



The

# KNOCK OUT BLOW

Chronicles

Studies and Articles of Interest To  
Davidian Seventh-day Adventists

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## WHY SEEK YE THE GOD OF EKRON?

The Perils of New Age Healing Methods

Over the past several years<sup>1</sup> the author has encountered many Seventh-day Adventists who advocate the principles of health reform, engaged in practices which at first glance sounded useful, yet did not have the familiar terminology associated with the health message found in the Holy Bible and advanced in the writings of Ellen White and other Adventist authors. Specifically the use of “modalities” such as **iridology**, **reflexology**, and **accupressure**, in particular, are being studied and advanced by certain groups and individuals on an ever-widening basis. Initially, the author was not familiar with these practices and wondered how they fit in with such time honored principles embodied in the eight natural laws of health and its associated simple remedies such as, hydrotherapy, fasting, diet reform, exercise, charcoal treatments, massage, etc. Something didn’t sound quite right. As inquiries were issued around some individuals voiced their concerns with these “newer methods” but were unable to clearly delineate the dangers, if any, therein from their study and practice. Perhaps it was the increased encounters with people making use of these methods over this period that provoked a more detailed inquiry into their efficacy and any possible spiritual dangers that could result from their study and practice. Thus, the aim of this article is to carefully examine certain aspects regarding their origin, the physiological/scientific basis on which they operate, and the philosophical/religious beliefs behind some of their leaders and teachers. In this way sufficient knowledge can be gained so as to “be ready always to

give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: Having a good conscience.”—1 Pet. 3:15, 16. As well, if such information reveals a clear and present danger to present truth believers, i.e. an inroad to spiritualism, then the warning call should be sounded from the walls of Zion. Therefore it is the prayerful hope of the author that such a warning would be heeded and carefully considered in light of the evidence presented from the Scriptures and the Spirit of Prophecy.

**“The angel of the Lord said to Elijah the Tishbite, Arise, go up to meet the king of Samaria, and say unto them, Is it not because there is not a God in Israel, that ye go to enquire of Baal-zebub the god of Ekron?”—2 Kings 1:3**

At the first level of testing, the scientific soundness of any purported healing method or tool of diagnosis needs to be established based on evidence from the field of natural science. In this way a reasonable mechanistic basis for the method or technique can be established on a clear cause and effect relationship. Fortunately, an appropriately qualified expert, Richard Willis in his book entitled “*Holistic Health Holistic Hoax*”, has amply fulfilled this task (ISBN 0953180301). The author is an SDA health educator and writer who serves as the Executive Director of the UK National Committee for the Prevention of Alcohol and Drug

Dependency. The author happened upon the book somewhat by providence in an Adventist Book Center store not realizing until later the useful material contained therein. A critical examination of the scientific viability and spiritual basis behind the myriad of “New Age” healing methods bombarding the market in recent years is presented with thorough documentation and appropriate warnings from the Christian community and the Spirit of Prophecy. Thus, it was indeed fortunate to have a copy of

1. This study was originally compiled from August-October 2001

this book at hand, which saved many hours of research. Below is summarized some of the key conclusions and dangers regarding the practices involving iridology and reflexology. For discussion of other methods such as acupuncture, homoeopathy, aromatherapy, hypnosis, etc., please consult the book, which is available through an Adventist Book Center. (Please consult the original book for original references and quotes cited therein.)

**As excerpted, in part...** “There is a form of invisible neural networking, other than **reflexology**, popular with osteopaths and chiropractors that has been utilized solely as a diagnostic tool—**iridology**. **Iridology**, or iris diagnosis was introduced to the European health scene by Ignatz von Peczely, a Hungarian physician, in the mid-1800’s. He published his first iris chart in 1881. **Iridologists** believe that problems occurring in the organic system of the body become visible by the changing of the color and texture of the iris—the pigmented center of the eye.

“Popularized in recent times by **Bernard Jensen**, a US chiropractor and naturopath, **iridologists** claim a neurologic pathway from the organs to the eyes. The concept of remote effect is similar to that of **reflexology**, with the claimed neurological pathways defying demonstration. **Iridologists** assert, for example, that right-sided problems are reflected in the iris of the right eye. The assertion, which cannot be proven, is challenged by anatomists who point out that neurology clearly shows that the body’s neurological network crosses over to the opposite side in the brain. There are no nerve systems other than the optic nerves going directly to the eyes. Even the optic nerves only carry information from the eyes to the brain and not *vice versa*.

“A well-documented study conducted at the University of California and the Veterans Administration Medical Centers in San Diego, which included the participation of Dr. Jensen, showed that **iridologists** failed to dramatically diagnose kidney failure in a number of patients presented with that problem. In fact, the accuracy of the **iridologists** was less than that of random guessing. The medical literature is littered with similar useless results, which moved Dr. K. Koch to say of **iridologists**: ‘The medical value of their diagnosis however is extremely thin. In many cases is meaningless.’ Dr. Samuel Pfeifer states, ‘**Iridologists** have not been able to sustain their claims with diagnostic success in one single objective research study.

“**Iridologists** attempt to make a science of their observations, saying that ‘**Iridology** does not name diseases, instead it reads the conditions of the tissues of the iris’. In this pseudo-science, the iris has been given a clock-face

layout, dividing the iris into 12 sectors; 96 separate divisions; and three distinct anatomical zones: 1) the digestive organs, 2) kidneys, blood, and lymph vessels, 3) skeleton and skin. One wonders how even with all these sub-divisions, a little organ like the eye can show the approximately ten thousand known diseases and conditions!

“Pigment changes are said to indicate the problem areas and/or healing by reference to the appropriate sectors, divisions, and zones. Ann Rushton writes that disease processes can be identified through three different stages: acute—recognized by the presence of grey or white lines; chronic—the lines of the acute stage are present with the addition of shriveling and blackening of lines; advanced—in this stage the tissues are destroyed, leaving small black spots. Diagnosis is aided by photographing and magnifying the iris so that any blemishes or changes can be seen clearly.

“Perhaps because of the division of the iris clock-face into its 12 sectors, for some **iridologists** the diagnosis has taken on an astrological significance, with body parts being assigned star signs. Jensen is an advocate of this approach, and serves to illustrate the eclectic nature of many therapists and techniques. He states:

‘Because **astrology** has its effect on the body, and the condition of the body is revealed in the iris of the eye, we find that various organs work in harmony with the influence existing at birth—the influence with which we came into this world. For instance people who are water-logged or who have lymphatic gland congestion tend to hold water in their bodies. By looking at their charts, we see that they are greatly influenced by the water signs.’

