

Spiritual Plagiarism - Meditation

Plagiarism is the practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own.

Spiritual Plagiarism is taking the things of God and passing them off as something else.

Most often this is done in other religions, then repeated or practiced by people without realizing they are ideas stolen from God and then twisted in false religions.

The devil is a thief. He's not original. He takes and lies and twists and distorts things that God has created or ordained for His people.

And in case I'm not being clear...yes I'm saying that every religion that does not claim Jesus as the Son of God who died for your sins and then rose from the dead is the work of satan...EVERY...ONE. That's the truth!

Over the next few weeks, we're going to look at some areas where the enemy has committed spiritual plagiarism of the things of God. And if you're wondering why this should matter to you...it's because even Christians say or do some of these things.

The purpose of looking into spiritual plagiarism is that you do these things, you would stop and instead start seeing and doing them from a biblical perspective where they will add great value to your life!

Today we are going to start with Meditation.

Psalms 19:14 (NKJV)

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.

This could be a whole other sermon on it's own but let's just focus on the meditation...

Let the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight

Meditation...the focus and attention of your mind...Let them be acceptable to the Lord. Let them be something that pleases God.

Meditation is often linked to Eastern religions that are centered around clearing your mind and getting in touch with your inner self. They are about self help because they don't believe in a God that can help you or even save you...

But meditation itself is not necessarily bad. In fact the earliest recorded meditation was from a man of God around 4000 years ago

Genesis 24:63 (NKJV)

And Isaac went out to meditate in the field in the evening; and he lifted his eyes and looked, and there, the camels were coming.

Context is key...I don't believe that Isaac rolled out a yoga mat and sat in an uncomfortable position, focused on his breathing to clear his mind in the field that evening.

See Isaac was the son of the promise. God told his father Abraham that he'd be the father of many nations, as many offspring as the sand on the seashore, as many as the stars in the sky...but his mother had just died and his father was old...but Isaac wasn't even married yet.

So it's clear when you read it all in context, that Isaac went out to get alone and focus the attention of his mind on God and what He had said...the promises He had made...and as Isaac did so, he looked up and here came his bride!

That's biblical meditation, which is the original meditation, focusing the attention of your mind on what Jesus has said and done!

Can I tell you today that it's more comforting to a weary soul than clearing your mind is? Can I tell you that it brings light into your life when you meditate on the One who is faithful and true and above all things?

Listen friends...you don't need to "clear your mind" you need to fill it with the Word of God!

If you empty your mind, something is going to fill it back up and in all likelihood, you're going to end up being full of whatever it is you just cleared out...and whatever it is that you're searching for...Jesus is the answer!

Psalm 119:15-16 (NKJV)

I will meditate on Your precepts,
And contemplate Your ways.
16 I will delight myself in Your statutes;
I will not forget Your word.

Church, you've got to meditate on the Word of God if you want something that will last!
Something that will stand the test of time.
Something that is true today and will still be true tomorrow.

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away."
~ Jesus

The Word of God is eternal!

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV)

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

It's the Holy Spirit acting upon the Word that will transform your life! The Word is living and powerful...it can separate the soul and spirit...

This means it can show you what is of your heart and mind and what is of God! And it will reveal what is IN YOU.

Enlightenment vs Revelation

The world says you can receive enlightenment through meditation by focusing on every breath...in and out...let your mind be free...

Enlightenment is this state of a clarity of thinking allowing deeper levels of knowledge, perception and reason

But the bible says you can receive revelation which is far greater!

Ephesians 1:17-21 (NKJV)

that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and **revelation** in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being **enlightened**; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power 20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

Somebody say Hallelujah!

When you meditate on God's Word...you get the revelation in the knowledge of Jesus! The One who was and is and is to come! His inheritance. His power. His resurrection. Your victory!

Self-discovery vs Discovery of God

The world says to discover self through meditation...look within...it says if you do, you will find your true self

Acts 17:27 (CSB)

He did this so that they might seek God, and perhaps they might reach out and find him, though he is not far from each one of us.

God's desire is that you would reach out and find Jesus...for salvation...but also for every moment of every day...HE IS NOT THAT FAR FROM EACH ONE OF US.

You meditate on His Word because His Word reveals His heart...Who Jesus is...His character...His faithfulness...His nearness...

Meditate on the Word and discover the ONLY LIVING GOD, JESUS!

Connecting to nature or universe vs Connecting with God

The world will say you can meditate and connect with nature or the universe...

Romans 1:25 (CSB)

They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served what has been created instead of the Creator, who is praised forever. Amen.

Our calling is not to become part of nature of the universe...it's to rule over it! That's a command from the garden that was given to man and we lost it through sin but Jesus gave it back when He defeated the enemy!

We have to connect with Jesus here and now!

Romans 6:23 (NKJV)

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

John 17:3 (NKJV)

And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

Know Jesus...ginosko is an intimate knowing. It's learning to know. It's growing in knowledge. It takes connection! Over and over.

Eternal life is connecting with Jesus...it's this state of a constant intimate connection to Him...through His Word and by His Spirit!

Connect with the Creator, not the creation!

Hosea 13:4 (CSB)

I have been the Lord your God
ever since the land of Egypt;
you know no God but me,
and no Savior exists besides me.

Meditation is something that God created in order for His people to focus on His Word and remember what He has done.

Meditation is like worship in that it can be good or bad...it's all about the object of your worship and the objective of your meditation.

"For whatever is not from faith is sin."
~ Paul

Whatever is not of complete trust and confidence in Jesus is sin.

Biblical Meditation is not about clearing your mind...it's about filling it with Christ!

Psalm 1:1-3 (NKJV)

Blessed is the man
Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,
Nor stands in the path of sinners,
Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;
2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord,
And in His law he meditates day and night.
3 He shall be like a tree
Planted by the rivers of water,
That brings forth its fruit in its season,
Whose leaf also shall not wither;
And whatever he does shall prosper.

The person who meditates on the Word of God, day and night...it says you will be like a tree planted by the rivers of water...that literally means transplanted. If you meditate on God's Word, you will be transplanted, taken up, and put back down where the rivers of water provide all that you need to grow and flourish.

In fact you will bring forth fruit in its season! When it's time! If you meditate on the Word

Your leaves will not wither...If you meditate on the Word

Whatever you do will prosper...If you meditate on the Word

Look at the instruction to Joshua, who is taking over for Moses to lead the people of Israel into the Promised Land:

Joshua 1:8 (NKJV)

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

What is God's message for Joshua?

Make the Word an integral part of who he is and what he does by it constantly being on his lips and on his mind.

It was important for Joshua's own life...but it was also important for the lives of those around him, those who he led.

It's time to take back what the enemy has stolen...what he's spiritually plagiarized from God!

Meditate, focus the attention of your mind on the life changing Word of God.

Revelation of the knowledge of Jesus

Discover Jesus' presence in every moment of your life

Connect with Jesus intimately, deeply, that you may know Him here and now

Let the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight