

“My JW Friend Needs a Blood Transfusion and Won’t Allow It!”

I have a friend who broke his back riding a motorcycle last week. He needs a blood transfusion so he can have an operation to get the feeling back in his legs. He won’t let them give him blood. How can I show him he’s wrong in a loving manner? I did copy Patrick Zukeran’s article on [Jehovah’s Witnesses and the Trinity](#) to share with his wife who isn’t a Christian. I think she can get the gist of it.

Dear _____,

We at Probe will be praying for your situation. It is all too common among Jehovah’s Witnesses. First of all, I believe there is a law for doctors that if a JW needs blood, they have the right to overrule the wishes of the JW church and family members and give blood. Make sure your doctors are aware of this law. It applies in the U.S.; I don’t know about other countries.

Second, the Bible in the Old Testament law, Leviticus 3:17 and other passages, forbid the eating of blood. Also in Acts 15:20, the apostles wrestled with the whole issue of eating meat with blood. One thing to understand here and make this very clear, eating blood and receiving a blood transfusion are two different things. When you eat blood it goes down the digestive tract into the stomach. When we receive a blood transfusion, it goes into an entirely different system, the cardiovascular system, the blood veins to the heart. We are talking about two different system, one the digestive system and the other the cardiovascular system. The Old Testament law forbids the eating of blood (the digestive tract), but it does not forbid blood transfusion (the cardiovascular tract), to

save a life.

False interpretation of the Watchtower does have its consequences.

“Lord, may you equip _____ to defend your word of truth and give her words of wisdom to share with her JW friends that the life of this man may be saved. Empower _____ to share your truth with love and power. In Jesus’ mighty name. Amen.”

God Bless you _____.

Patrick Zukeran
Probe Ministries

“Is There a Christian Alternative to Yoga?”

I have a question in response to your postings regarding [Yoga and Christianity](#). This posting addresses the incompatibility of Yoga with Christian beliefs. I agree with the content of the article and have many other resources that express similar views.

However, I am trying to find a Christian alternative for flexibility, stretching, and exercise that give similar health benefits. I am aware of the concern with some of the Yoga postures and want to stay away from anything that could be potentially harmful. I can find many resources to warn of the potential concerns of Yoga practice even for exercise, but I cannot find much in the way of positive alternatives.

Can you point me to some good sources for Christian stretching and exercise alternatives to yoga? This would be very

beneficial for myself and for me to pass along to others.

Thanks for your question—it's a very good one! I wish I could give you a very clear and direct answer to your question, but unfortunately I cannot. Nevertheless, although I do not have a great deal of personal experience with stretching and exercise alternatives to Yoga, I do believe that there are probably some very worthwhile alternatives available.

[Note from the webmistress: Check out [PraiseMoves](#), an orthodox Christian stretching program from a former yoga instructor who knows what she's doing. I am very impressed by [her explanation of why yoga and Christianity are not compatible.](#)]

A couple possibilities which you may want to consider are gymnastics and ballet. I know that those who are involved in these practices have to be very flexible, and of course both are extremely good forms of exercise. You can probably find some helpful books and/or videos on the web or at your local bookstore. You might even want to see what options are available in your area to get supervised training (e.g. a gymnastics or ballet class, etc.). In addition, you can probably find some helpful books which simply deal with the subject of stretching. Of course, some of these books may incorporate some stretches which are also used in yoga. But my personal opinion is that this would probably not be harmful. I tend to think there is a pretty big difference between incorporating some yoga stretches into a more comprehensive stretching program (on the one hand) and actually practicing the discipline of yoga (on the other).

I wish I could be of more help. But if you begin with gymnastics and ballet (and general books on stretching) I think you can probably find something that will accomplish all you like without the potential dangers from yoga practice. Even if you're not interested in gymnastics or ballet, books on these subjects could maybe point you in the right direction. You might also consider calling a local gymnastics

coach, or ballet instructor, and asking their advice.

I wish you all the best!

Shalom,

Michael Gleghorn
Probe Ministries

“Is the United Pentecostal Church a Cult?”

Is the United Pentecostal Church a cult, theologically speaking? And if so, why? What do they believe?

The doctrine of the UPC is definitely heretical; they deny the Trinity in favor of what is called the “oneness” doctrine. Heresy makes groups a cult. Here’s a good article on that from Watchman Fellowship: www.watchman.org/cults/upc.htm

Happy reading!

Sue Bohlin
Probe Ministries

“I’m a Teenage Satanist and I’m Not Evil!”