“Whether there is an astrological or more overt occultism to **iridology** or not, ophthalmologist (*studies the eye*) Professor Schreck says conclusively: ‘What the iris-interpreters refer to and where they claim to “see” bodily diseases, is nothing else than simple variations of the normal structure and coloring of the iris that carry no pathological significance and therefore have no value for diagnosis.’”

The author concludes this section by admonishing, “Given the direct revelation of these main areas of manipulation (**iridology, osteopathy, chiropractic, and rolfing**) from the spirit world and their incorporation of eastern metaphysical concepts, the Christian should be wary of involvement in these practices.”

In discussing the practice of reflexology and related techniques, the connection with the eastern philosophical concepts is even more pronounced as seen below.

“The feet are claimed to be reservoirs for the energy of the body. By practitioner’s applying pressure at the points located in the feet, Chi is restored in the body.”

Earlier the Chi, derived from an ancient term used to describe the life force, is defined by Chinese Acupuncturists as “the balance between two opposing forces referred to as Yin and Yang. In this respect, it is similar in description and effect to psychic energy.

‘Chinese medicine’, writes Kathryn Knight, ‘is based on two books transcribed over 2,000 years ago, the *Ben Choa Gan Mu* and the *Yi Shing Ji Jian*’, which codify the teachings of Way of Taoism described as ‘a polytheistic system of spiritualism, demonism, and superstition’. Taoism is a following of what has been described as ‘the way’—the laws and operations of the universe said to be prior to God.”

In further discussion the author shares another perspective on reflexology. “Stuart Morris states, ‘One founding theory suggests that applying pressure to the nerve endings in the feet disperses accumulated crystalline deposits, allowing toxins to be flushed from the body... Even **reflexologists** play down the crystalline deposits theory, describing it as a useful analogy rather than a scientific explanation.’

“They do well to play it down and might well get rid of the analogy, since Dr. Elvin Adams says,

‘Neurosurgeons and anatomists have carefully plotted all of the significant branches, ganglia, and pathways to the central and peripheral components of the nervous system. The greater concentration of nerve tissue appears in the brain and spinal cord. All fingers, toes, arms, legs, and organs—indeed all points in the body have their representation in the brain, not the feet. There are no neurological “reflex” connections between the feet and any major organ of the body.’

Furthermore, he states:

“Disease processes in various organ systems do not produce crystalline deposits in the feet. Crystalline deposits do occur in the feet in the disease gout, in osteoarthritis, and in certain other conditions. Diabetes, heart attack, detached retina, depression, or peptic ulcers do not produce foot crystals.’

In the light of this statement, one wonders what to make of practitioners who continue to hold on to the theory. UK private practitioner Lynne Pearce says: ‘I start with a physical examination and soft tissue message, which usually reveals pea-sized areas of tissue—the stagnant chi.’

Morris notes that there are risks in the practice of **reflexology** in certain conditions. He cites as an example the danger to an individual if a thrombosis is present. **Reflexology** may

move the clot on to the heart or the lungs. It is also pointed out that reflexologists should exercise caution in dealing with pregnant women, patients with epilepsy, and others with kidney and liver problems.

Dr. Gang Zhu, a conventional and Chinese medicine practitioner, concludes: ‘Acupuncture and Chinese medicine is not for everything.’ This is a somewhat disturbing comment since **reflexology** has claimed to cure concussion, skull fracture, stroke, diabetes, hypoglycemia, over-and under-active thyroid function, asthma, kidney conditions, gallstones, liver diseases, incontinence, hemorrhoids, neuritis, shingles, fibroids, arthritis, alcoholism, cataracts, and the common cold!

Faced with the dismissal of the crystalline-deposits theory **reflexologists** resort to other explanations for the use of the foot with theories akin to sympathetic magic. Kevin and Barbara Kunz in their book *The Complete Guide to Foot Reflexology* offer one such theory.

‘The reflexes in the feet are actually ‘reflections’ of the body parts. Their locations and relationships to each other on the feet follow a logical anatomical pattern, which closely resembles that of the body itself. The premise of exactly how the reflexes of the feet correspond to the anatomy of the whole body is simple: the actual physical image if the body is projected on to them. This image is organized with the use zone therapy.’

Notice how the language of **reflexology** as used by the Kunz’s overlaps and draws in the vocabulary of other modern therapies. **Reflexology** authors Anna Kaye and Don C. Matcham confirm this by saying, ‘The basic pattern of energy flow is recognized in all the branches of natural healing—acupuncture, shiatsu, zone therapy, **reflexology**, and polarity therapy.’ However, as Adams states dismissively, ‘At the very most, **reflexology** is a relaxing foot rub!’

The ‘rub’ has disturbing overtones when we read that rubbing a particular finger with something like a pinhead influences our minds and helps us develop extra-sensory perception! Supporter of this route to the supernatural, Mildred Carter, says, ‘Here we are using reflex massage to help us develop psychic energy, this enables us to contact and use “Cosmic Awareness” and that Universal Sea of Wisdom which surrounds us all.’ Little wonder that the American Medical Association describes **reflexology** as a cult!”

**W**e are fortunate to have the benefit of the research of this concerned Adventist health worker to inform us of some of the dangers

of these supposed helpful practices. Veiled beneath we can begin to hear the vile hiss of the serpent and wake-up to the realization that those who engage in the study and practice of these and related methods are clearly in great peril and are entering onto the turf of the wily foe. Many times when one raises a concern or objection to some questionable practice such as iridology or the reading of dangerous materials from the world, such as the recent Harry Potter books, you will hear protests and objections. Often the challenge is mounted, “There are good things in this or that, you can’t condemn them. Have you read the materials for yourself?” If one is discerning, they will notice an obvious flaw in logic in such a comeback. First, is this a defense for truth or error? If for truth this would be a reasonable response, but if for error it would reveal a lack of spiritual discernment and an obvious trap. Let us turn to the inspired testimony of the Spirit of Prophecy and the Scriptures, needed to give us proper discernment on these matters so that we may be sanctified “through thy truth: thy word is truth.” In combating erroneous teaching Sister White’s councils:

**Meet Sophistries With Truth**—“I am instructed to say to you that it is not best to dwell upon the spiritualistic sentiments, the strange, misleading theories, which have for years been coming in among us.

