

David Wilkerson, known by his book "The cross in the asphalt- jungle" has been for many years the pastor of a blossoming church in New York called: "Time Square Church". David Wilkerson is now 78 years old. In 2001 he handed his church (totally 7000 members) over to Carter Conlon.

David Wilkerson and Carter Conlon are real men of God who preach the pure Word of God and put Jesus Christ in the centre in everything. In many of their sermons they expose the errors in Christianity in an open and confronting way. Errors as there are: the prosperity teaching, laughing in the spirit, the Toronto Blessing, false teachers like Benny Hinn and Rodney Howard Brown etc. Using their Bibles they make clear, these are big errors and how Christians can escape.

These sermons have greatly opened the eyes of my friends and myself. It was not always easy, but it was very illuminating. It made us down to earth again and gave us much discernment.

The result of this is a deep longing to serve God truly and to really let Jesus be Lord in our lives.

Now we are searching a new church where we can really serve God and where we can listen to the healthy teaching of Jesus Christ!!

Hope to hear from you! Thank you. God bless you, brother John.”

8... Married couple Lenie and Wim,

“Dear mr. Rien v.d. Kraats,

Today we received the enclosed article. May-be it is known to you, for us it is something new. Some pastors really have little discernment. They run or fly (by KLM) after “healings”. All this means a lot of work for you. Warm greetings from Wim and Lenie.”

The article is about the new big “Revival” in Lakeland, Florida USA.

From different sides this news has reached us. Het Nederlands Dagblad dd. 10-05-08 (a daily news paper) writes an extensive article with the headline: Big “revival” in Florida. From England the Anglican emeritus vicar Jo Gardner writes much about this “revival”. Also in her country this seems to rate highly. And in New-Zealand Andrew Storm, (internetadres: www.revivalschool.com) write a warning article against this “revival”. From these three different sources, we feel as a workgroup we draw the following statements:

8.1 The head of the movement Todd Bentley

Already for a few years this man organises big meetings, similar to the ones of the Toronto Blessing (1995) in Canada and those of Pensacola (1997) from Bronsville Church in America. The results of the meetings of Todd were not so violent and successful as those above mentioned. But they showed very clearly strange, extra-Biblical phenomena, though up till now moderate and known via the other “revivals”. What happens in Lakefield, Florida now is violent, but not original.

We will mention a few bizarre matters, but let us first take a closer look at the person Todd Bentley. He is very interested in the assistance of angels during his meetings. That maybe is why he has all visible parts of his body covered by tattoos. Anyway, his appearance (earrings included) can be compared with the appearance of a member of the motor club the Hell’s Angels, as we know them in the Netherlands. Another thing that has to do with angels is his presumed visit “in the third heaven”, as Paul experienced.

He claims that the power he uses in the meetings sometimes is from the Holy Spirit and sometimes from his special angels. According to his own story he got these angels after some day his fellow-pastor Cal Pierce walked into his meeting. This Cal Piercing was accompanied by the angel of the late “prophet” Branham. This angel always assisted the “prophet” during the last years of his life during the revival meetings for healing. Since that happening the angels always are with Todd Bentley during his meetings.

8.2 What is happening in the meetings in Lakefield?

The visitors mainly come for healing and according to eyewitnesses there are many healings in the meetings. The sick come from all over America and even from outside this country, to be healed by laying on off hands through Todd Bentley. Hank Hanegraaff, head of the Christian Research Institute (CRI) has studied during a couple of years this kind of revivals. One of his last books about this subject was titled “Counterfeit Revival”. In a interview from the American journal the Tampa Tribune with him he called this new “Revival” a fake revival. Most of the miracles who people claim in these meetings, do not happen at all. Hanegraaff attributes the stories about miracles to the spiritual atmosphere during the meetings. Large groups of people who are together during a long period of time, and who hear music with endless repeated words, come into a certain mental state. They are open for

suggestions, so you can even let them say that black in fact the colour white is. So far quotes from the CRI.

