

GLOBAL WATCH WEEKLY

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The Shack: Whats The Fuss?

From Fractals to Pantheism. How The Shack Promotes New Age Science To The Unsuspecting!



$$\frac{(P_0 - C_1) + P^2 (\sqrt{b})}{D + N_2 \left(\frac{B}{b_2} \right) + E^2} = \text{God?}$$

GLOBAL WATCH WEEKLY

The Global Watch Weekly (GWW) is committed to providing disclosure on political, social, economic and technological events which are leading the world into a biblically prophesied Orwellian nightmare. It is a free online magazine, which goes out to thousands of members world-wide. There have been over 190+ GWW editions issued all justifying the Bible as an inspired authority on mapping out proof of a coming one world government agenda, which will ultimately be overthrown through the establishment of God's messianic kingdom.

The ultimate aim of the Global Watch Weekly is to show that despite some scathing attacks over the last few decades on the authenticity of the Christian faith, that the Bible still stands as a dominant inspired book which makes incredible and pinpoint prophecies about the end times which are being accurately fulfilled in our life time.

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INTRODUCTION

Dear Global Watch Weekly Member

When the novel, *The Shack*, was released by author William Paul Young in 2007 it created quite a controversy. Everyone, it seemed, had a strong opinion to offer about the book. Some embraced the story as a creative depiction of how God works in our lives, while others dismissed it as “heresy”.

The Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN) conducted a review of the story and provided the following statement

“Jesus told parables and used metaphors to grab the attention of his listeners, explain spiritual concepts, and sometimes shock people out of their comfort zones. Why would we think that God would be offended by people in our culture using the art of storytelling in much the same way to explain God’s love and how He wants to be involved in our lives?”

In March 2017 the book gained further exposure with the release of the movie version of the novel. Now blogs and social networking sites have blown up as polarized views about the movie help to boost its exposure and ratings even further.

So is there any substance to criticism of the book and movie.

One of the things we would like to say before we give you our insight is that its so important to understand that the devils strategy to undermine Christianity and its core theology is one which is designed to have the support of the Christian masses.

The vast majority of Christians will watch the movie and think what a nice cosy movie and yes there was a sprinkle of symbolism and weird scientific connotations here and there but nothing to make a big issue out of.

However discernment goes beyond surface level analysis as you will see in this weeks edition of the global watch weekly.

Blessings

Rema Marketing Team

THE SHACK: WHATS THE FUSS?

THE SHACK AND THE FRACTAL

"A fractal . . . something considered simple and orderly that is actually composed of repeated patterns no matter how magnified. A fractal is almost infinitely complex. I love fractals, so I put them everywhere." Sarayu, *The Shack*

"Fractals reveal a hidden "order" underlying all seemingly chaotic events. The fractals are intricate and beautiful. They repeat basic patterns, but with an infinity of variations and forms. The world-view emerging from this scientific research is new, and yet at the same time very very ancient." *The Sovereign Court and Order of the Ancient Dragon*

In the movie *The Seeker* a young boy is a chosen one who is to find signs hidden throughout time, which will help fight against the encroaching darkness. In the movie, each sign that the boy is to find is known as a fractal. The fractal is something mentioned in "*The Shack*".



Beginning in chapter 9 in *The Shack* which is titled, "A Long Time Ago in a Garden Far, Far Away," we read about how Sarayu (who represents the Holy Spirit) has created a garden and we learn that the garden is a fractal. We learn about fractals from Sarayu when she says,

"A fractal is something considered simple and orderly that is actually composed of repeated patterns no matter how magnified. A fractal is almost infinitely complex. I love fractals, so I put them everywhere."

Curious about the term "fractal" that was showing up in both *The Shack* and *The Seeker*. Then note that the term "fractal" is directly related to what are being called the "new sciences" of "Chaos Theory" and "Fractal Theory." Fractals are directly linked with the occult phrase "as above, so below"—the same occult/New Age term that Eugene Peterson had mysteriously inserted into his paraphrase of the Lord's Prayer.

The online article titled "*Fractal Chaos Crashes the Wall Between Science and Religion*" states

"New discoveries in the science and mathematics of Chaos research are revolutionizing our world view. They reveal a hidden fractal order underlying all seemingly chaotic events. The fractals are intricate and beautiful. They repeat basic patterns, but with an infinity of variations and forms. The world-view emerging from this scientific research is new, and yet at the same time ancient. With a little thought, and the help of this web, you can better understand the significance of Chaos and Fractals. You can see how to use these insights in your life to create a bridge between Science and Spirituality."

