

# THE WAY OF HOLINESS

*A Christian Newsletter encouraging women to be strengthened in their walk with the Lord through Holiness. Isa. 35:8, 9*

Written by Jacqueline Thorpe Edited by Pastor Robert W. Hammond Proofread by Shina Inasov

Long Hill Baptist Church

LHBaptist.com

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## Encouraging Holiness Should Not Produce Legalism

Salvation through repentance and faith in Christ alone is the beginning of a new life in which believers are called by the Lord to live a holy lifestyle. (1 Peter 1:14-16). Paul urges us to recognize that we've been made new "new creatures" (2 Cor. 5:17) who are called to "put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof." This is a calling to growth in Christ.

Growing in Christ requires discerning what is holy and what is not. Holiness is defined as separation from worldliness and all that is sinful. Christ promises to provide all we need to undertake such a lifestyle. II Peter 1:3 says, "According as His (Christ's) own divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness."

Believers have a choice to live a life that reflects holy separation from worldliness or not. Unfortunately, when many Christians hear the word 'holiness', they also hear 'legalism'. Legalism involves "the judging of conduct (of another) in terms of adherence to precise laws." Holiness should not imply a lifestyle of man-made rules and regulations. Nor is it a standard by which Christians should judge

each other. Rather we should motivate each other to follow Christ's example and to accept the light which God has presently given to each person. By encouraging each other to live holy lifestyles, we encourage obedience to the word of God. To criticize is to kill the spirit and adding legalism to holiness can lead many to a "works-based" understanding of salvation -- which is deadly to any church. Legalism does not allow for soul liberty, a distinctive doctrine precious to all Baptists. Romans 14:12 says, "Every one of us shall give an account of himself to God." At Long Hill Baptist Church, we are calling believers to live holy, separated lives that please the LORD. That's far different than a call to judgmental legalism! []

### BAPTIST DISTINCTIVES

Baptist Distinctives is a name usually given to a set of historical doctrinal principles common to most Baptist traditions. Wikipedia

- **B**iblical Authority  
II Peter 1:16-21;  
II Tim. 3:16-17
- **A**utonomy of the Church  
Matt. 16:18-19
- **P**riesthood of Believers  
I Peter 2:9; Rev. 1:5-6
- **T**wo Ordinances  
Baptism by immersion,  
Acts 2:41; Communion,  
I Cor. 11:23-25
- **I**ndividual Soul Liberty  
**Romans 14:5-12**
- **S**aved, Baptized Membership Acts 2:47
- **T**wo Offices  
Pastor, Acts 20:28  
Deacons, Acts 6:1-7;  
I Tim. 3:13
- **S**eparation of State and Church Matt 22:21 []

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## Watching Our Words

*"For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh," Matt. 12:34*

The watching of our words can only be accomplished by first watching our thoughts. Our thoughts become one with our hearts. One heart condition that produces unseemly words is jealousy. Those who covet tend to speak evilly of those of whom they are jealous. They often speak angrily to a spouse or child through a misdirected attempt to vent the anger that jealousy creates in their heart. Often, self-pity enters the picture and constant complaining comes from the mouth of the coveter.

Do you realize that God Himself often becomes the target of a jealous person's words or thoughts? Why? Too often, we view God as unfair for withholding what is coveted. In doing so, we place our own desires above God's will.

The Bible is clear that God hates envy, anger and complaining. So what can be done? In Psalm 73, King David recognized that he had allowed his heart to grow envious. Jealousy of the prosperity of the wicked brought David to confess, "But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped." Ultimately, David acknowledged that "God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever." If your words of anger reveal jealousy or envy in your heart, confess this sin to the LORD and ask him to help you be content with Him – our portion for ever! []

## The Wear'n of the Purple

### Witchery In High Places

During the month of March, Americans, especially the Irish, love the **wear'n of the green**. We sport green scarves, shoelaces, ties, clothing, and carnations and sip green Shamrock shakes in honor of St. Patrick's Day. Some countries carry this even further. For example, throughout the year in Romania, on Thursdays and special days, Romanian officials choose the **wear'n of the purple**. The following article explains.

### Romania's Witches Curse Income Tax Ruling By ALISON MUTLER

The Associated Press 1/5/2011 5:37:39 PM ET

Excerpts compiled by Jackie Thorpe

MOGOSOIA, Romania- Everyone curses the tax man, but Romanian witches are angry about having to pay up for the first time are planning to cast spells on the president and government. Romanian witches from the east and west will head to the southern plains and the Danube River on Thursday to threaten the government with spells and spirits because of the tax law, which came into effect Jan. 1, [2011].

