



*But in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. -*

**Matthew 15:9**

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## **Self-Control: A Fruit of the Spirit**

A few days ago someone suggested that I watch the documentary on Marjoe Gortner. Tonight he sent me a link where I could watch it. I bit. I clicked to get the movie started but my browser froze not far into the video.

Normally I don't watch movies or television. Occasionally I'll click on a Facebook ad and watch an audition on America's Got Talent or an equivalent show, but to sit and watch a movie or television show is something that no longer interests me. In fact, I've reached the point that it is a bit repulsive and I use that word for lack of a better one. I simply no longer have the desire to watch a movie. When someone says I need to watch something I tend to change the subject or find an exit.

But this documentary on Marjoe Gortner looked interesting enough to watch so I started it but my browser refused to play it. Not wanting to give up, I went to YouTube and tried to locate it there. I found several things about him but they were all rather short clips, not full length movies. I did find a 2 hour movie that I thought was about him and began watching it.

I'm sharing the link for that video with you but I'm giving you a warning about it. This is a documentary to expose false religion and it's graphic. There are people who are acting in ways that give them the appearance of being demon possessed and this behavior is their form of worship. They are out of control which makes their behavior fall short of heavenly behavior. I strive to keep this house a place where holy angels like to visit. This movie was something that I wasn't able to stomach and turned it off before I got very far into it. If I couldn't handle it, what were my unseen heavenly visitors thinking when they saw it?

I'm finding that whenever I do watch something or listen to a sermon or music, I try to find God in it. I didn't find God in what I saw of that video so it isn't something that I'll finish watching. But I did find something in there that gave me pause to wonder.

Those of you who are Adventists will know what I'm referencing and those who aren't may also know this. If you don't then documentation to support this is at the end of this blurb. We have been taught that in the end of this earth's history as we know it, people will appear who are proclaiming to be god. Miracles and great signs will accompany them. People will marvel at them and believe that god is here. Does that sound familiar to you?

What struck me about this video is that there are a lot of well-known preachers out there who are preaching that they are god. They are blatantly proclaiming that they are god. You can hear them on this video. Furthermore, they are producing miracles in the form of healings.

As I wrote that last sentence a thought occurred to me. I believe there is a place where it is written that satan will appear and heal the people of their diseases. Could these famous preachers be symbolically the devil? "Ye shall know them by their fruits." And the fruit they are producing is, well... how do I say this nicely? How about this: The fruit they are producing is not from heaven. One of the fruits of the Spirit is self-control and these pastors are placing their followers in a position where they are out of control.

It's difficult to write this blurb without giving the impression that I am judging those who believe this is a proper worship experience. If they have been taught that the way to worship god is to lose control and act like... well, act strange. How do I say this? Is it an act of reverence to lose control and do something akin to cackling like a chicken who has discovered there's a fox in the henhouse while in the middle of a worship service? Where is the reverence? Maybe you can see reverence in that video but I didn't. The video scared me.

If this is the way you have been taught to worship then let me share a Bible text you may be unfamiliar with.

[But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—having a form of godliness but denying its power.](#)

Have nothing to do with such people. – 2 Timothy 3:1-5

This text is describing people of our time, the last days. This author states that people will be without self-control and that they will have a form or godliness but deny its power. Is this not a warning about worshiping in a way where you lose control? Is it not also a warning about following false-teachings? This is serious stuff here. But wait, there's more:

For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins. – 2 Peter 1:5-9

Peter stated that if you have self-control it will keep you from not having a knowledge of God. Let's do the math on this one. If having self-control will keep you from not having a knowledge of God, then not having self-control will cause you to not have a knowledge of God. Those sentences are a bit difficult so you may have to read them a few times to catch what was just said.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other. – Galatians 5:22-26

By this text we can know that the practice of self-control is a heavenly action. It is something we need to acquire and put into practice in all of our activity and that includes our modes of worship. What we don't want to experience is for Jesus to turn away from us, saying he never knew us.

Here are some texts and the link to the video. It's up to you whether or not you want to watch it. If you do, be careful. Don't fall for their lies.

Link to the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xn7uSmkYDJQ>

Texts:

As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. “Tell us,” they said, “when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?”

Jesus answered: “Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Messiah,’ and will deceive many. You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains.

“Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. **10** At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. – Matthew 24:3-14 NIV

At that time if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Messiah!’ or, ‘There he is!’ do not believe it. For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you ahead of time.

“So if anyone tells you, ‘There he is, out in the wilderness,’ do not go out; or, ‘Here he is, in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it. For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. – Matthew 24:23-27 NIV

We must be so rooted and grounded in faith that we shall not be deceived even by the strongest miracle-working power of Satan. The sick will appear to be healed. Agents of Satan will appear and pretend that they are Christ. Apparently they will do His work in healing the sick. The devil has power to bring on disease. He withdraws his power from an individual, and lo, he is wonderfully healed. We cannot depend upon the miracle-working power of healing the sick as an evidence to mark the people of the living God.

What then can we rely upon? – Ellen G. White, Manuscript 158-1904

I say to all: Be on your guard; for as an angel of light Satan is walking in every assembly of Christian workers, and in every church, trying to win the members to his side. I am bidden to give to the people of God the warning: “Be not deceived; God is not mocked.” Galatians 6:7.581 – Ellen G. White, *Counsels for the Church*, 324.3

Among the most successful agencies of the great deceiver are the delusive teachings and lying wonders of spiritualism. Disguised as an angel of light, he spreads his nets where least suspected. If men would but study the Book of God with earnest prayer that they might understand it, they would not be left in darkness to receive false doctrines. But as they reject the truth they fall a prey to deception. – Ellen G. White, *Darkness Before Dawn*, p. 9

As spiritualism more closely imitates the nominal Christianity of the day, it has greater power to deceive and ensnare. Satan himself is converted, after the modern order of things. He will appear in the character of an angel of light. Through the agency of spiritualism, miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and many undeniable wonders will be performed. And as the spirits will profess faith in the Bible, and manifest respect for the institutions of the church, their work will be accepted as a manifestation of divine power.... Ellen G. White, *Darkness Before Dawn*, p. 33

May you be filled with the true Holy Spirit. May you find joy and peace amid the storms that this world is filled with.

Love to all,

Hannah