But what is being presented as "science" is actually an occult/New Age worldview, which presents the New Age belief that much of the "chaos" in the world is the result of people not properly perceiving the "interconnectedness" of all things. In other words, what appears to be "chaos" is often just "the observer" not seeing the "as above, so below"/God "in" everything/"fractal order" that defines all creation.

This postulated fractal order is directly related to Teilhard de Chardin, Matthew Fox, and Leonard Sweet's quantum spirituality/Creation Spirituality. The Shack's references to fractals immediately explain why author William Young capitalizes the letter "C" in the word "Creation" at least twenty times in *The Shack*. The capital "C" reflects what his "Jesus" is teaching—that God is "in" all things—including "Creation."

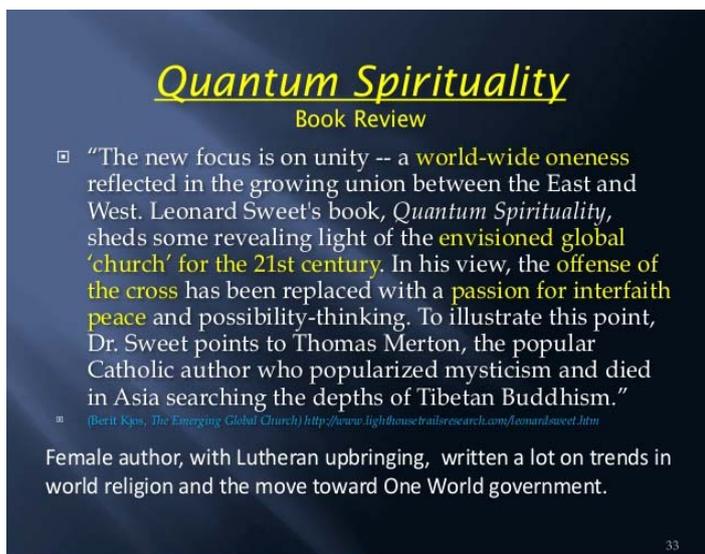
From the perspective of the New Age/New Spirituality, it makes perfect sense that The Shack's "Jesus" states that God is "in" all things. Mack—the main character—is seeing his life as "a mess" rather than as a "fractal" part of "God." This is because he is not seeing the "as above, so below" fractal order of "God in all things." From this perspective, it also makes perfect sense that The Shack's "Holy Spirit" told Mack that his life only seems chaotic and "a mess"—that in reality, he was actually "a living fractal."



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From this one can see the deceptive New Age ploy regarding the word fractal and its relationship to “as above, so below.” If all of capital “C” Creation is “God” and thus composed of “God” atoms and energy, then any fractal part of that “God” energy is therefore a part of God. Man is a fractal. Man is God. That is why Mack is told he is “a living fractal.” That is why Mack is told that God is “in” all things.

The word fractal is being used as a pseudo-scientific synonym for the belief that God is “in” everything—everything being a fractal or a fractured part of the whole, a fractured part of God. Taken a step further, *The Shack* is indirectly presenting the notion that “chaos” is simply the result of people not seeing the “God in everything” fractal order in the world—“as above, so below.”



Thus, *The Shack*—like Leonard Sweet’s quantum spirituality—subtly introduces the New Age/New Spirituality as a worldview that puts forth the notion that “chaos” can be significantly overcome when humanity stops seeing itself as “separate” but rather sees itself as “One”—as a part of the “God” who is “in” everyone and everything.

However, the Bible teaches that humanity is not “God” or “One” with God (John 2:24-25; Ezekiel 28:2; Hosea 11:9, etc.). The Bible teaches just the opposite—that man is actually separated from God by sin (Isaiah 59:2). It is because of this “separation” that we need to acknowledge our sin and repent (Acts 2:38). Everyone must be born again (John 3:6-7)—born again from the God who is “above” (John 3:31), and not “below.” Born again from the one true God—not by the “as

above, so below” god that the Apostle Paul described as “the god of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4).