I do not wish to sound rude but, I could not help but tell you

my views on an article I recently read. The [article pertaining to Satanists](#) quite angered me. In it you state that most of Satanists are teenagers, and yes all I know are teens but, you relate that we all have low self-worth, are unable to distinguish between right and wrong, have problems at home or with our peers, use drugs, and are sexually promiscuous.

I find it wrong to stereotype people in any way! I have a very high self-worth, and I love who I am! I'm happy with my lifestyle, I have tons of friends and my family loves me! I'm not abused in anyway and even preps talk to me in the hallways (without vulgar language and angry comments). I don't practice sex people! I'm a virgin and proud of it!!! My parents are Catholic and yet they accept me for me and understand my personality and beliefs. I hate to say this but I believe it is the religions of today that are wrong. Christians are, most of all. They take things they don't understand or that aren't from their religion and automatically link them to Satan.

It is these fanatics whom are making me seem evil! I'm not!!! I also am greatly revolted by the way it referred to metal bands!!! In society today, I believe that rap has more of an effect on people! These rappers are getting killed in gang related events, getting time in jail and promoting sex, drugs and naked women in their videos and no one says anything! But, Slipknot puts out a CD with a goat's head on it and suddenly they get labeled as Satanists!!! I feel that my music is fine the way it is; evil, maybe; but it reflects me.

Furthermore, in the article it states that Satanism is "the worship of satan," another misconception! We do not all worship Satan as an entity. It is merely of oneself and most often does not involve Satan. Please! We only want to be left alone to our beliefs. I mean, isn't it required in the constitution of the United States?

Hello _____,

Thank you for writing about our Satanism article.

It's unfortunate that you got so angry at the general principles the author outlined without reading the exact words he used. When someone uses the word "generally," he is allowing for exceptions to what he is saying. And to describe characteristics of a group of people isn't stereotyping if the characteristics are valid. I'm delighted to hear that your family loves you, you appreciate yourself, and that you are a virgin and you're proud of it. Good for you, _____! (I wish you could hear my voice. . . I am not being in the least bit sarcastic—I truly mean it. What a delight to hear these things about and from a teenager.)

You may want to be left alone, and nobody at Probe Ministries is trying to force you to change. We are simply making information about Satanism available to those seeking it. Which is how you found us, right? You sought out this article, we didn't force it on you.

When you are older and you discover that you are either bored by self-worship, or you discover there really is a personal spirit who hates you and cackles at his control of you, I want to suggest that true power, true love, and true wisdom come from knowing Jesus Christ personally and trusting in Him. He's stronger than Satan and He loves you instead of hating you. Just a thought for you to tuck away for when you need something more than what you have right now.

Sue Bohlin
Probe Ministries

“How Do I Talk to My Friend Who’s Deceived by Eastern Thought?”

I am hoping you can help me with this huge dilemma: how to talk to a friend who has rejected Christ for Eastern religious thought. I am so ashamed that I have not kept very close to my Lord through His Word, so now I can’t think how to answer this friend who is lost deep in Eastern thought. I am hurtfully speechless when she spews out the “Jesus was a good guy...God is all good and would never create a hell...we are all good...there is no sin” stuff. I am very uneasy around her. I have to keep praying in my mind to keep her awful lies out of my head. Can you help me?!?!

My friend is visiting her dying mother, and will not be here long. So, I am desperate for quick help. I am so grateful for any help and resources you can point me to.

You sound like you are in such emotional and spiritual pain! Bless you for carrying such a deep burden for your friend.

I think the best response to the “no hell/we are all good” stuff—showing how deceived she is!—is to go for the heart. You said she is tending her dying mother, so apparently she cares for her mother. You might try this approach: “What if someone broke into your house and raped and murdered your mother? You know it could happen; it happens every day. What would you want to happen then? Would you send ‘happy thoughts’ to the raping murderer because he’s a good soul? Or would every shred of your being cry out for justice?”

“I know you; I know you would want justice. And you know why? Because you are made in the image of God, and God is not only good and loving, He is also just. He wants evil punished. He promises He WILL punish evil. Don't you find that comforting?”

“Eastern philosophy doesn't fit reality, because we know there IS evil, there IS sin, and the cry of our hearts is that evil and sin be addressed. And when you go back home, I beg you to read and research and think about the death of Christ. If He was only a good man, why did He have to die? If He was only a man, how could He come back to life, just as He promised He would?”

I suggest you leave your friend with questions instead of preaching the answers, and praying up a storm that the Holy Spirit will put hooks on your questions and not give her any peace until she deals with the truth and its implications.

I hope this helps!

In His grip,

Sue Bohlin
Probe Ministries

“How Dare You Judge Edgar Cayce?!”