*“It is not best to preach on the subject of Pantheism or to read quotations from authors who write on this subject, and the specious, deceptive errors that lead to it. The statements made in Testimonies, volume 8, are sufficient to warn our people to avoid these errors. These statements will do more to enlighten minds than all the explanations or theories that our ministers and teachers may put forth concerning these matters.*

*“If you try to handle these subjects, you will be led to repeat the sophistries of Satan, and thus you will help Satan to present his false theories to the people. Resolve never, never to repeat error, but always to teach the truth. Fill hearts and minds with the solemn, sacred truth for this time.”—Evangelism p.623*

Here we can clearly see the sophistry of trying to avoid the straight testimony regarding a questionable practice that is dealt with in the Word and the Testimonies. The argument that we must read or study materials not clearly endorsed from the Word of God places us in positive peril of helping Satan present his false theories to others. The Scriptures are clear on this topic, if there is not light from the Word, “come out from among them, and be

ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you” 2 Cor 6:17. (Read: 2 Cor 6:14-18, James 4:4, John 15:19)

When it comes to the diagnosis and healing of all diseases how can we disregard with impunity the following statements?

**Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases. Ps. 103:3.**

“Christ has given us His Word that men and women may be thoroughly furnished with a remedy for all spiritual diseases. *The Word is a test of human character. It points out the disease, and prescribes the remedy.* In the Word is a prescription for every spiritual ailment. The plain commands of God will exert a healthful influence upon the mind, and upon the whole body. If taken in faith and faithfully practiced, its remedies are infallible.”—*Our High Calling* p.36

Knowing that God alone is the healer of all diseases, why would Christians turn to anything but the source of Truth for answers and instruction regarding our health and well being? The instruction is clear, the council is certain as seen below.

### **The Word of God Our Safeguard**

“Our watchword is to be, ‘To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.’ [ISA. 8:20.] We have a Bible full of the most precious truth. It contains the alpha and the omega of knowledge. The Scriptures, given by inspiration of God, are ‘profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.’ [2 TIM. 3:16, 17.] *Take the Bible as your study-book.* All can understand its instruction.

*“Christ calls upon His people to believe and practice His word. Those who receive and assimilate this word, making it a part of every action, of every attribute of character, will grow strong in the strength of God. It will be seen that their faith is of heavenly origin. They will not wander into strange paths. Their minds will not turn to a religion of sentimentalism and excitement. Before angels and before men, they will stand as those who have strong, consistent Christian characters.*

“In the golden censer of truth, as presented in Christ’s teachings, we have that which will convict and convert souls. Proclaim, in the simplicity of Christ, the truths that He came to this world to proclaim, and the power of your message will make itself felt. *Do not advocate theories or tests that*

*Christ has never mentioned, and that have no foundation in the Bible. We have grand, solemn truths for the people. 'It is written' is the test that must be brought home to every soul.*

*"Let us go to the word of God for guidance. Let us seek for a 'Thus saith the Lord.' We have had enough of human methods. A mind trained only in worldly science will fail to understand the things of God; but the same mind, converted and sanctified, will see the divine power in the Word. Only the mind and heart cleansed by the sanctification of the Spirit can discern heavenly things.*

*"Brethren, in the name of the Lord I call upon you to awake to your duty. Let your hearts be yielded to the power of the Holy Spirit, and they will be made susceptible to the teachings of the Word. Then you will be able to discern the deep things of God."—Gospel Workers p.309, 310*

What is our duty, but positively knowing that we must turn from all worldly ways of the heathen. God does not leave us to mere guesswork. We have an active part to play in the grand plan of redemption. Regarding the diagnosis and cause of disease, we are required to have a proper understanding of ailments that are the result of the violation of the laws of health. In turn we are to share this with others and to encourage them to turn to a higher view of life, as God would have us to know. Consulting worldly physicians and new age health practitioners is to be shunned.

### **The Causes of Disease to Be Understood**

*"The most exalted part of the physician's work is to lead the men and women under his care to see that the cause of disease is the violation of the laws of health and to encourage them to higher and holier views of life. Instruction should be given that will provide an antidote for the diseases of the soul as well as for the sickness of the body. Only that sanitarium will be a healthful institution where right principles are established. The physician who, knowing the remedy for the diseases of the soul and body, neglects the educational part of his work, will have to give an account of his neglect in the day of judgment. Strict purity of language and every word and action is to be guarded."—Counsels on Health p.366*

*"In no place is a closer fellowship with Christ needed than in the work of the physician. He who would rightly perform the physician's duties must daily and hourly live a Christian life. The life of the patient is in the hands of the physician. One careless diagnosis [using iridology, reflexology, or some other new aged method?], one wrong prescription,*

*in a critical case, or one unskillful movement of the hand in an operation, even by so much as a hair's breadth, and a life may be sacrificed, a soul launched into eternity. How solemn the thought! How important that the physician shall be ever under the control of the divine Physician!"—Ministry of Healing p.117 [brackets added]*

### **All to Understand What to Do for Themselves**

*"Your question is, . . . 'In urgent cases, should we call in a worldly physician, because the sanitarium doctors are all so busy that they have no time to devote to outside practice?'...If the physicians are so busy that they cannot treat the sick outside of the institution, would it not be wiser for all to educate themselves in the use of simple remedies, than to venture to use drugs that are given a long name to hide their real qualities. Why need anyone be ignorant of God's remedies—hot-water fomentations and cold and hot compresses. It is important to become familiar with the benefit of dieting [fasting and cleansing programs especially helpful] in case of sickness. All should understand what to do {for} themselves. They may call upon someone who understands nursing, but everyone should have an intelligent knowledge of the house he lives in. All should understand what to do in case of sickness."—Selected Messages Vol.2, p.289 [brackets added]*

*"Were I sick, I would just as soon call in a lawyer as a physician from among general practitioners. I would not touch their nostrums, to which they give Latin names. I am determined to know, in straight English, the name of everything that I introduce into my system."—Selected Messages Vol.2, p. 290*

Regarding the consulting of physicians engaged in spiritualistic practices, which would have to include iridology and reflexology based on the analysis presented earlier, we would be wise to heed the following testimony.

### **A Warning Against Spiritualist Physicians.**

*"From time to time I have received letters from both ministers and lay members of the church, inquiring if I think it wrong to consult spiritualist and clairvoyant physicians. So numerous are these agents of Satan becoming, and so general is the practice of seeking counsel from them, that it seems needful to utter words of warning.*

*"God has placed it in our power to obtain knowledge of the*

laws of health. He has made it a duty to preserve our physical powers in the best possible condition, that we may render to Him acceptable service. Those who refuse to improve the light and knowledge that have been mercifully placed within their reach are rejecting one of the means which God has granted them to promote spiritual as well as physical life. They are placing themselves where they will be exposed to the delusions of Satan.