The Bible states that we are only “one” in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:28). And we are only “one” in Christ Jesus when we repent of our sins and accept His death on the cross for our sins (1 John 2:2)—his finished work on the cross of Calvary (Colossians 1:20).

“Chaos” is not created or furthered by humanity’s denial of its so-called fractal divinity. The truth of the matter is that man is not divine—man is not God.

Rather, “chaos” is the consequence of Adam’s fall resulting in sinfulness and the subsequent decay of all things and our separation from a holy God. It is not “as above, so below.” Fractals do not point the way to salvation. Genesis 11:6-8 warns about a deceptive and spiritually dangerous imagined “oneness”:

“And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.”

Acts 17:26 informs us that humanity is “one blood” and that we are connected to one another in that way. But humanity is not one Spirit. “*That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit*” (John 3:6). The Bible states that “*flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God*” (1 Corinthians 15:50). Jesus said, we “*must be born again*” (John 3:7).

God’s creation is indeed intricate and wondrous. And in many countless ways it is beautifully and harmoniously interconnected—but it is not divine (Romans 1:25). Man is “*fearfully and wonderfully made*” (Psalm 139:14), but he is not a part of some divine fractal order. We are sinners and we need to be saved from the sin that separates us from God.

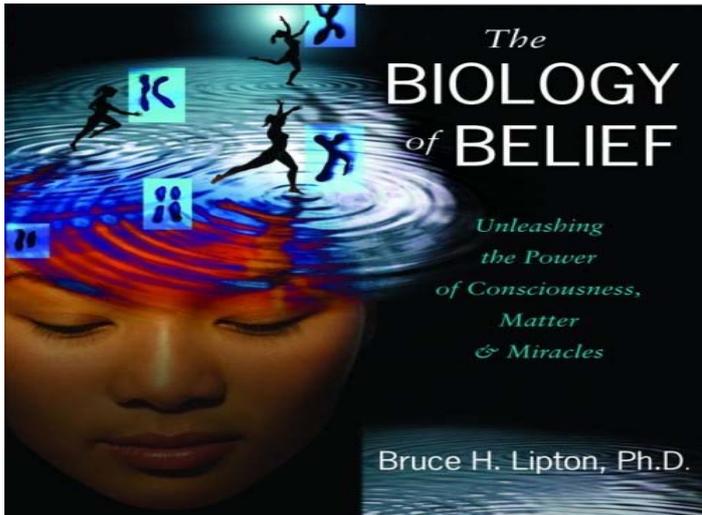
It is as simple as that. Repenting and accepting Jesus Christ as our Lord and as the one and only Savior who saves us from our sins is the “narrow” and only way to eternal salvation (John 14:6; Matthew 7:13-14). The introduction of fractals in the story line of *The Shack* is a deceptive device to unsuspecting readers.

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It was an entry point into the pseudo-scientific notion of “fractal Oneness”—“as above, so below”/God “in” everything.

AS ABOVE, SO BELOW

Another reference to fractals and “as above, so below” was in a book titled *The Biology of Belief: Unleashing the Power of Consciousness, Matter & Miracles*. It was written by a Ph.D research scientist named Bruce H. Lipton.



Lipton’s book contains several passages where the author connects “as above, so below” not only to fractals, but also to quantum physics. This immediately clarifies what Leonard Sweet is doing in his book *Quantum Spirituality*. He is introducing the church to New Age quantum physics.

It also probably clarifies why Eugene Peterson was led to insert “as above, so below” into the Lord’s Prayer and why *The Shack* carries Peterson’s endorsement on its front cover. *The Shack* is obviously a transformational device to slowly convert the reader to a new worldview based on a misapplication of quantum physics—the New Age/New Spirituality.

In an interview with Bruce Lipton, Lipton states that fractals are part of the “new math” that is the science behind the God “in” everything saying “as above, so below.” He says:

“Inherent in the geometry of fractals is the creation of ever-repeating, “self-similar” patterns nesting within one another. You can get a rough idea of “repeating shapes” by picturing the popular toy, hand-painted Russian nesting dolls. Each smaller doll (structure) is a miniature, but not necessarily an exact version of the larger doll (form). This new math is the science behind the old saying, “As above, so below.”

One can see how Lipton’s discussion of fractals, quantum physics, and cellular biology neatly dovetails with David Spangler’s teachings on the cell and the New Age.

