

# ABCs of False Teaching

Lynn Lusby Pratt and Lena Wood

<p>abracadabra •          absence of thought •  <i>A Course in Miracles</i>          • Age of Aquarius •          aliens • alignment •          "All truth is God's          truth" • altered state          • ancient future •          ancient wisdom •          androgyny •          antichrist • "As          above, so below" •          ascended master •          asceticism • astral          projection • atman/          anatta • attunement          • automatic writing          • awakening •          Bailey, Alice • Bell,          Rob • "Be still" •          bodhisattva • Book          of the Dead •          Buddhism •          Catherine of Siena •          Catholic Church •          chakras • channeling          • chaos magic • chi          • Chopra, Deepak •          Christalignment •          Christ consciousness          • Christ follower •          collective/cosmic          consciousness •          common ground •          contextual theology</p>	<p><b>A</b> <b>all is one.</b> The Eastern/mystical worldview that there is no creator separate from the creation, no good and evil, no male and female. Everything is part of everything else. Also: pantheism (god is all), panentheism (god is in all).</p> <p><b>ancient Christian practice</b> ("vintage Christianity"). Usually does not mean a practice from Bible times, but one borrowed from Buddhism or Hinduism by the desert fathers or medieval monks and nuns.</p> <p><b>B</b> <b>bibliolatry.</b> The supposed idolatrous worship of/excessive reverence for the Bible. Brennan Manning: "I develop a nasty rash around people who speak as if mere scrutiny of [the Bible's] pages will reveal precisely how God thinks and precisely what God wants."</p> <p><b>C</b> <b>contemplative prayer.</b> Neither contemplative (deep thinking) nor prayer (talking to God), this practice involves repeating a phrase for 20 minutes to induce an altered state of consciousness in which the person believes he has contacted a god or become one with the universe. Also called or related to: breath prayer, centering prayer, Jesus prayer, mantra meditation, Zen, transcendental meditation.</p> <p><b>D</b> <b>Dark Night of the Soul.</b> By John of the Cross. John's "dark night" isn't about going through tough times but, rather, is the first of three mystical stages (purgation, illumination, union) toward enlightenment/perfection. The person feels abandoned by God: "The self . . . is forced . . . to leave the Light" (Evelyn Underhill).</p> <p><b>E</b> <b>emergent church</b> (progressive). This label "emerged" when certain leaders aimed to start "doing church right" and "allowing people to be authentic." Their messages were an attractive blend of fatherly soothing and sexy rebellion, with a downplaying of Scripture and valuing experience over truth.</p> <p><b>F</b> <b>Foster, Richard.</b> Best-selling promoter of contemplative prayer. Resonates with numerous teachers linked to Eastern religion/New Age/occult. Favorably speaks of the mystic's "union with God" with the "analogy of a log in a fire: the glowing log is so united with the fire that it <i>is</i> fire."</p> <p><b>G</b> <b>grave soaking.</b> Lying atop the grave of a supposed prophet to "soak" up the power of that person.</p> <p><b>H</b> <b>hate the church—and Christianity.</b> Donald Miller said, "The beginning of sharing my faith with people began by throwing out Christianity." Talk of "love Jesus but hate the church" plays right into predictions from the dark side. The "evolution" toward a perfect world involves a sinister "selection process" (i.e., eliminating Christians). The New Age Cosmic Christ says: "I approached the crucifixion far more easily than I approach the selection. The crucifixion was done unto my body. The selection will be done unto yours" (Barbara Marx Hubbard). Alice Bailey's spirit guide said the "shift" would be accomplished "at any cost to the hindering forms."