“Not a few in this Christian age and Christian nation resort to evil spirits, rather than trust to the power of the living God. The mother watching by the sickbed of her child, exclaims, ‘I can do no more. Is there no physician who has power to restore my child?’ She is told of the wonderful cures performed by some clairvoyant or magnetic healer, and she trusts her dear one to his charge, placing it as verily in the hands of Satan as if he were standing by her side. In many instances the future life of the child is controlled by a satanic power which it seems impossible to break.”—*Counsels on Health*, p.454

### Unwise Confidence

“Many are unwilling to put forth the needed effort to obtain a knowledge of the laws of life and the simple means to be employed for the restoration of health. They do not place themselves in right relation to life. When sickness is the result of their transgression of natural law, they do not seek to correct their errors and then ask the blessing of God, *but they resort to the physicians*. If they recover health, they give to drugs and doctors all the honor. They are ever ready to idolize human power and wisdom, seeming to know no other god than the creature—dust and ashes.

“*It is not safe to trust to physicians [or New Age health practitioners] who have not the fear of God before them*. Without the influence of divine grace, the hearts of men are ‘deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked.’ Jeremiah 17:9. Self-aggrandizement is their aim. Under cover of the medical profession [*or New Age health field*], what iniquities have been practiced, what delusions supported! The physician may claim to possess great wisdom and marvelous skill, while at the same time his character is abandoned, and his practice contrary to the laws of health. The Lord our God assures us that He is waiting to be gracious; He invites us to call upon Him in the day of trouble.

“Furthermore, the teaching of these physicians is continually leading away from the principles God has given us in regard to health, especially on the diet question. They say we are not living as we ought and prescribe changes that are contrary to the light God has sent [*in the Spirit of*

*Prophecy, not in New Age health manuals*]. Brethren, how can the Lord let His blessing rest upon us when we are going right upon the enemy’s ground?”—*Counsels on Health*, p.456 [brackets added]

What danger awaits dear brother/sister if you do not carefully consider this council given and follow God’s Word explicitly?

### A Positive Peril

“Now, my brother, I consider you to be in positive peril. I present this because I know that you are in great danger of being seduced by Satan. We are living in a time when every phase of fanaticism will press its way in among believers and unbelievers. Satan will come in, speaking lies in hypocrisy. Everything that he can invent to deceive men and women will be brought forward.

*Just in proportion as men lose their sense of the need of vital religion, so they become filled with common, earthly ideas, which they exalt as wonderful knowledge. Physicians who lose their hold on Christ become filled with ideas of their own, which they look upon as some wonderful science, to be brought into the medical profession as something new and strange.*”—*Medical Missionary*, p. 114.2, 3

In the Old Testament we are given a stern lesson for an ensample (I Cor 10:11) in the latter days regarding the consulting of heathen doctors. The story told in 2 Kings 1:1-4 gives warning to those today who like the rebellious King Ahaziah who turned not to the God of Heaven, but rather to the heathen god of Ekron when he fell through a roof and injured himself, became sick, and acquired some sort of disease. In describing the perils of seeking the god of Ekron in the latter days Sister White provides us with clear illustrations of the dangers involved leading us to ask ourselves . . .

### Why Seek Ye the god of Ekron?

“The god of Ekron was supposed to give information, through the medium of its priests, concerning future events. Large numbers of people went to inquire of it; but the predictions there uttered and the information given, proceeded directly from the prince of darkness.

“The history of King Ahaziah’s sin and its punishment has in it a warning which none can disregard with impunity. Men today may not pay homage to heathen gods, yet thousands

are worshipping at Satan's shrine as verily as did the king of Israel. *The spirit of idolatry is rife in the world today, though under the influence of science and education it has assumed forms more refined and attractive than in the days when Ahaziah sought to the god of Ekron. Every day adds its sorrowful evidence that faith in the sure word of prophecy is decreasing, and that in its stead superstition and satanic witchery are captivating the minds of many.* All who do not earnestly search the Scriptures, submitting every desire and purpose of the life to that unerring test; all who do not seek God in prayer for a knowledge of truth, will surely wander from the right path, and fall under the deception of Satan.

"Today the mysteries of heathen worship are replaced by the secret associations and séances, the obscurities and wonders, of Spiritualistic mediums. The disclosures of these mediums are eagerly received by thousands who refuse to accept light from God's Word or through his Spirit. Believers in Spiritualism

may speak with scorn of the magicians of old but the great deceiver laughs in triumph as they yield to his arts under a different form [*New Age remedies such as acupuncture, iridology, reflexology, aromatherapy, homeopathy, etc.*].

"There are many who shrink with horror from the thought of consulting spirit mediums, but who are attracted by more pleasing forms of spiritism, such as the Emmanuel movement. Still others are led astray by the teachings of Christian Science, and by the mysticism of theosophy and other Oriental religions.

"The apostles of nearly all forms of spiritism claim to have power to cure the diseased. They attribute their power to electricity, magnetism, the so-called 'sympathetic remedies,' or to latent forces within the mind of man. And there are not a few, even in this Christian age, who go to these healers, instead of trusting in the power of the living God and the skill of well-qualified Christian physicians. The mother, watching by the sick bed of her child, exclaims, 'I can do no more! Is there no physician who has power to restore my child?' She is told of the wonderful cures performed by some clairvoyant or magnetic healer, and she trusts her dear one to his charge, placing it as verily in the hand of Satan as if he were standing by her side. In many instances the future life of the child is controlled by a satanic power, which it seems impossible to

break.

"God had cause for displeasure at Ahaziah's impiety. What had the Lord not done to win the hearts of the people of Israel, and to inspire them with confidence in himself? For ages he had been giving his people manifestations of unexampled kindness and love. From the beginning, he had shown that his 'delights were with the sons of men.' He had been a very present help to all who sought him in sincerity. *Yet now the king of Israel, turning from God to ask help of the worst enemy of his people, proclaimed to the heathen*



*that he had more confidence in their idols than in the God of heaven. In the same manner do men and women dishonor him when they turn from the Source of strength and wisdom to ask help or counsel from the powers of darkness.* If God's wrath was kindled by Ahaziah's act, how does he regard those who, having still greater light, choose to follow a similar course?

"Those who give themselves up to the sorcery of Satan, may boast of great benefit received,

but does this prove their course to be wise or safe? What if life should be prolonged? What if temporal gain should be secured? Will it pay in the end to have disregarded the will of God? All such apparent gain will prove at last an irrecoverable loss. We cannot with impunity break down a single barrier which God has erected to guard his people from Satan's power."—*Review and Herald*, January 15, 1914 par. 7-12 [Bracket Added]

## God the Helper of His People

"Why is it that men are so unwilling to trust Him who created man and who can, by a touch, a word, a look, heal all manner of disease? Who is more worthy of our confidence than the One who has made so great a sacrifice for our redemption? Our Lord has given us definite instruction, through the apostle James, as to our duty in case of sickness. When human help fails, God will be the helper of His people. 'Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: and the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up.' James 5:14, 15. If the professed followers of Christ would, with purity of heart exercise as much faith in the promises of God as they repose in satanic agencies, they

would realize, in soul and body, the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit.