Lipton’s remarks also mesh with Leonard Sweet’s “new cell theory” that is so integral to his quantum spirituality. Lipton states:

“In a fractal Nature, the appearances of structures at any level of organization are “self-similar” to the structures found in higher or lower levels of organization. Therefore a fractal understanding of the organization at one level is applicable to understanding an organization at another level. When applied to the new biology, this new math reveals that a cell, a human and human civilization are “self-similar” images at different levels of organization. So by studying a cell, one can learn about a human. In studying the community of cells in a human body, one can learn the nature of forming a successful community of humans that form the larger organism, humanity. Perhaps we will find the answers to saving civilization through a study of the very successful cellular civilizations beneath our skin.”

After reading this, read the following from David Spangler’s *Reimagination of the World*:

“To me, a more appropriate symbol for the New Age is the cell. The cell is really a living crystal. It possesses a highly structured internal order, yet this geometry is organized around information rather than around position, as in a crystal lattice. Protoplasm is highly dynamic; it can give birth to endless varieties of new life, yet it can also collect and focus energy in powerful ways. If we want to possess a magical crystal for our New Age work, we need look no further than our own bodies and the cells that make them up.”

Then reason how Leonard Sweet thanked David Spangler for helping him formulate his “new cell” understanding of New Light Leadership:

“I am grateful to David Spangler for his help in formulating this “new cell” understanding of New Light leadership.”

Hopefully one can see where all of this cellular discussion was going. Teilhard de Chardin, Matthew Fox, Leonard Sweet, and others with New Age affections are teaching the world and the church that God is “in” every atom—therefore God is “in” everything—therefore we are all One—“As above, so below.”

But in the Bible, the apostle Paul made it very clear to the Greek unbelievers on Mars Hill that while humanity shares one blood (Acts 17:26)—and all the cellular similarity that infers—humanity is still in need of a Savior.

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Sharing one blood implies a physical “oneness”—if you will—through our original parents, Adam and Eve. But Paul made it very clear that there is no spiritual oneness. After telling the Greeks that they shared one blood, he then told them about Jesus Christ. In Acts 17:31, in referring to God and Jesus Christ, he says:

“Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.”

In Galatians 3:28, Paul clarifies that while we all share one blood with similar cellular composition, we are only one in Jesus Christ:

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.”

Being one in Jesus Christ is not an automatic, universal oneness as Leonard Sweet in *Quantum Spirituality* and William Young in *The Shack* seem to suggest. Paul makes it very clear in Romans that Jesus Christ died for our sins, and when we accept and follow Him as our Savior, we are saved and set free from our sin:

“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God has set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood.” (Romans 3:23-24)

Anticipating things like quantum physics and quantum spirituality, Paul warned Timothy not to become spiritually compromised by pseudo-scientific teachings—science falsely so-called.

“O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so-called: Which some professing have erred concerning the faith.” (1 Timothy 6:20)

Paul also warned Timothy there would come a time when men would follow false teachers who would turn them away from the one true God with their fractals and their fables—men like William Young and his book *The Shack*.

“I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching

ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.” (2 Timothy 4:1-4)

THE DISCIPLES OF A NEW GOSPEL

When Rick Warren endorsed colleague Bob Buford’s book *Halftime* (a book dedicated to Peter Drucker), Warren said,

“I want every man in my congregation to read this inspiring story!”

It was Buford, along with Norman Vincent Peale and others, who initially influenced Ken Blanchard with regard to the Lord. And it was Buford’s Leadership Network that gave birth to the present-day emerging church movement and emerging leaders like Brian McLaren, Doug Pagitt, and Tony Jones.

In May 2000, Leadership Network sponsored a conference titled “*Exploring Off the Map.*” *Quantum Spirituality* author Leonard Sweet was a featured speaker at this conference with New Age sympathizers Ken Blanchard, Peter Senge, Margaret Wheatley, and others. Disregarding the certainty of God-given prophecy in Scripture, Leadership Network was determined to provide a more optimistic, user-friendly “map” to the future.