</p>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cosmic Christ •</li> <li>Crowley, Aleister •</li> <li>Dalai Lama •</li> <li>deconstruction •</li> <li>demons • desert</li> <li>fathers • direct</li> <li>revelation •</li> <li>dominionism •</li> <li>Eastern religion •</li> <li>ecstasy • emptiness</li> <li>• enlightenment •</li> <li>enneagram •</li> <li>esoteric/exoteric •</li> <li>Eucharist • feng shui</li> <li>• fetish • Five</li> <li>Tibetan Rites •</li> <li>fractal • geomancy •</li> <li>Gnosticism •</li> <li>goddess worship •</li> <li>God's dream •</li> <li>ground of all being •</li> <li>Harmonic</li> <li>Convergence •</li> <li>Hinduism • holy</li> <li>laughter •</li> <li>homosexuality •</li> <li>I AM • I Ching •</li> <li>IHOP (relates to</li> <li>Bethel in Redding,</li> <li>Lakeland Revival,</li> <li>Toronto Blessing,</li> <li>Latter Rain) •</li> <li>incarnational •</li> <li>indigo children •</li> <li>Ignatian exercises •</li> <li>initiation •</li> <li>Kalachakra •</li> <li>Keating, Thomas •</li> <li>Kingdom Now</li> </ul>	<p><b>I interspirituality/interfaith.</b> Mixing the world religions, accomplished by tossing doctrine aside and coming together on supposed points of agreement. Mantra meditation is key because the resulting altered state of consciousness produces the same effect in believers of any religion; the mantra is just a vehicle.</p> <p><b>J Jesus Calling.</b> Sarah Young's books supposedly record the words Jesus directly spoke to her. This phenomenon has given some Christians the idea that something is missing if Jesus doesn't routinely speak directly to them, on demand as it were.</p> <p><b>Jung, Carl.</b> One of the founders of modern psychology. He held séances, had a spirit guide, was influenced by Nietzsche ("God is dead"), and had strong ties to Tibetan Buddhism. Canadian psychologist Jordan Peterson is a rising star among political conservatives and has some good things to say. He is heavily influenced by the Bible, but also by Jung.</p> <p><b>K karma.</b> The Eastern teaching that your problems are caused by bad behavior in a previous life (though you have no way of knowing what you did or how much payment is required). The reward of working one's way out of the karmic cycle is nirvana, or soul extinction. Karma is the polar opposite of grace.</p> <p><b>L labyrinth.</b> This winding path leading to a center is a form of geomancy (divination via lines/geographic features). Supposed to enhance prayer or connect with the desired higher power/consciousness. One minister advised, "Walk in and out, holding this sacred object [a tiny church building] until you feel forgiven."</p> <p><b>M mindfulness.</b> Rooted in the Eastern idea of detachment, mindfulness involves being aware of a problem/bad situation without evaluating or feeling any emotion about it. For the good Buddhist—who believes that everything is an illusion anyway—regular mindfulness reinforces that this life is somewhat irrelevant. For non-Buddhists, mindfulness appears to train the practitioner not to feel. But what happens when the person must come back to reality and actually deal with his problem?</p> <p><b>mysticism.</b> Mysticism is billed as superior spirituality; spiritual practices (like Bible reading and prayer) that rely on normal senses are inferior. Mystics would have us believe that we must employ certain techniques to empty the mind and break through to the divine. Knowledge is viewed as a negative (compare Hosea 4:6; Romans 10:2; Colossians 1:9-14; 2:2-4; Titus 1:1, 2). Not to be confused with <i>mysterious</i>.</p> <p><b>N necromancy.</b> The touchstone of occultism. Basis for cemetery rituals, "crossing over," divination, Ouija board, possession, séances, spirit guides, Tibetan Buddhism, trance channeling, vampirism, voodoo, and zombies. Culture connections: TV shows like <i>Ghost Adventures</i>, <i>Supernatural</i>; video games descended from <i>Dungeons &amp; Dragons</i>. Google-search "most occult video games." An occultist-turned-Christian said the most dangerous thing about New Age/occultism is "trying to contact the dead."</p> <p><b>Nouwen, Henri.</b> Catholic writer very popular with Protestant readers. Universalist. "Our souls are those sacred centers where all is one." "God . . . dwells in the inner sanctuary of each human being."</p>