“God has granted to this people great light, yet we are not placed beyond the reach of temptation. *Who among us are seeking help from the gods of Ekron?* Look on this picture—a picture not drawn from imagination. In how many, even among Seventh-day Adventists, may its leading characteristics be seen! An invalid, apparently very conscientious, yet bigoted and self-sufficient, freely avows his contempt for the laws of life and health, which divine mercy has led us as a people to accept. His food must be prepared in a manner to satisfy his morbid cravings. Rather than sit at a table where wholesome food is provided, he will patronize restaurants, because he can there indulge appetite without restraint. A fluent advocate of temperance, he disregards its foundation principles. He wants relief, but refuses to obtain it at the price of self-denial.

“That man is worshipping at the shrine of perverted appetite. He is an idolater. The powers which, sanctified and ennobled, might be employed to honor God, are weakened and rendered of little service. An irritable temper, a confused brain, and unstrung nerves are among the results of his disregard of nature’s laws. He is inefficient and unreliable. Whoever has the courage and honesty to warn him of danger thereby incurs his displeasure. The slightest remonstrance or opposition is sufficient to rouse his combative spirit. But now an opportunity is presented to seek help from one whose power comes through the medium of witchcraft. To this source he applies with eagerness, freely expending time and money in the hope of securing the proffered boon. He is deceived, infatuated. The sorcerer’s power is made the theme of praise, and others are influenced to seek his aid. Thus the God of Israel is dishonored, while Satan’s power is revered and exalted.

“In the name of Christ I would address His professed followers: Abide in the faith which you have received from the beginning. ‘Shun profane and vain babblings.’ 2 Timothy 2:16. Instead of putting your trust in witchcraft, have faith in the living God. *Cursed is the path that leads to Endor or to Ekron. The feet will stumble and fall that venture upon this forbidden ground.* There is a God in Israel, with whom is deliverance for all who are oppressed. Righteousness is the foundation of His throne.

“*There is danger in departing in the least from the Lord’s instruction.* When we deviate from the plain path of duty, a train of circumstances will arise that seems irresistibly to draw us farther and farther from the right. Needless intimacies with those who have no respect for God will seduce us ere we are aware. The fear of offending worldly friends will deter us

from expressing our gratitude to God or acknowledging our dependence upon Him.

“*We must keep close to the word of God. We need its warnings and encouragement, its threatenings and promises.* We need the perfect example given only in the life and character of our Saviour. Angels of God will preserve His people while they walk in the path of duty, but there is no assurance of such protection for those who deliberately venture upon Satan’s ground. An agent of the great deceiver will say and do anything to gain his object. It matters little whether he calls himself a spiritualist, an ‘electric physician,’ [a Reflexologist, an Iridologist, an Acupuncturist] or a ‘magnetic healer.’ By specious pretenses he wins the confidence of the unwary. He pretends to read the life history and to understand all the difficulties and afflictions of those who resort to him. Disguising himself as an angel of light, while the blackness of the pit is in his heart, he manifests great interest in women who seek his counsel. He tells them that all their troubles are due to an unhappy marriage. This may be too true, but such counsel does not better their condition. He tells them that they need love and sympathy. Pretending great interest in their welfare, he casts a spell over his unsuspecting victims, charming them as the serpent charms the trembling bird. Soon they are completely in his power, and sin, disgrace, and ruin are the terrible sequel.

“Our only safety is in preserving the ancient landmarks. ‘To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.’ Isaiah 8:20.”—*Counsels on Health*, pp.457-459 [Bracket Added]

The Word pleads with us to avoid the perils of New Age healing methods and practices, which are nothing more than the same age-old heresies that deceived the Israelites in ancient times. The words of Scripture are too plain to misconstrue, those who dabble with the ways of the heathen will perish.

“And ye shall know that I am the LORD: for ye have not walked in my statutes, neither executed my judgments, but have done after the manners of the heathen that are round about you.”—Eze. 11:12

“For thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will deliver thee into the hand of them whom thou hatest, into the hand of them from whom thy mind is alienated: And they shall deal with thee hatefully, and shall take away all thy labour, and shall leave thee naked and bare: and the nakedness of thy whoredoms shall be discovered, both thy lewdness and thy whoredoms. I will do these things unto thee, because thou



hast gone a whoring after the heathen, and because thou art polluted with their idols.”—Eze. 23:28-30.

By the mercies of the Lord let us not repeat the fatal mistakes of the past but let us cast away all idols, including those health practices that portend of Spiritualism; before it is too late. Let us not provoke the LORD to anger in the same manner as the foolish King Ahaz (2 Chron 28:1-4) or King Manasseh (2 Chron 33:1-6). The prophet Isaiah warns against those who revolt against God’s ways and turn towards Egypt (the world) for help whether it be for spiritual matters or health concerns.

“Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help; and stay on horses, and trust in chariots, because they are many; and in horsemen, because they are very strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the LORD! Yet he also is wise, and will bring evil, and will not call back his words: but will arise against the house of the evildoers, and against the help of them that work iniquity. Now the Egyptians are men, and not God; and their horses flesh, and not spirit. When the LORD shall stretch out his hand, both he that helpeth shall fall, and he that is holpen shall fall down, and they all shall fail together.”—Isa. 31:1-3

### Some Pertinent Examples for Our Admonition

Some quite practical and relevant examples of the age old activity involving the practice of divination, sorceries, oriental or Eastern sciences were present during the days of the apostles as recorded in the book of Acts. Clearly we can see a striking parallel with the New Age based health practices inundating our society today under the supposedly harmless banner of such practices as iridology, reflexology, acupressure, homoeopathy, aromatherapy, etc.

“And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying: The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which show unto us the way of salvation. And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour. And when her masters saw that the hope of their gains was gone, they caught Paul and Silas, and drew them into the marketplace unto the rulers, And brought them to the magistrates, saying, These men, being Jews, do

exceedingly trouble our city.”—Acts 16:16-20

Sister White, in commenting on this incident, points out the motivating principle behind these dark practices. Notice the subtle attempt to counterfeit the truth by mixing in error, also the motivation of monetary gain through the use of Satanic delusions.