Margaret Wheatley, like Leonard Sweet, had been heavily influenced by quantum physics and the New Age. She was selected by New Age Marianne Williamson to write the last chapter for the book *Imagine: What*

America Could Be in the 21st Century: Visions of a Better Future from Leading American Thinkers. This book is replete with articles by New Age authors and teachers like Deepak Chopra, Neale Donald Walsch, Barbara Marx Hubbard, and others. “Exploring off the Map” speaker Peter Senge also wrote a chapter for this New Age book that was being used as a fund-raiser for the *Global Renaissance Alliance of New Age leaders.*

In the 2006 updated version of her 1992 book *Leadership and the New Science: Discovering Order in a Chaotic World*, Margaret Wheatley echoes the theme of the May 2000 Leadership

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Network Conference—“Exploring Off the Map.” In her prologue titled “*Maps to the Real World*,” we read:

“I have always thought of this book as a collection of intriguing maps, much like those used by the early explorers when they voyaged in search of new lands.”

It seems quite apparent that Wheatley’s book *Leadership and the New Science* was the inspiration for the Leadership Network conference. She writes:

“In 1990, as I began to apply the new sciences to the challenges of leadership, I noted that “we live in a time of chaos, as rich in the potential for disaster as for new possibilities. . . Chaos and global interconnectedness are part of our daily livesIt’s time to realize that we will never cope with this new world using our old maps. It is our fundamental way of interpreting the world—our worldview—that must change.”

“Whatever your personal beliefs and experiences, I invite you to consider that we need a new worldview to navigate this chaotic time.”

Margaret Wheatley goes on to describe how

“Quantum physics challenges our thinking about observation and perception, participation and relationships, and the influences and connections that work across large and complex systems.”

She then introduces readers to “Chaos Theory” and “fractals.” She states:

“Chaos is a necessary process for the creation of new order. . . . I also explore lessons to be learned from fractals—how nature creates its diverse and intricate patterns by the presence of a few basic principles.”

Wheatley explains that the first book she ever read on the “new science” was written by Fritjof Capra—the New Age physicist who wrote *The Tao of Physics: An Exploration of the Parallels between Modern Physics and Eastern Mysticism*. Wheatley writes:

“I opened my first book on the new science—Fritjof Capra’s *The Turning Point*, which describes the new world view emerging from quantum physics. This provided my first glimpse of a new way of perceiving the world, one that comprehended its processes of change, its deeply patterned nature, and its dense webs of connections.”

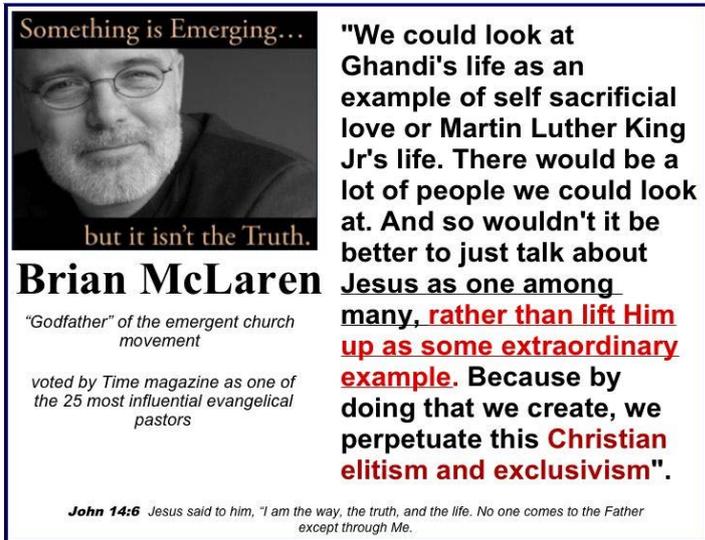
Emerging church leader Brian McLaren, in his book *The Church on the Other Side*, cites Margaret Wheatley and calls *Leadership and the New Science* an “inspiring book.” Commenting on

an anecdote from her book, McLaren mentions the emergence of “quantum theory” to help people “cope with subatomic reality.”

Several paragraphs after McLaren’s reference to “quantum theory,” he identifies Rick Warren as one of the “gifted leaders and wise writers” who is “helping us” to see where we need to go in the future. Shortly after that, in his book, McLaren refers to the “Quantum leaps” that are moving us rapidly from one change to another. He explains:

“We live in a time unlike any other time that any living person has known. It’s not merely that things are changing. Change itself has changed, thereby changing the rules by which we live. . . . [T]here is more to this change than simply a linear extrapolation of rapid change and complexity. Quantum leaps are happening that are nothing like evolution. They remove us almost totally from our previous context.”