"Superstitions are no laughing matter in Romania — the land of the medieval ruler who inspired the "Dracula" tale — and have been part of its culture for centuries. President Train Basescu and his aides have been known **to wear purple** on certain days, supposedly to ward off evil."

"Under the new law, like any self-employed person, they will pay 16 percent income tax and make contributions to health and pension programs. The new law is part of the government's drive to collect more revenue and crack down on tax evasion in a country that is in recession."

"Mircea Geoana, who lost the presidential race to Basescu in 2009, performed poorly during a crucial debate, and his camp blamed attacks of negative energy by their opponent's aides. Geoana aide Viorel Hrebenciuc alleged there was a **"violet flame"** conspiracy during the campaign, saying Basescu and other aides **dressed in purple** on Thursdays to increase his chance of victory. They continue to be seen **wearing purple** clothing on important days, because the color supposedly makes the wearer superior and wards off evil.

Such spiritualism has long been tolerated by the Orthodox Church in Romania, and the late Communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife, Elena, had their own personal witch. Not every witch is threatening fire and brimstone. "This law is very good," said Mihaela Minca. "It means that our magic gifts are recognized and I can open my own practice."

A follow-up article from Yahoo News reports, "A month after Romanian authorities began taxing them (the witches) for their trade, the country's soothsayers and fortunetellers are cursing a new bill that threatens fines or even prison if their predictions don't come true." (Not much chance they will-JT)

**To the reader, this article may be merely interesting, but it has a relationship to our own government, which may not wear purple but certainly mixes with witchcraft. It seems power cannot resist the occult.**

(Continued on page 3)

## The Wear'n of the Purple Continued

### Hillary Clinton under the Spell of a Shaman.

#### Definition of Shaman

A member of certain tribal societies who acts as a medium between the visible world and an invisible spirit world and who practices magic or sorcery for purposes of healing, divination, and control over natural events.

<http://www.answers.com/topic/shaman#ixzz1Da1vgC9Q>



Hillary has long defended her many visits with Eleanor Roosevelt's spirit, channeled through Jean Houston, psychologist and NA author of the book, *LifeForce*. Bob Woodward in his 1996 book, *The Choice*, brought the sessions to the attention of the general public.

#### Astrology and the Reagans

"Nancy Reagan frequently hosted an astrologer in the White House for days on end. Joyce Jillson, a Los Angeles astrologer, told The Associated Press she had "spent a lot of time" at the White House after the assassination attempt." TIME learned that another astrologer consultant to Hillary was a Nob Hill

Socialite Joan Quigley, who has written three books on astrology.

"President Reagan and his wife, Nancy, are both deeply interested in astrology, the White House spokesman, Marlin Fitzwater, said today, (May 4, 1988) and two former White House officials said Mrs. Reagan's concerns had influenced the scheduling of important events." (Stevens V. Roberts Special to the New York Times Published: May 4, 1988).

The New York Times reports that "The issue was stirred up by reports, first published in Newsweek, that Donald T. Regan, the former White House chief of staff, discusses the role of astrology ( in the White House) in his memoirs." <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,967389,00.html#ixzz1DZlzcNFZ>

#### Witchcraft in the Obama White House

In a recent article it was claimed that:

"The Obama White House is abuzz with talk of witchcraft by first grandmother, 72-year-old Marian Robinson, who lives in the White House residence. A close friend of Michelle Obama says the president is furious at his mother-in-law after learning that she was practicing Santeria, an African spirit cult, in the White House. <http://timesonline.typepad.com/comment/2009/08/html> *Koudos to President and Mrs. Obama if they have put a stop to this as they claim they have.*

#### Skull & Bones & the Bushes

For generations the Bushes have been initiated into the "Brotherhood of Death" secret society at Yale, known as Skull & Bones. Skull & Bones is the same kind of Black Magic society as was the Thule Society which trained Adolf Hitler.

#### Freemasonry & U.S. Presidents

From George Washington to Bill Clinton, most United States Presidents have been initiated into a Masonic Lodge. Even President Reagan became an "Honorary Freemason" after he left office. For the good of our land and the saving of their souls, please pray that our national leaders would understand the dangers of involvement in the occult. Pray that they would repent and turn to Christ for forgiveness. []

## Chi, Chi, Chi, It's All About Chi



Would it surprise you to be recruited by your pastor or Sunday school teacher to attend a class on Chi? Perhaps you would first want to know where it is found in the Bible. Perhaps you would want to research the subject for yourself to see if it is something pleasing to God. Perhaps you would, without discernment, just sign up because it sounded interesting.