“This woman was a special agent of Satan and had brought to her masters much gain by soothsaying. Her influence had helped to strengthen idolatry. Satan knew that his kingdom was being invaded, and he resorted to this means of opposing the work of God, hoping to mingle his sophistry with the truths taught by those who were proclaiming the gospel message. The words of recommendation uttered by this woman were an injury to the cause of truth, distracting the minds of the people from the teachings of the apostles and bringing disrepute upon the gospel, and by them many were led to believe that the men who spoke with the Spirit and power of God were actuated by the same spirit as this emissary of Satan.

“...Dispossessed of the evil spirit and restored to her right mind, the woman chose to become a follower of Christ. Then her masters were alarmed for their craft. They saw that all hope of receiving money from her divinations and soothsayings was at an end and that their source of income would soon be entirely cut off if the apostles were allowed to continue the work of the gospel.

“Many others in the city were interested in gaining money through satanic delusions, and these, fearing the influence of a power that could so effectually stop their work, raised a mighty cry against the servants of God.”—*Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 212, 213

In another major incident we see the clear-cut course of action taken by former exorcists and spiritualists when they were convicted of the truth and turned to the Lord Jesus. Notice what they did with their manuals and books describing these crafts.

“Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth. And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so. And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye? And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. And

this was known to all the Jews and Greeks also dwelling at Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. And many that believed came, and confessed, and showed their deeds. Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.”—Acts 19:13-20

“In accepting Christianity, some of the believers had not fully renounced their superstitions. To some extent they still continued the practice of magic. Now, convinced of their error, ‘many that believed came, and confessed, and showed their deeds.’ Even to some of the sorcerers themselves the good work extended; and ‘many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.’

“By burning their books on magic, the Ephesian converts showed that the things in which they had once delighted they now abhorred. It was by and through magic that they had especially God and imperiled their souls; and it was against magic that they showed such indignation. Thus they gave evidence of true conversion.

“These treatises on divination [*manuals and books on iridology, reflexology, etc. classed with the same spirit*] contained rules and forms of communication with evil spirits. They were the regulations of the worship of Satan—directions for soliciting his help and obtaining information from him. By retaining these books the disciples would have exposed themselves to temptation; by selling them they would have placed temptation in the way of others. They had renounced the kingdom of darkness, and to destroy its power they did not hesitate at any sacrifice. Thus truth triumphed over men’s prejudices and their love of money.”—*Acts of the Apostles* pp.288, 289 [Bracket added]

So now we can see the real motivation of those who dabble in New Age health practices. It is not for a true desire to help others and *advance the cause of Christ’s kingdom*, but rather for the simple love of money.

“For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”—1 Tim. 6:10

“The question should not be with us, How shall I make the most money in this world? The question should not be, Shall

I serve God? Shall we serve God, or Baal? ‘Choose you this day whom ye will serve;’ ‘as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.’ Joshua 24:15.

“Will we break the stony heart? Will we travel the thorny path that Jesus trod all the way from the manger to the cross? We see the tracks of blood. Shall the pride of the world come in? Shall we seek to make the world our standard? or shall we come out from among them? The invitation is, ‘Come out from among them, and be ye separate, . . . and touch not the unclean; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be My sons and daughters.’ 2 Cor. 6:17, 18.”  
—*Life Sketches of Ellen G. White*, p.292 par.1,3

## End of Study



## Appendix:

### Response to questions and objections related to this study:

**Question:** Isn’t reflexology just a type of foot message that Sis. White endorses? By doing this we aren’t bringing in any of its eastern teachings.

**Answer:** Some Adventist’s have advocated the limited (?) use of reflexology and iridology saying that it is not spiritually harmful since they are not using it in connection with its eastern teachings. As a justification for such specious reasoning a quote from *How to Live* p. 59 has been given citing that there was a connection between the feet and the other organs of the body. On finding similar quotes, given below, we can clearly see that the connection has to do with proper circulation of the blood, *not* the diagnosis or remedies of the diseases stated, based on examination of the eyes or manipulation of the feet. We do recognize however, that a foot or hand message is a proper way to temporarily improve the circulation in these extremities.

“The limbs and feet have large veins, to receive a large amount of blood, that warmth, nutrition, elasticity, and strength, may be imparted to them. But when the blood is chilled from these extremities, their blood vessels contract, which makes the circulation of the necessary amount of blood in them still more difficult. A good circulation preserves the

blood pure, and secures health. A bad circulation leaves the blood to become impure, and induces congestion of the brain and lungs, and causes diseases of the head, the heart, the liver, and the lungs. The fashionable style of woman's dress is one of the greatest causes of all these terrible diseases." —*Review and Herald*, April 14, 1868 par. 16

"Our limbs and feet are suitably protected from cold and damp, to secure the circulation of the blood to them, with all its blessings. We can take exercise in the open air, in the dews of morning or evening, or after the falling storm of snow or rain, without fears of taking cold. Morning exercise, in walking in the free, invigorating air of heaven, or cultivating flowers, small fruits, and vegetables, is necessary to a healthful circulation of the blood. It is the surest safeguard against colds, coughs, congestions of the brain and lungs, inflammation of the liver, the kidneys, and the lungs, and a hundred other diseases." —*The Health Reformer*, September 1, 1868 par. 6

"Christian Mother: Why not clothe your daughter as comfortably and as properly as you do your son? In the cold and storms of winter, his limbs and feet are clad with lined pants, drawers, woolen socks, and thick boots. This is as it should be; but your daughter is dressed in reference to fashion, not health nor comfort. Her shoes are light, and her stockings thin. True, her skirts are short, but her limbs are nearly naked, covered by only a thin, flannel stocking reaching to her muslin drawers. Her limbs and feet are chilled, while her brother's are warm. His limbs are protected by from three to five thicknesses; hers, by only one. Is she the feeble? Then she needs the greater care. Is she indoors more, and, therefore, less protected against cold and storm? Then she needs double care. But as she is dressed, there is nothing to hope for the future relative to her health but habitual cold feet, a congested brain, headache, disease of the liver and lungs, and an early grave."—*The Health Reformer*, September 1, 1868 par. 8

**Question:** What about the use of magnetic therapy we have heard some present truth believers advocate?

**Answer:** To this questioner we must ask where do you find in the Spirit of Prophecy the endorsement of "magnetic therapy" as part of the tried and true methods that are part of health reform? What does Sis. White have to say about magnetism and "magnetic healers?" (Please read: *Councils on Health*, p. 454-59)

Please consult the article entitled "Magnet Therapy" by Robert Todd Carroll which is located at the web address given below. It discusses many of the scientifically undocumented claims about the use of magnets for therapeutic purposes. Several references and articles for further reading are listed therein which thoroughly document the scientific unsoundness of this supposed healing modality. It is sad that even skeptics and atheists who have no knowledge of God can clearly recognize the frivolous claims behind magnetic therapy. Why is it as present truth believers that we can be so easily misled by the sophistries of the devil when we have the more sure word of prophecy to guide us in our paths?