It is not at all surprising that those with New Age affections, like Leonard Sweet, Margaret Wheatley, Ken Blanchard, and Peter Senge, are integral parts of a conference titled “Exploring *Off the Map*.” And it is not that surprising that emerging church leader Brian McLaren introduces Wheatley’s book *Leadership and the New Science* and quantum physics into his writings.



Something is Emerging...
but it isn't the Truth.

Brian McLaren
"Godfather" of the emergent church movement

voted by Time magazine as one of the 25 most influential evangelical pastors

"We could look at Ghandi's life as an example of self sacrificial love or Martin Luther King Jr's life. There would be a lot of people we could look at. And so wouldn't it be better to just talk about Jesus as one among many, rather than lift Him up as some extraordinary example. Because by doing that we create, we perpetuate this Christian elitism and exclusivism".

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

It seems clear that Leadership Network, with its ensemble of New Age sympathizers, is mapping out a more “positive” future for the church—one in which New Age quantum physics will be the definitive map—not the Holy Bible. *The Shack* when compared to the Bible is definitely “exploring off the map.”

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In Bruce Lipton's book, *The Biology of Belief*, Lipton uses the term "quantum revolution" to describe the mounting enthusiasm building around quantum physics, the new biology, and the new worldview. This seems to dovetail with the "new revolution" author William Young's narrator "Willie" advocated at the very end of *The Shack*. The author's enthusiastic call for a "new revolution" seems to be predicated on his earlier references to fractals, science, and "the quantum stuff that is going on at a subatomic level."

In other words, the new worldview—"God is 'in' everything—"as above, so below." One thing is for sure—William Young's *The Shack* meshes perfectly with Leonard Sweet's quantum revolution and quantum spirituality. Is this "quantum revolution" the same "revolution" Rick Warren referred to when he turned to Ken Blanchard at the Birmingham Lead Like Jesus conference and said, "You know, Ken, let's start a revolution."? Is this the "revolution" Warren claims will "change the world" and "change history"? Is this "quantum revolution" the same "revolution" Brian McLaren, Erwin McManus, Shane Claiborne, and other emerging church leaders also refer to in their writings? Time will tell.

It seems clear that quantum physics, the "new" biology, and the "new" math of fractal geometry are being used to provide a seemingly scientific basis for "proving" the "as above, so below" contention that God is "in" everything. We are being asked to believe that all of creation is an interconnected quantum field of energy and "oneness" that is "God." We are told that humanity will only survive and have a "positive future" if we recognize and play our part—as "God"—in this interconnected quantum "Field of Dreams."

Rick Warren says "if you want Jesus to come back sooner, focus on fulfilling your mission." In other words—"If you build it, he will come." New Age matriarch Alice Bailey said, "His coming depends upon our work."

This sounds like Warren's P.E.A.C.E. Plan. And this sounds like Neale Donald Walsch's New Age PEACE Plan. These PEACE Plans have something in common that unites them on a vital

level—mysticism. Even Rick Warren promotes the same mystical spirituality that underlies the other plans. Warren sees Richard Foster's "spiritual formation" movement (i.e., contemplative spirituality) as a "valid message for the church" today. But when one looks at Foster's spiritual formation, we see that the people he has drawn from support the very same view of God as Neale Donald Walsch and Alice Bailey.

For instance, Foster often turns to the writings of Thomas Merton who says: "True solitude is a participation in the solitariness of God—Who is in all things." Foster also draws from the late Catholic contemplative Basil Pennington, who expresses his God in everything views when he says that all religions "experience a deep unity" during meditation because "there is only one God to be experienced." Foster's "spiritual formation" that Warren calls a "wake-up call" for "the body of Christ" can be summed up in Tilden Edwards, whom Foster highly recommends, when Edwards states: "This mystical stream is the Western bridge to Far Eastern spirituality."

It seems that Leonard Sweet has a special role—to create a bridge from the church to the New Age/New Spirituality. Sweet is promoted by a number of church leaders including Rick Warren.