Then you arrive at the class and find that the pastor is teaching you about a life force that runs through your body. It brings relaxation and enlightenment when properly managed. Well, how bad could that be? Rather sounds like the Holy Spirit.

At the next class you find that techniques such as body movements, meditation and prana (breathing exercises) will eventually connect you to all people-- even the entire universe. Wow! Christian Unity! A chance to be interconnected and part of one common energy. You might think, "It must be Christian." After all, the class is sponsored by your church. You're told that Chi is the name for this individual life force energy and Brahm is the universal force to which you will strive to be connected.

Eventually, Chi teachings seem to be more and more incompatible with Biblical concepts. But, what can it hurt. It's taught at church and offers good exercise, disciplines the mind, builds self-esteem and teaches self-protection. Self? Hmm. That should be a red flag!

These are the thoughts of the undiscerning Christian. Christianizing the unbiblical doesn't make it godly. Most Christians would be offended by a pastor even suggesting such lessons, especially noting the unbiblical emphasis on self. Yet the same people might take part in such lessons by joining activities like the martial arts, yoga, holistic activities, Acupuncture, Reiki Healing, visualization, contemplative prayer circles and other occult programs.

"Chi, also known as ch'i or Qi or qi (chē) is defined as the vital force believed in Taoism and other Chinese thought to be inherent in all things. The unimpeded circulation of chi and a balance of its negative and positive forms in the body are held to be essential to good health in traditional Chinese medicine. [Chinese (Mandarin) qì, air, spirit, energy of life.]" <http://www.answers.com/topic/chi-1#ixzz1DV6o1IEG>

Teachers of Chi activities also assert that Truth is within each person and found by meditatively emptying the mind. They teach that in order to advance in their accomplishment of Chi-centered activities, they eventually must come to believe *"that God is the impersonal life force, consciousness, ultimate truth and reality, the incorporeal, formless cosmic order personified within all people and matter. They claim that God is all and all are God. And they insist that one must realize that the universe, life, and matter were not created by God but rather are God. Further, they assert that the universe and life emerged out of the creative power of the eternal universal life force. Salvation lies in the realization of oneness with the impersonal life force."* (source: <http://www.beliefnet.com/Faiths/2001/06/What-New-Agers-Believe.aspx#ixzz1DgUEXDBt>)

None of the above beliefs are compatible with the Bible. Isaiah 64:6 reminds us that "we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousness are as filthy rags." Christians do not believe that God is an impersonal force. The Word tells us that once saved we have a personal relationship with Jesus and through Him also with God the Father. We are taught to direct our thoughts towards the teachings of Christ.

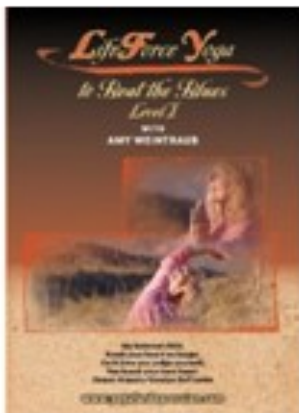
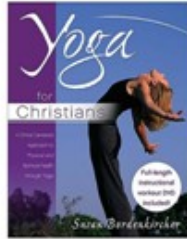
(Continued on page 5)

## Chi Continued

The Martial Arts, in contrast, teach how to direct Chi energy to accomplish certain offensive and defensive feats.

Many churches now use Yoga and Martial Arts classes as evangelistic tools. Some books available and encouraged are advertised on Amazon.com and include: **Holy Yoga: Exercise For the Christian Body and Soul;** **Prayer of Heart and Body: Meditation and Yoga As Christian Spiritual Practice and An Invitation to Christian Yoga.**

Here are a few of the hundreds of Life Force (in reality Chi) advertisements:



### Life Force Martial Arts & Tai Chi Centers

**This is the same Force that is glorified throughout the Star War movies.**

We cannot say that Jesus is our protector and, at the same time, choose to rely on the impersonal force of Chi for protection. Hopefully, a convincing enough case has been made here to dissuade Christians from participating in Eastern activities, all of which conflict with the doctrines of the Bible. They are not just innocent exercises, they are occult and antichrist. They are not holy, nor pleasing to God. Instead, we are called to reply upon the LORD's power. We can attain no greater enlightenment than that which the Holy Spirit offers.