<http://skepdic.com/magnetic.html>

**Objection:** Iridology/Reflexology are not spiritualism as you assert since they have nothing to do with communicating with spirits impersonating dead people.

**Response:** This objection may reveal a naïve or limited understanding of the term "spiritualism" as addressed in its full light in the SOP. More likely it represents an effort of the adherents to these deceptive influences who are attempting to justify their continued practice/study/endorsement by making a pretentious reference to a more crude form of spiritualism without taking in account all of its manifestations, especially in its modern disguises. The statement below from the Great Controversy makes clear that spiritualism in its modern forms does not directly involve the communication with spirits impersonating dead people, but rather with any medium that would introduce the reader to sentiments that lead away from a firm foundation of Bible truth. Think about it, how can reading and studying manuals and treatises on iridology/reflexology written by infidels, New Ager's, or so-called Christians communicate to us any vital truth or knowledge of the Bible? Aren't we instructed that all of the essential truth we need comes from the Golden Bowl and to do away with all uninspired writings "avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called"? Perhaps a review of the following references from the Shepherd's Rod would be in order.

**2 TG 34:28-9**—Don't waste your time between the Rod literature and some other.

**2 SR 288-9**—"Get your doctrine, Brother, Sister, only from the golden bowl."

**10 Tr 46**—Avoid Uninspired writings

2 TG 46:47—Stay within the hedge of inspired revelation

3 SC 5, 6:14—Teach only that which has been revealed

2 TG 46:43-4—Watch for additions or subtractions from inspiration

*“It is true that spiritualism is now changing its form and, veiling some of its more objectionable features, is assuming a Christian guise. But its utterances from the platform and the press have been before the public for many years, and in these its real character stands revealed. These teachings cannot be denied or hidden.*

*Even in its present form, so far from being more worthy of toleration than formerly, it is really a more dangerous, because a more subtle, deception. While it formerly denounced Christ and the Bible, it now professes to accept both. But the Bible is interpreted in a manner that is pleasing to the unrenewed heart, while its solemn and vital truths are made of no effect. Love is dwelt upon as the chief attribute of God, but it is degraded to a weak sentimentalism, making little distinction between good and evil. God’s justice, His denunciations of sin, the requirements of His holy law, are all kept out of sight. The people are taught to regard the Decalogue as a dead letter. Pleasing, bewitching fables captivate the senses and lead men to reject the Bible as the foundation of their faith. Christ is as verily denied as before; but Satan has so blinded the eyes of the people that the deception is not discerned.*

*There are few who have any just conception of the deceptive power of spiritualism and the danger of coming under its influence. Many tamper with it merely to gratify their curiosity. They have no real faith in it and would be filled with horror at the thought of yielding themselves to the spirits’ control. But they venture upon the forbidden ground, and the mighty destroyer exercises his power upon them against their will. Let them once be induced to submit their minds to his direction, and he holds them captive. It is impossible, in their own strength, to break away from the bewitching, alluring spell. Nothing but the power of God, granted in answer to the earnest prayer of faith, can deliver these ensnared souls.”*—GC 557-8

Furthermore, Bro. James White identified one of the forms of spiritualism that he met in the days of the early Advent movement as . . .

“False prophets speak smooth things, prophesy lies, and cry, Peace and safety, which has ever been pleasing to unconsecrated professors; hence the love of the peace and safety in the delusion of Spiritualism. Jer 14:14”—*Spiritual Gifts*, Vol. 3, p. 21

“Then the LORD said unto me, The prophets prophesy lies in my name: I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neither spake unto them: they prophesy unto you a false vision and divination, and a thing of nought, and the deceit of their heart.”—Jer. 14:14

**Divination** 1. the practice of attempting to foretell future events or discover hidden knowledge by occult or supernatural means. 3. perception by intuition; instinctive foresight.—Webster’s Unabridged Dictionary

This is exactly what iridology and reflexology are doing, attempting to discover hidden knowledge about disease and sickness in the body based on the occult. They are nothing more than modern forms of divination. Surely, God’s people will turn away from the false prophets and teachers among us who prophesy lies in the name of God by saying that it is okay to study and practice these deceptive arts.

**Divination** 1. the practice of attempting to foretell future events or discover hidden knowledge by occult or supernatural means. . . . 3. perception by intuition; instinctive foresight.—Webster’s Unabridged Dictionary

**Objection:** One of the concerns brought forth at the Session 2002 held at Mountain Dale,

New York was that this article only cited one resource exposing the dangers of iridology and reflexology.

**Response:** Provided below are additional resources that will clearly confirm the supposition that these healing modalities:

- Contain misleading scientific sentiments.
- Suggest spurious scientific theories.
- Are firmly rooted in spiritualism.

1. Adams, Elvin, “Reflexology: Healing, Harmless, or Hazardous?” *Ministry*, Aug. 1988
2. Barrett, Stephen, M.D.; “Iridology” <http://www.quackwatch.org/01QuackeryRelatedTopics/iridology.html>
3. Bartholomew, R.E.; Likely, M. “Subsidising Australian

Pseudoscience: Is Iridology Complementary Medicine or Witch Doctoring?" *Australian/New Zealand Journal of Public Health*, 1998; 22(1): 163-64.

4. Kock, Kurt, "The Devil's Alphabet", p. 38-9.
5. Lyons, Janice, RN, "Iridology: A Christian Perspective", <http://www.cinam.net/iridol.html>
6. Lyons, Janice, "New Age and Alternative Medicine: Letting Quackery and Occultism in the Back Door of the Church," <http://www.watchman.org/na/altmed2.htm>
7. Mather, Joshua David; "Confessions of a Former Iridologist" <http://mather.infomedia.com/reality/confessions.html>
8. Maxwell, Jessica, "The Eye-Body Connection", Warner Books: New York, 1980.
9. Peters, Warren, M.D., "Mystical Medicine", TEACH Services, Inc., Brushton, NY, 1995.
10. Pfeifer, Samuel, "Healing at Any Price", Milton Keyes (UK): Word Publishing, 1988.
11. Simon, Allies, et. al. "An Evaluation of Iridology." *Journal of the American Medical Association*, Vol. 242, 1979, pp. 1380-1389
12. Sparks, Vernon, M.D., "Bringing Seventh-Day Adventists to the Test", Manna Publishing House, Tellico Plains, TN, 1999.
13. Stuart, Morris, "Feet First" *Which? Way to Health*, June 1995
14. Willis, Richard, J.B. "Holistic Health Holistic Hoax?", Pensive Publications Watford, Hertfordshire, 1997. (and references cited therein)
15. Worrall, Russell S., "Pseudoscience--A Critical Look at Iridology." *Journal of the American Optometric Association*, Oct. 1984.
16. <http://skepdic.com/iridol.html> (and refs therein)
17. <http://skepdic.com/reflex.html> (and refs therein)

This being the case we are counseled in inspiration to avoid those topics in health reform that are designed to mislead and confuse minds.