Leonard Sweet
Religion professor, New Age sympathizer
Author of "Quantum Spirituality," "Soul Tsunami"
Promoted by Rick Warren
Popular speaker at pastor's seminars
Featured speaker at National Worship Leader Conference in 2010
Says he is part of a "New Light" movement
Speaks of the "Christ-consciousness"

A surprisingly central feature of all the world's religions is the language of light in communicating the divine and symbolizing the union of the human with the divine: Muhammed's light-filled cave, Moses' burning bush, Paul's blinding light, Fox's "inner light," Krishna's Lord of Light, Bohme's light-filled cobbler shop, Plotinus' fire experiences, Bodhisattvas with the flow of Kundalini's fire erupting from their fontanelles, and so on."

The power of small groups is in their ability to develop the discipline to get people "in-phase" with the Christ consciousness and connected with one another.

In his 1999 book *SoulTsunami*, Sweet talks all about "God's Dream." He also states that "physics is becoming metaphysics." But it is not "God's Dream" that we accept this new worldview suggested by quantum physics and Sweet's New Age/quantum spirituality. God is not "in" everything and God does not dream. But rather God exposes false teachings and deceptive devices like the term "God's Dream."

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Leonard Sweet's notion that "physics is becoming metaphysics" is similarly presented in an article titled, *"As Above; So Below: The Mysteries of Quantum Metaphysics"* by Richard and Iona Miller. Sweet's metaphysical/New Age statement is further underscored and exposed in an article written by Donald J. DeGracia Ph.D. who states that chaos, fractals, and quantum theory are intimately linked with the occult. In *"Beyond The Physical: A Synthesis of Science and Occultism in Light of Fractals, Chaos, and Quantum Theory,"* DeGracia writes:

"Chaos, Fractals and Quantum Theory . . . These three branches of science contain principles identical to those found in occultism."

Landscheidt uses the ancient occult notion "as above, so below" (the Hermetic Axiom) to show how solar activities correlate with terrestrial activities. This research is a clear illustration of what is called the principle of the "Self-similarity of Nature," which means that the same principle of organization operates at different scales of Nature. This work also illustrates the compatibility of fractal and occult notions.

In the book *From the Ashes: A Spiritual Response to the Attack on America*, a cross-section of New Age and religious leaders (one of whom was Rick Warren) wrote various articles to encourage people after the tragic events of September 11, 2001. In an effort to create "order out of chaos," Neale Donald Walsch's article in that book challenges New Age and religious leaders everywhere to help save the world by preaching the New Age message that "we are all one." If everyone accepts this message, Walsch promises that "everything could change overnight." He explains:

"We must change ourselves. We must change the beliefs upon which our behaviors are based. We must create a different reality, build a new society . . . We must do so with new spiritual truths. We must preach a new gospel, its healing message summarized in two sentences: We are all one. Ours is not a better way, ours is merely another way. This 15-word message, delivered from every lectern and pulpit, from every rostrum and platform, could change everything overnight. I challenge every priest, every minister, every rabbi and religious cleric to preach this."

But Walsch's New Age "God" has made it clear that "we are all one" because God is "in"

everything. In prior books, Walsch quotes his "God" as saying:

"God is creation."

"You are the Creator and the Created."

"You are already a God. You simply do not know it."

"You are One with everyone and everything in the Universe—including God."

"There is only One of Us. You and I are One."

As previously mentioned, this is essentially the same God "in" everything statement that can be found in *The Shack*, *The Purpose Driven Life*, and the *The Message*. Whether they realize it or not, all three of these men—William Young, Rick Warren, and Eugene Peterson—are giving Neale Donald Walsch and his New Age "God" exactly what they want.

Eugene Peterson has even taken the "as above, so below" God "in" everything statement he put in the Lord's Prayer to its logical New Age conclusion by paraphrasing Ephesians 4:6 to read—*"Everything you are and think and do is permeated with Oneness."*

An interesting footnote: *The Shack's* author William Young has actually stated online that the conversations of his characters in *The Shack* reflect actual "conversations" he has had with "God." He says his novel is only a novel in that he put what "God" told him into a fictional story context. In other words, statements such as "God, who is the ground of all being, dwells in, around, and through all things" and references to "fractals" and "the quantum stuff that is going on at a sub-atomic level" are teachings that evolved from the "conversations"

Young claims to have had with "God." Young wrote that he had originally wanted to title his book *Conversations with God* until he found out that someone else (Neale Donald Walsch) had already written books with that same title.