8.3 What do we see more in Lakefield?

Todd Bentley lays hands on everyone, that is to say on everyone in the meeting just to impart the "power" or the "anointing". The proof of this impartment is that the persons begin to knot with the head forwards and backwards vice versa, while the body starts to shake. During this ritual Todd waves with his hands towards the people and shouts: "Fire, Fire, Fire". Another yell he uses frequently while he lays on hands is "Bam". All these symptoms are not new. During the Toronto-Blessing and the Pensacola Outpouring the people also knot with their bodies, but in that case they knot more from their midriff instead off with their heads. Besides this the following phenomenon's happen in Lakefield:

...The visitors leave the meetings in a state of childish drunkenness.

...They gave descriptions of a kind of burning feeling in their veins, head or stomach.

...They have a feeling that they move to and fro like the wave of the ocean.

...They dance as if they are drunk.

...They shout and yell like during a football match.

...Young men whistle all the time while they have their hands around their heads, saying that they feel, that the Holy Ghost will split them in parts.

...Visitors who roll with their eyes and look like they are lost.

...Women just gyrating and pulsating like they are being ravaged from behind from some unseen force.

...People being "slain in the spirit"... just falling down and being unable to move(like something is holding them down).

8.4 Conclusion of the workgroup concerning the "revival" in Wakefield Florida.

Sometimes when we research matters such as this "revival", we are inclined to cry. We are ashamed to tell the readers the bare, but awful facts. The "revival" in Wakefield is rather a shame for the Christendom, surely not a praise. As we told you in the past in our letters about the Toronto-Blessing, we can tell you now in 2008 the same . In Wakefield people are misled by false teachings, and they are not led by the Holy Spirit. It is a so-called revival, in which the darkness has much freedom even more than in Toronto and in Pensacola.

9 Mrs. Bettine by word

"Is it known to you that minister Mart Jan Paul and Wilkin van de Kamp try to introduce the deliverance theology in the formal churches in the Netherlands?"

This announcement shocked us as workgroup, because our standpoint on this matter was far from favourable. Our standpoint still is alerting. Therefore we want to underline this afresh by publishing a part of an internet article about this subject. The article is from the Scottish minister Alan Morrison and our quotation is from the part:

The Christian Believer and Demon Possession

Regarding the question of whether or not a Christian can be 'possessed' by a demon, the biblical answer must surely be a resounding 'No!' Some samples of the evidence from the Scriptures are as follows:

- The Christian is '*a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new*' (2 Cor.5:17).
- The Christian has been '*sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise*' (Eph.1:13).
- The Christian has been fully delivered from the authority of darkness and therefore from the power of Satan (Col.1:13; cf. Acts 26:17-18).