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• kundalini (“serpent power”) • Law of Attraction • lectio divina • levitation •</li> <li>Lokean • lotus • Lotus Sutra • magic circle • Maharishi Mahesh Yogi •</li> <li>Mahdi • Maitreya • mandala • Manning, Brennan • mantra • Mary, “mother of God” • McLaren, Brian • meditation •</li> <li>medium • Merton, Thomas • monks &amp; nuns • Mother Teresa • mudra •</li> <li>namaste • New Age • New Apostolic Reformation (NAR; see IHOP) • New Reformation • New Thought • New World Order •</li> <li>nirvana • om • Oneness Blessing • Oprah • Ouija board •</li> <li>pantheism/panentheism •</li> <li>qigong • red-letter Christians • “redeem the other religions” •</li> <li>reincarnation • Rohr, Richard • rosary • shamanism • sigil •</li> <li>silence</li> </ul>	<p><b>O occult.</b> Covers things like sorcery and divination. Almost always constitutes an attempt to get power (as with pronouncing a curse) or knowledge (as with a Ouija board). The Lord strongly forbids occult practice: Leviticus 19:26b, 31; Deuteronomy 18:9-14; 2 Kings 17:13-20; Acts 19:13-20; Galatians 5:19-21; Revelation 22:12-15.</p> <p><b>P Peterson, Eugene.</b> Peterson says, “The Scriptures are the word of God dehydrated.” (Hebrews 4:12 says, “The word of God is living and active.”) Former New Agers/occultists cringe at terms Peterson introduced into <i>The Message</i> that have direct links to occultism: <i>golden circle</i>; “<i>As above, so below</i>”; <i>centered in lotus land</i>; <i>God of green hope</i> . . .</p> <p>“<b>practicing the presence.</b>” It’s good to be more aware of God’s presence. But Brother Lawrence, who made that phrase famous, didn’t quite mean that. “I renounced everything that was not [God]. . . . I drove away from my mind everything that was capable of interrupting my thought of GOD.” Of concern is the report that when Brother Lawrence was distracted, “God” nudged him in such a way that he “cried out” and danced “violently like a mad man.”</p> <p><b>Q quantum spirituality.</b> “A structure of human becoming, a channeling of Christ energies through mindbody experience” (Leonard Sweet). Sweet credits several interspiritualists and universalists for enhancing his spiritual journey.</p> <p><b>R reiki.</b> Japanese word that means “spirit energy.” The demonic practice probably traces to Tibetan Buddhism. Performed in medical centers as a no-touch healing or therapeutic soothing. Patients are rarely told that the reiki practitioner has been “attuned” to access the “universal life force” via what is described as a “spiritual ceremony.”</p> <p><b>reimagine.</b> A red-flag word that sometimes signals a tossing out of truth and replacing it with false teaching. Examples: reimagining Christianity, reimagining Jesus, reimagining the church, reimagining Good Friday. (Can you “RE-imagine” what was never “imagined” in the first place?)</p> <p><b>S sacred.</b> The word <i>sacred</i> is paired with words like <i>place/space</i>, <i>posture</i>, <i>object</i>, <i>breath</i>, <i>word</i>, <i>silence</i>, <i>union</i>. We’re given the impression that our prayers will be answered our way—or we’ll be closer to God—if we’ll get in a “holy” place, assume a certain posture, breathe a certain way . . .</p> <p><b>spiritual formation.</b> Focuses on a list of spiritual disciplines as the secret to spiritual growth. The key discipline is silence, which, in the spiritual formation context, refers to the silence achieved through contemplative prayer. At least one accrediting association requires Bible colleges to teach a spiritual formation track and, interestingly, recommends certain textbooks that promote mysticism.</p> <p><b>T tantrism.</b> Black magic/sex magic, particularly as practiced in some forms of Hinduism and Buddhism. Recommended in Gary Thomas’s <i>Sacred Marriage</i> and by Dr. Daniel Amen (who partnered with Rick Warren on <i>The Daniel Plan</i>). The word <i>tantrism</i> was rarely seen in the past, but is now openly promoted.</p>