Christians who are spending time with Chi-oriented practices must expect that their walk with the Lord will be compromised. Believers should repent of these activities and forsake all involvement. Ask God to bind any spirits that may be affecting health and lifestyle. This may be extremely difficult. But as believers we have the genuine power of the Holy Spirit to aide our efforts. **“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me,”** **Philippians 4:13** [ ]



### History of an Evil Root

*By Vito Rallo, a Christian Evangelist*

“The occult is rooted and prevalent in all forms of martial arts, whether Japanese, Chinese, or Korean. If you study the history, you will find the martial arts go back thousands of years. The original religious philosophy of kung fu in China, for example, dates back as far as 2696 BC where it was rooted in occult forms of divination and was intertwined with the false religion of Taoism. In Japan, it was intertwined with Zen Buddhism. In essence, martial arts spread from China to Japan to Korea and then elsewhere, where it was given different names and developed into various styles. But the spiritual DNA of all of them comes from an evil root. If something has an evil root, how can it bear righteous fruit?” <http://www.jubilee.org.nz/articles/martial-arts-in-the-church/>



## Trouble Coming to the Toy Box

This summer the Smurfs will once again be rearing their cute little blue heads in the movie theaters. Children worldwide will unfortunately be exposed to their not so cute occult adventures. Smurf paraphernalia is predicted to be a big seller next Christmas.

"The Smurfs" originated in 1958 as a Belgian comic strip created by Peyo (Pierre) Culliford. NBC launched "The Smurfs" in 1981, spawning 256 episodes (perhaps many more as of today) and multiple Emmy awards." (Wikipedia)

In 1986, the occult nature of cartoons was first brought to the wide attention of the Christian community in a book titled "Turmoil in the Toy Box" written by Phil Phillips, a Christian evangelist and author. This expose' was startling to Christian parents. Today the book is ridiculed by secularists though present statistics show that 80% of all cartoons contain occult content. Sadly, many cartoons have become nothing short of a major channel for communicating occult themes to young people.

Research of the Smurfs' adventures reveals that these adorable, pear shaped, 3", blue humanoids expose children to as much witchcraft as the Harry Potter books. The Smurfs engage in magic, power crystals, magic time, Life Force, wizards, druids, al-chemistry, nature-based belief system, chants for casting spells, and the use of charms intended to enhance wizards' magical powers.

As adults we find it so difficult to deny children the fun and excitement of these seemingly adorable cartoons. We want to excuse them as "just entertainment." However, for the good of the children and to honor God, we must deny them cartoons and movies that teach occult themes (as well as their representative toys and dolls). Our standard is the Bible and the Bible forbids sorcery (Isa 47:9, 12; Acts 8:11; Rev 22:15). Our goal for our children is to see them saved and to grow more like Jesus. It is doubtful that Smurf cartoons will ever be shown in Heaven! The occult is of Satan and Satan is God's enemy.

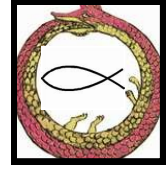
So, how should Christian parents respond? Teach your children why entertainment that glorifies the occult is wrong. Teach them why Christians are expected to avoid all contact with the occult, its magic and false miracles. Direct children to entertainment that edifies. Consider Bible games and *carefully-chosen* videos.

Cleaning out the toy box is an act of holiness. By doing this, God will be glorified. Praise God for Christian parents who desire to testify to their obedience to God's Scriptures before their children []

A note from

Jackie  
Thorpe

The Work Place; New Bible Translations; Music;  
False prophets; Church programs; Government; Movies; TV Shows;  
Libraries; The Public School Systems; False Ministries; Friends.



# Encircled by the Occult

This issue of *The Way of Holiness* is focused on helping all who wish to avoid occult involvement. It is not always easily discerned. I know that from personal experience. At one time I was quite attracted to astrology and the paranormal. Fortunately the Lord rescued me. I now have a great desire to help others to avoid such pitfalls.

The occult appears in many unsuspecting forms and encircles our lives. We shouldn't be surprised since Satan is still the god of this present world system. II Cor 4:4 says, "In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." Paul warns in II Cor. 2:11 that we should not be ignorant of the devices of Satan lest he take advantage of us. Speaking of the powers of Satan and his demons does not glorify them. It keeps the Christian on guard. Fear of glorifying the powers of darkness has left many a Christian in dark and dangerous places.

