

Ramacharaka, *The Science of Psychic Healing*, p. 53).

As noted earlier, the effectiveness of such practices is disputed, with no documented scientific evidence to conclusively prove their benefit. However, even if therapies based on occultic life energies do heal, Christians must be willing to forego them. There are fates worse than illness and deformity in this life, or even death (Mark 9:43-48; Luke 12:4, 5). Christians are to completely avoid the occult realm (Deuteronomy 18:9-14; Isaiah 8:19; Acts 19:18-19; 1 Corinthians 10:19-22). Furthermore, the intuitions obtained in meditative trances are frequently unreliable. The false prophets of the Old Testament preached from divination and visions, but only revealed the futility and deception of their own minds (Jeremiah 14:14; 23:16-17; Ezekiel 13:6-8). Sorcery, spells and astrology are useless in our hour of need (Isaiah 47:9-13). The false prophets, diviners, dreamers, soothsayers and sorcerers declared lies because they contradicted God (Jeremiah 27:9-10). God is so different from this impersonal life energy. He is a personal Being to whom one can (and should) pray for healing (James 5:14-16). But one cannot expect to control God's power (Luke 4:22-27; Acts 8:18-23). Rather, Christians should submit to His will for their lives (James 4:15). Jesus Christ is able to heal all diseases. His healing has no "spiritual side effects." "The blessing of the Lord makes rich and adds no sorrow to it". Because God is personal, the lives of Christians should por-



tray His personal attributes. When Christians are seen loving others as God loves them, others will be drawn to His love (John 13:35). They will experience the true healing which comes from a personal relationship with Jesus. Christian health care workers can change the image of modern medicine by calling for, and modelling, more Christ-like treatment of all people. As this occurs, the current system can change without being rejected, and alternatives based on other religions will be far less attractive.

If you have been involved providing or have received any of these "spiritual" treatments and would like to have the damaging spiritual effect removed from your life please contact revivalUK at contact@revivaluk.org.uk or write to PO Box 68 Suffolk NR34 9WD

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THE REAL TRUTH BEHIND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE AND HEALING PRACTICES



Many forms of alternative medicine claim to be based on the manipulation of a non-physical human energy field, one that cannot be detected by physical instruments. This energy goes by various names like life energy, chi, or *prana*, and underlies TT, reflexology, homeopathy, pulse diagnosis, etc. Belief in its existence is deeply rooted in Eastern mystical religions and Western occult traditions. It is no wonder increased acceptance of holistic healing is the cultural trend most admired by *New Age Journal!*

Sadly, some Christians view this "life energy" as the power of God, and dive headlong into these practices. People want to believe they can create their own realities, but just calling something "God's power" does not justify the assumption that it is actually from God. This alleged energy and the claims made for and about it must be examined in the light of God's Word to see if it could be from God (1 Thessalonians 5:21; 1 John 4:1-3). Christians should not buy into the culture's belief that if it's "God" for one, and "Buddha" for another, and "life energy" for yet another, still, all can be happy and accept one another's 'truths.' There really are irreconcilable differences.

Many alternative therapies openly admit that knowledge of "life energy," and how

to manipulate it for healing, originates in occult practices. One of TT's founders encourages use of divination (Dolores Krieger, *The Therapeutic Touch: How to Use Your Hands to Help or Heal*). Healing Touch recommends the use of spirit guides (Barbara Brennan, *Hands of Light: A Guide to Healing Through the Human Energy Field*). Information about Reiki, an ancient Japanese therapy, is available through channelling (Diane Stein, *Essential Reiki: A Complete Guide to an Ancient Healing Art*). *The Encyclopedia of Alternative Medicine and Self-Help* notes that life force or *prana* "can be harnessed by the individual who sensitises himself by certain occult practices." These include meditation, deep breathing, chanting mantras, advanced visualisation and "secret rituals which have been closely guarded secrets of the highest mystery schools on earth. . . and beyond" (Malcolm Hulke, ed., "Spiritual Healing," p. 178).

Some alternative therapies are thinly disguised versions of occult healing rituals. For example, almost every facet of TT, and its underlying beliefs, are described in occult literature. Recent interest among nurses in TT was started by Dolores Krieger, RN, Ph.D. and Dora Kunz. Kunz was then president of the Theosophical Society in America, an organisation which promotes occult and mystical beliefs. Another past president of this so-

ciety claims that an occultist heals by "the successful conveying of prana or vitality from his own healthy body to the diseased body or diseased organ or part" (G. de Pu-rucker, *Studies in Occult Philosophy*, p. 623). A prominent witch describes "Pranic Healing" as a way of "sending Prana (the 'vital force') from your body to the diseased or affected parts, . . . It involves the use of passes and the laying-on of hands" (Raymond Buckland, *Buckland's Complete Book of Witchcraft*, p. 194). Even his diagrams show it to be the same as TT.

The hands are powerful symbols in occult healing. "It is an occult fact that the hands of a disciple become transmitters of spiritual energy" (Alice A. Bailey, *A Treatise On White Magic*, 6th ed., p. 576). The lack of physical contact has long been part of auric healing. "Most experienced auric healers will not normally touch the patient's body during the 'laying on of hands': they will hold them an inch or two away, in contact with the inner aura" (Janet Farrar and Stewart Farrar, *A Witches Bible Compleat: Volume 2: The Rituals*, p. 229). After passing their hands over patients, TT practitioners often flick their wrists to remove "negative energy," just as in occult practices: "When the pass is completed, swing the fingers sideways, as if you were throwing water from them" (Yogi