- The Christian has not received '*the spirit of bondage again to fear*', but he has '*received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father"*' (Rom.8:15).
- The Christian is one of a company of whom the Apostle can say: '*For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind*' (2 Tim.1:7). The Greek word translated here as 'a sound mind' literally means 'self-controlled' (as opposed to demon-controlled).
- The Christian has '*the mind of Christ*' (1 Cor.2:16), not the mind of Satan.
- The Christian is not his own person, but belongs to Christ, in both body and soul (1 Cor.6:19-20; 2 Cor.10:7; Gal.3:29). It is no longer the 'I' who lives but Christ in the believer (Gal.2:20).
- When John tells his flock to '*test the spirits*', he can then go on to say: '*You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He [the Spirit of Christ] who is in you is greater than he [Satan/spirit of antichrist] who is in the world*' (1 Jn.4:1-5). How can a demon possibly possess a person who is already indwelt by the infinitely superior Holy Spirit? Surely there can be no house-room!
- The Christian is clothed with the whole armour of God, which is Christ (Eph.6:10-18). This armour – truth, righteousness, the gospel of peace, faith, salvation, the sword of the Spirit – is a panoply of gifts which every Christian has received from God through Christ. They cannot be cultivated by human endeavour. When you put on Christ (Gal.3:27; Rom.13:14), you put on HIS truth, HIS righteousness, etc. Christ is all in all.
- The Christian is '*the temple of God*' and the Spirit of God dwells in him (Jn.14:23; 1 Cor.3:16). As Paul then says: '*If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are*' (1 Cor.3:17).
- The Christian is one who has received the greatest freedom possible; '*If the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed*' (Jn.8:36). No more bondage for the Christian – to sin, to Satan, or to anyone.
- The Christian is part of the Body of Christ – the Church – against which the gates of hell can never prevail (Mt.16:18).
- Jesus said that no one can snatch His sheep out of His hand. '*My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no-one is able to snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and My Father are one*' (Jn.10:28-30).
- The Christian is the one who has only to '*Resist the devil*', (steadfast in the faith, 1 Pet.5:9) '*and he will flee from you*' (Jas.4:7). This simple antidote is overlooked by many brethren today.
- The Christian is the one who can never be separated by anything (even evil angels and dark powers) from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Rom.8:38-39). As Paul puts it: '*If God is for us, who can be against us?*' (Rom.8:31).
- This, above all: '*We know that ALL THINGS work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose*' (Rom.8:28).

These are but a few of the realities of our life in Christ. Surely this must drive us to the conclusion that it is a most serious blasphemy to assert, as many do today (even among evangelicals) that the Christian can actually be possessed by an evil spirit. When the Pharisees dared to suggest that Christ cast out demons by the power of the devil (they had also claimed that He had a demon Himself), He implicitly accused them of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit (Mt.12:24-32). Surely when it is claimed that the person indwelt by the Holy Spirit is also possessed by a demon, this must constitute a very similar blasphemy.

However, the fact that a Christian cannot be 'possessed' by demons does not mean that he is impervious to being 'pestered' by them. This should not surprise us, given that Satan and his cohorts go about like a roaring lion, seeking whom they may devour (1 Pet.5:8). The adversary makes constant war against those who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ (Rev.12:17). Even Paul the Apostle had a thorn in his flesh, a messenger of Satan (2 Cor.12:7-10). But this was designed by God for a specific gracious purpose: namely, the restraining of Paul from pride and vainglory. So although Satan could rub his hands together with glee about this thorn in Paul's flesh (whatever it may have been: illness, false teachers, etc.), the fact is that it was happening under

the sovereignty of God and for His glory alone (He always gets the glory in our weakness). William Green throws much light on the relationship between Satan and the believer, when he writes:

'If you steadfastly resist the devil, confiding in the grace of God and the salvation of Jesus, he cannot touch a hair of your head. Temptation and sin, if you bravely resist them, will react to your everlasting welfare: your position is impregnable, the protection is ample, the armament is invincible, the supplies abundant, and the fortress can never be entered by the enemy, unless betrayed into his power by your own treacherous hands'.⁸

Professor Green here asserts that great biblical truth of deliverance: '*Submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you*' (Jas.4:7). It is that simple. No complex exorcisms for the Christian are set forth in Scripture. No need for reliance on medicine-men, witch-doctors and shamans to incant '*abracadabra*' and other strange commands. Instead, we have the simplicity which is in Christ and the strength which is guaranteed us by the Spirit. It is so very challenging of Professor Green to say that Satan has no power over us as Christians, unless we give it to him. This must be understood properly. He is not suggesting that the Christian can be actually demon-possessed, but, rather, that he can certainly be demon-*pestered* if he does not oversee his spiritual life with care. And as Christians, who are heirs of God through Christ, we exercise a good measure of personal responsibility under the leading and guidance of the Holy Spirit (cf. Phil.2:12-13). It is precisely for this reason that the Apostle Paul tells us not to '*give a foothold to the devil*' in our lives, through falling into flagrant sin (Eph.4:25-32).

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