How dare you judge! I just read [your article on Edgar Cayce](#) and he was a Christian. How can you say just because he had a gift that you can't explain that he must have been in an occult! God gives us gifts and that is something you can't control so why would you say he was dealing with the devil? Everyone perceives the Bible differently and who is to say

that your way is right and his way was wrong? I am Catholic and I believe that God gives us gifts and what you choose to do with them is up to you!

Thank you for writing.

Have you ever been pulled over for speeding? When the police officer said, "You were going 70 in a 55 zone," did you say, "How dare you judge!"? Probably not, because the officer doesn't judge the people he pulls over—he compares our behavior with the standard of the law.

The article on Edgar Cayce compares his behavior with the standard of the law that God set down in the Bible. Having been brought up Catholic, I do understand that your perception of the Bible is probably not as accurate as it could be. The Bible is far more reliable than many people think, but they haven't taken the time to research it. God has spoken very plainly about what constitutes the occult, and Edgar Cayce clearly fell in that camp. He certainly did have a gift, but it wasn't from God, because God's gifts behave differently than Cayce's.

I hope that if this really bothers you, you will study the Bible for yourself and see that it is a supernatural book, and God has given us the Holy Spirit to help us understand it even further. It's not open to every person's individual interpretation, any more than the newspaper is. Different sections of the newspaper are to be read and interpreted differently, such as the comics, the front page, and the editorial page. The Bible is like that too, and the more familiar we become with it, the easier it is to tell the difference between the sections and the type of literature within it.

One more point: perhaps Edgar Cayce believed in God, but that didn't make him a Christian. The Bible says that the demons believe in God, too. What makes a person a Christian is a

personal relationship with Jesus Christ, when we realize that He died on the cross for OUR sins and we say “thank you” for His gift of eternal life.

Thanks for writing.

Sue Bohlin
Probe Ministries

“Did Nostradamus Predict the Destruction of the World Trade Center?”

A friend sent me these writings from Nostradamus' Quattrains:

The book of Nostradamus, called The Quattrains (The Centuries), he has repeatedly predicted the future over and over and over again, from centuries ago. Nostradamus' prediction on World War III:

“In the first year of the new century and nine months,
From the sky will come a great King of Terror...
The sky will burn at forty-five degrees.
Fire approaches the great new city...”

“In the city of york there will be a great collapse,
Two twin brothers torn apart by chaos
While the fortress falls the great leader will succumb
The third big war will begin when the big city is burning.”

What is the story on Nostradamus? Was he a prophet or someone with extraordinary psychic powers? Was he a Christian? Is it

true that his predictions have been fulfilled with great accuracy over the years? I'm sure I'm not the only reader that would like to know the answers to such questions.

I am so glad you wrote. I know this "prophecy" is buzzing around the internet in the wake of the WTC/Pentagon terrorist attacks.

First of all, these quatrains weren't written by Nostradamus. They were written by a Brock University student within the last decade as a fabricated example to show how anybody could write an obscure-enough, impressive-sounding prophecy. (See the [Snopes report: http://www.snopes2.com/inboxer/hoaxes/predict.htm](http://www.snopes2.com/inboxer/hoaxes/predict.htm))

Secondly, Nostradamus' prophecies were written in a very old French, and much depends on both the translation and the interpretation. Prophecies can only be understood in retrospect, and his "believers" work very hard to try to make his prophecies fit events. His writings are full of symbolism and obscure references that could be twisted to mean anything.

If his writings coincide with later historical events, it's a matter of coincidence, not of writing history in advance like inspired, scriptural prophecy. It is not true that his prophecies have been fulfilled with great accuracy. They have, however, been treated with great relish by those anxious to find a spiritual aspect to life without submitting to the True Author of actual prophecy!

Finally, I don't know if he was a Christian or not.

Hope this helps!

Sue Bohlin
Probe Ministries

“Why Do Christians Have to Bash Pop Psychology?”

Dear Mr. Anderson,

I was just browsing the Probe Ministries website and read parts of your article about [Pop Psychology Myths](#).

Honestly, I just don't get it. Well, I should tell you I come from a strong Christian background, involved in Campus Crusade, youth groups, church ministries etc. But sometime during my senior year of college I just about HAD IT with Christian culture and all their myths.

Why is it wrong to have self-esteem? I hid behind the Bible for years to make me feel good about myself, but I was never convinced. My personal calling isn't to humble myself to meekness, never thinking for myself, in order to be “godly.” I feel better, accomplish more, and fulfill the talents God has given me when I act in ways to help my self esteem, like taking good care of myself, being assertive in my writing career and not letting people walk all over me, like I used to do, when I was a walking sin-o-meter... Why is it so important to make rules and laws and lists of myths when the whole essence of Christianity is Grace and Love? Doesn't this fear of the world seem somewhat legalistic?