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• slaughterhouse religion</li> <li>• soaking/soaking prayer</li> <li>• social justice (social gospel)</li> <li>• sorcery</li> <li>• soul care</li> <li>• soul retrieval</li> <li>• spirit guides</li> <li>• spiritual director</li> <li>• spiritual disciplines</li> <li>• Sufi</li> <li>• Taizé</li> <li>• tarot cards</li> <li>• Teresa of Avila</li> <li>• <i>The Cloud of Unknowing</i></li> <li>• The Hierarchy</li> <li>• <i>The Secret</i></li> <li>• <i>The Shack</i></li> <li>• theosophy</li> <li>• thin place</li> <li>• third eye</li> <li>• UFOlogy</li> <li>• ultimate reality</li> <li>• Underhill, Evelyn</li> <li>• union with the divine</li> <li>• universalism</li> <li>• vampires</li> <li>• vibration</li> <li>• void</li> <li>• voodoo</li> <li>• Wesak (or Vesak)</li> <li>• "whatever works"</li> <li>• Wicca</li> <li>• Wilber, Ken</li> <li>• Willard, Dallas</li> <li>• witchcraft</li> <li>• World Core (Common Core) Curriculum</li> <li>• Yancey, Philip</li> <li>• Zen</li> <li>• zodiac</li> </ul>	<p><b>true self</b> (higher self, self-realization). In a Christian sense we might take the term <i>true self</i> to mean "the me that God wants me to be." But in Eastern, New Age, and liberal Christian writings, it means the "divine self": we are gods.</p> <p><b>U useful idiots.</b> The term seems to have been used by both Lenin and Stalin to refer to people in the West who were doing things unawares that promoted Communism/Socialism. Occultist Alice Bailey foresaw the New Age "church" rising out of the true one. Destructive heresies and doctrines of demons would infiltrate the church through its own teachers. Christians need discernment to avoid being the New Age's useful idiots.</p> <p><b>V visualization</b> ("creative imagination"). Not normal imagination (as when a basketball guard mentally rehearses the play). Occult visualization involves imagining a scene, putting Jesus (or a dead person) into it, concocting what he would say. (Even nonbelievers with no spiritual filter are advised to do this.) The imagined scenario is a dangerous fiction with potential for dark manifestations. Why imagine what Jesus <i>might</i> say when we have what he <i>does</i> say in Scripture?</p> <p><b>W worldview.</b> <u>Atheistic</u>: Only the natural world exists. <u>Mystical</u>: The natural and spiritual worlds are mingled together. <u>Supernatural</u>: There is a creator who is distinct from (but present to) the created world.</p> <p><b>X X-rated.</b> Androgyny, gender confusion, homosexuality, transgender, ever-increasing number of genders (72 at last count) . . . Note that (1) Mystical/occult practice can lead to gender confusion, perversion. (2) Pagan religions contain sexually immoral practices. (3) When Christians step away from God's Word, the likelihood of sexual looseness is increased. And when Christians compromise sexually, they drift further from God's Word. See Romans 1.</p> <p><b>Y yoga.</b> A Hindu system for achieving "union with the divine." The beginning level takes the form of physical exercise in which the participant assumes Hindu worship poses. Some systems of yoga aim to awaken the dormant kundalini ("serpent power"), which has tantric implications. The yoga class "namaste" greeting means "the god in me greets the god in you." Some classes begin and/or end with the "om," closely identified with the Hindu god Ganesh (and/or Buddhist universal consciousness). "Hindus know where yoga came from and where it goes" (<i>Hinduism Today</i> magazine).</p> <p><b>Z Zeitgeist.</b> From German philosophy, meaning "spirit of the age." An invisible agent or set of beliefs that dominate the culture of a particular period. As a result of deeply entrenched societal beliefs, errors in thinking may not be readily seen. Culture-defining examples: post-modernism (truth is relative), materialism, Darwinism, globalism. Ephesians 2:1 speaks of "the ways of this world."</p>
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------