"God would not have His people drawn into false paths, into a belief in sophistries and misleading scientific sentiments."—*Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 13, p. 321.1

"The Lord wants us to do our duty. He wants us to understand that Dr. Kellogg shall not be pushed out of his place, but that he shall stand acknowledged and supported in his God-given work. This he will be if his feet are planted on the truth of

the living God. If they are not planted on this truth, specious temptations will come in, through scientific problems and scientific theories regarding God and His Word. Spurious scientific theories are coming in as a thief in the night, stealing away the landmarks and undermining the pillars of our faith. God has shown me that the medical students are not to be educated in such theories, because God will not endorse these theories. The most specious temptations of the enemy are coming in, and they are coming in on the highest, most elevated plane. *These spiritualize the doctrines of present truth until there is no distinction between the substance and the shadow.*—*Gen. Conf. Bull.*, April 6, 1903 par. 27

For additional references, please consult: COL 40.3-41.1, FE 328.2.

**Objection:** A further objection was raised that we should consult the best authors on a topic before coming to a conclusion to whether use a health practice or not based on the following statement...

"Our workers should use their knowledge of the laws of life and health. They should study from cause to effect. Read the best authors on these subjects, and obey religiously that which your reason tells you is truth."—*Councils on Health*, p. 566.3

**Response:** We must not fail to recognize that the context being emphasized here is in regard to health books, which help us "study cause to effect." As it has been demonstrated in the references cited above, and confirmed in inspiration, that reflexology and iridology are based on spurious scientific theories having no reproducible and verifiable results. Thus, they are disqualified as viable methods for diagnosis of disease that would lead us to a better understanding of cause to effect. Furthermore, these methods are based on suppositions which claim anatomical connections in the body which have not been shown to exist anywhere, even in the latest scientific literature. Numerous experts in the field of medicine and anatomy/physiology have openly refuted the spurious claims underlying the mechanistic basis behind iridology, reflexology, and related modalities. Therefore it is not reasonable and prudent for us as non-experts in these fields to avoid such practices, which are based on such questionable and highly speculative theories on a purely scientific basis alone?

By way of comparison, if you surveyed local libraries and

schools and asked which are the books they recommend as best for helping children improve their reading skills would we automatically accept their recommendations for the best authors on the subject? What if the Harry Potter series of books which teach children witchcraft and how to cast spells were the top recommended choice? Hopefully the point is adequately demonstrated. One word is enough for a wise man.

As a final point to make certain the case against iridology and reflexology is their spiritualistic connection with the occult based eastern religions. Dr. Bernard Jensen, considered to be the modern father and leading expert in the practice of iridology today, has written large volumes on the topic. Even a casual inspection of volume 2 of the treatise "Iridology" reveals his source of inspiration and influence. He openly exalts one of his early mentors, none other than Dr. John Harvey Kellogg, the major influence behind the pantheism crisis that severely shook the church at the turn of the century! (8 T 5-8) Furthermore, in his acknowledgements, Jensen endorses and promotes the writings of several authors having spiritualistic "New Age" ideologies. Not once in his voluminous works is the name of the Holy God of Israel glorified or the health principles of the Bible mentioned. Dear Brethren, what more weight of evidence do we need to separate from the unclean thing as the Lord commands us? How can we follow the unwise counsels of those among us who would suggest that we should read books written by infidel authors who introduce spiritualistic sentiments and unbiblical teachings? Should we not follow the light of the counsels given below from inspiration?

"Instead of discussing erroneous theories, or seeking to combat the opponents of the gospel, follow the example of Christ. Let fresh truths from God's treasure house flash into life. "Preach the word." "Sow beside all waters." "Be instant in season, out of season." "He that hath My word, let him speak My word faithfully. What is the chaff to the wheat? saith the Lord." "Every word of God is pure. . . . Add thou not unto His words, lest He reprove thee, and thou be found a liar." 2 Tim. 4:2; Isa. 32:20; Jer. 23:28; Prov. 30:5, 6.

"The sower soweth the word." Here is presented the great principle which should underlie all educational work. "The seed is the word of God." But in too many schools of our day God's word is set aside. Other subjects occupy the mind. The study of infidel authors holds a large place in the educational system. Skeptical sentiments are interwoven in the matter placed in school books. Scientific research becomes

misleading, because its discoveries are misinterpreted and perverted. The word of God is compared with the supposed teachings of science, and is made to appear uncertain and untrustworthy. Thus the seeds of doubt are planted in the minds of the youth, and in time of temptation they spring up. When faith in God's word is lost, the soul has no guide, no safeguard. The youth are drawn into paths which lead away from God and from everlasting life."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 40-41.

"The general method of educating the youth does not meet the standard of true education. Infidel sentiments are interwoven in the matter placed in schoolbooks, and the oracles of God are placed in a questionable or even an objectionable light. Thus the minds of the youth become familiar with Satan's suggestions, and the doubts once entertained become to those who entertain them, assured facts, and scientific research is made misleading on account of the way its discoveries are interpreted and perverted. Men take it upon themselves to rein up the word of God before a finite tribunal, and sentence is pronounced upon the inspiration of God according to finite measurement, and the truth of God is made to appear as a thing uncertain before the records of science.

These false educators exalt nature above nature's God, and above the Author of all true science. At the very time when teachers should have been firm and unwavering in their testimony, at the very time when it should have been made manifest that their souls were riveted to the eternal Rock, when they should have been able to inspire faith in those who were doubting, they made admission of their own uncertainty as to whether the word of God or the discoveries of science, falsely so called, were true. Those who were truly conscientious have been made to waver in their faith because of the hesitation of those who were professed expositors of the Bible when they dealt with the living oracles. Satan has taken advantage of the uncertainty of the mind, and through unseen agencies, he has crowded in his sophistries, and has caused men to become befogged in the mists of skepticism." —*Fundamentals of Education*, p. 328

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Hartford, CT 06146

[publisher545@gmail.com](mailto:publisher545@gmail.com)

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