The Bible exhorts us to stand against demonic powers. How can we bring our enemy out in the open if we are too fearful to acknowledge it exists? We must start to acknowledge that we are in a spiritual battle (Eph. 6:12) and use the Word to resist the Devil (James 4:7). Satanic temptations and attacks will just continue to run down our lives if we aren't brave enough to face them.

The Bible says that "God has not given us a spirit of fear..." But since we hesitate to acknowledge that, we don't receive the rest of his promise,

"... but of power and of love and of a sound mind," (II Tim 1:7).

Being unwilling to acknowledge our spiritual battles may rob us of God's blessings!

Recognizing demonic interference in our lives should lead to us to ask, "Am I involved in sin that has opened the door to Satan?" Involvement in any occult activity is a major opening. Ignoring this fact will lead to a life spoken of in Haggai 1. It speaks of sowing much and bringing in little, eating and not having enough, drinking and still being thirsty, covering up but still being cold and earning wages and putting it in bags with holes—a fruitless, miserable life.

1 Peter 5:8 exhorts us to "be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about seeking whom he may devour; whom resist steadfast in the faith."

Frequently we are deceived into thinking we can dabble in two worlds and get away with it. We are warned that this is not acceptable to God. Elijah asks, "How long will you halt between two opinions? If the Lord be God, follow Him. And if Baal, then follow him," (I Kings 18:21). Remember, Rev 3:16 tells us that God thought to spit out of His mouth lukewarm Laodiceans.

God is looking for a holy people who are without spot or wrinkle. []

## Spring Revival Meeting



Plan now to attend our spring revival meeting, Monday, May 16 & Tuesday, May 17, 7:00 PM.

Our theme will be "Growing in Christ."

This special, two-night, family-friendly meeting will include:

- \* Uplifting music
- \* Challenging speakers
- \* Time to fellowship with friends.

Our guest speakers will be:

Pastor Keith Main of Galilean Baptist Church, Stafford Springs, CT

Pastor Ken Brooks of Calvary Independent Baptist Church, West Redding, CT.

To be held at: Long Hill Baptist Church, 100 Middlebrooks Ave., Trumbull, CT 06611

Robert W. Hammond, Pastor  
(203) 208-3450

Long Hill Baptist Church

100 Middlebrooks Ave

Trumbull, CT

Rev. Robert W. Hammond, Pastor

Office: (203) 268-5104

Cell: (203) 208-3450

Services:

Sunday School (all ages) 10:00 A.M.

Morning Worship 11:00 A.M.

Sunday Evening Service 6:00 P.M.

Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 P.M.

Saturday Evening Prayer 7:00 P.M.

Statement of Faith can be found at  
[LHBaptist.com](http://LHBaptist.com)

*The Way of Holiness Newsletter*

To subscribe to our free monthly  
email newsletter, please visit

[LHBaptist.com/WOH](http://LHBaptist.com/WOH).

# THE WAY OF HOLINESS

## Newsletter

*Welcome aboard to Shina Inasov*

*In seeking a place where the Lord would have her serve, Shina has felt led to serve as proof reader for our newsletter.*

*Her services are much needed and very welcomed as is her expertise. Shina has always had an interest in writing and currently is enrolled in Journalism courses at Norwalk Community College.*

*May the Lord richly bless her for her heart to serve Him,*

*Jackie Thorpe & Pastor Bob*

## HOW CAN I BE SURE OF HEAVEN?

By Pastor Bob Hammond

### Searching for Spring



During these final weeks of a challenging winter, I find great encouragement in the certainty that spring will soon drive away the snow banks that linger outside my office window. The Robins have already returned to Trumbull. And the daffodils will soon join them in proclaiming the annual renewal of our suburban landscape.

I praise God that, just as the LORD makes everything in nature new again, I too have been made a new creature in Christ. Paul proclaimed to the church at Corinth, "...if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new," (2 Corinthians 5:17).

What a joy to know that we are regenerated by the Holy Spirit when we receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our savior. Have you experienced that wonderful re-birth? If not, won't you receive Christ today? Understand that your sin separates you from a holy God (Romans 3:23). Choose to turn away from sin. And place your faith in Christ alone for forgiveness of your sins (Ephesians 2:8-9).

If you're not already in a good church, please come and grow with us at Long Hill Baptist Church. []