I really don't know where I am going with this, I am just so frustrated with Christians who spend all their time worrying about the “world's ways” when things just AREN'T so black and white. There is wisdom in pop psychology—some of it is just plain nonsense, but there is some wisdom, just as there is some wisdom in Taoism. For goodness sakes, a great deal of it parallels scripture.

Anyway, something to chew on. I very much respect your degrees and figured you may be open to some discussion on the subject.

Thanks for writing. I thought the book by Chris Thurman (*Self-Help or Self-Destruction*) that was a basis of my week of radio programs was very well written and discerning. Perhaps I should do another week of programs on the other five myths of pop psychology mentioned in the book so that the analysis would be more complete.

I don't think that my transcript (nor the book) denies that there is any wisdom in pop psychology. But I do think we should be more discerning, and that's what we were trying to convey in the program. Anyway, thanks for your opinion.

Kerby Anderson
Probe Ministries

“Why is Jesus called ‘the Everlasting Father’ in Isaiah 9:6?”

Why is Jesus called “the Everlasting Father” in Isaiah 9:6?

*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:
and the government shall be upon his shoulder:
and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor,
The mighty God,
The everlasting Father,
The Prince of Peace.*

The phrase “Everlasting Father” looks confusing, doesn't it?

It shouldn't be taken literally, especially since Jesus the Son is not God the Father. The key is to understand the term "father" as "kingly protector of his people," which was used in both biblical (for example, see Isaiah 22:21 and Job 29:16) and non-biblical literature. And we Americans are used to hearing George Washington called "the father of our country," but it's certainly not saying he sired all Americans! It's a figurative term that describes a great leader.

Hope this helps!

Sue Bohlin
Probe Ministries

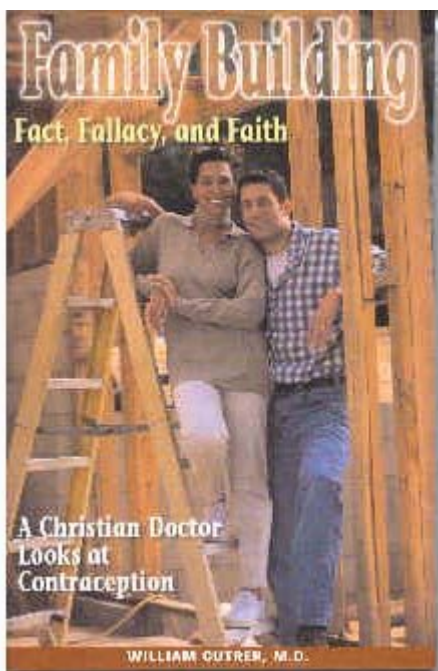
"What is the Pervading Christian Thought on Birth Control?"

I have a question about birth control. Until recently, I was under the impression that being on "the pill" meant that a woman did not ovulate and therefore, could not get pregnant. Upon some research, I was horrified to find out that women taking the pill can actually ovulate up to 50% of the time. When this occurs, the egg is harder to fertilize, but if it does become fertilized, the lining of the uterus will not allow the zygote to be attached, therefore causing the zygote to be aborted without the woman ever knowing it.

What is the pervading Christian thought on this? My husband and I are not Catholic, and we do not have a problem with birth control, but if it is essentially working like the

morning after pill I want nothing to do with it. We were both surprised that no church other than the Catholic church has taken a stance on this.

There IS no pervading Christian thought on this issue. There is no pervading thought even among Christian OB-GYNs, it turns out. The reason is that they truly don't know the pill's effect on the uterine lining and just exactly how abortifacient it is. There is no data to support the claim that the pill causes miscarriages. It would be very helpful if such data existed!



I read an excellent booklet by Dr. Bill Cutrer about a Christian perspective on birth control (*Family Building: Fact, Fallacy and Faith*) and he didn't say anything about women on the pill ovulating up to 50% of the time. Frankly, I am suspicious of that claim for more than a few women. He also said that a fertilized embryo is amazingly able to start growing in the most inhospitable environments, such as the fallopian tubes, intestines and even spleen, so the abortifacient characteristics of COC (combination oral contraceptives) are not absolute.

His perspective is that couples should be aware of the risks of the pill to both the mother and the unborn baby, and alternative contraceptives should be considered. The evidence

is not as strong as some would make it out to be, but nonetheless other forms of contraception would be good to discuss.

I hope this helps; I would suggest you get the pamphlet and read it for yourself (you can order it from FamilyLife at www.familylife.com).

Sue Bohlin
Probe Ministries