THE SHACK: WHATS THE FUSS?

Ironically, William Young actually has much in common with Neale Donald Walsch. Not only do they both say they have had real “conversations” with “God” and written about those “conversations,” but their “conversations” present many of the same New Age/New Spirituality teachings. All of this begs the question—just what “God” did William Young converse with? It is safe to assume that the “God” that Young spoke with is, in fact, the same “God” that Neale Donald Walsch spoke with in his “conversations.”

Reflecting on what Merriman said, one has to ask—was Eugene Peterson’s insertion of “*as above, so below*” into the Lord’s Prayer in *The Message* like a New Age “fractal”—“a clue hidden in plain sight”? Was “*as above, so below*” in *The Message* a “clue” that would one day be regarded as a prophetic sign, like one of the hidden signs in the movie *The Seeker*? Would “*as above, so below*” be regarded in a New Age future as a fractal “message” from God—“the message” that was in *The Message*? Would this “*as above, so below*,” God “in” everything fractal “message” of “oneness” be seen as the key to saving the world—just like the fractals in *The Seeker* and just as New Age leaders like Neale Donald Walsch are telling everybody? And would the “*God in everything*” quotes by Rick Warren in *The Purpose Driven Life*, by Leonard Sweet in *Quantum Spirituality*, and by William Young’s “Jesus” in *The Shack* also be regarded one day as fractal clues that had been “hidden in plain sight” in their writings?

Were these men all playing their unwitting part in the spiritual deception that Jesus warned would come in His name before His return when He stated, “*Take heed that no man deceive you*” (Matthew 24:4)?

One thing is for sure: God’s true Holy Spirit would never inspire Eugene Peterson, Rick Warren, Leonard Sweet, William Young, or anyone else to put this “*as above, so below*,” “God in everything,” occultic (hidden) message teaching in any book that purposed to have anything to do with the one true God and His one true son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

CONCLUSION

An article by Christian cult researcher Warren Smith is a good way to conclude this edition.

This false teaching about a “God” who “dwells in, around, and through all things” is the kind of New Age leaven that left unchallenged could leaven the church into the New Age/New Spirituality of the proposed New World Religion. And while many people have expressed a great deal of emotional attachment to *The Shack* and its characters — this leaven alone contaminates the whole book.

Clearly, the “Jesus” of *The Shack* is not Jesus Christ of the Bible. The apostle Paul chided the Corinthians and warned them that they were vulnerable and extremely susceptible to “another Jesus” and “another gospel” and “another spirit” that were not from God (2 Corinthians 11:4). In the Bible, the real Jesus Christ warned that spiritual deception would be a sign before His return. He further warned that there would be those who would even come in His name, pretending to be Him (Matthew 24:3-5;24).

Without ascribing any ill motive to William Young and his book *The Shack*, the author’s use of spiritual creativity seems to give a “Christian” assent to the New Age/New Spirituality of the proposed New World Religion. His mixing of truth and error can become very confusing to readers, and God is not the author of confusion (1 Corinthians 14:33).

Dr. Harry Ironside, pastor of Chicago’s Moody Memorial Church from 1930-1948, emphasizes the fact that truth mixed with error results in “all error” — a direct refutation of the Emergent Church teaching to find “truth” wherever it may be found — including books like *The Shack*. Ironside wrote:

“Error is like leaven, of which we read, ‘A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.’ Truth mixed with error is equivalent to all error, except that it is more innocent looking and, therefore, more dangerous. God hates such a mixture! Any error, or any truth-and-error mixture, calls for definite exposure and repudiation. To condone such is to be unfaithful to God and His Word and treacherous to imperiled souls for whom Christ died.” (quoted in *The Berean Call*, April 2008)

The Shack has touched the hearts and emotions of many people. While there are many other examples of the author’s unbiblical liberality, introducing the heretical New Age teaching that “God dwells in, and around, and through all things” is in and by itself enough to completely undermine any value the book might otherwise have for faithful believers. To allow yourself to get carried away by this story, while disregarding the book’s New Age/New Spirituality leaven, is to fall prey to the “truth-and-error” mixture that pervades *The Shack*. And as Dr. Ironside warned—“God hates such a mixture.”