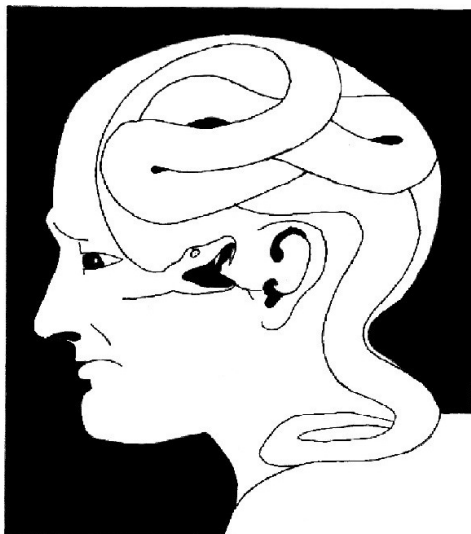


THE POWER OF SUGGESTION



by Paul Bunch

THE POWER OF SUGGESTION

How Hypnosis, Brainwashing and Superstition Control People
and How to Defend Your Mind Against It

Part 1

Deception is most effective when people aren't thinking clearly. This is the key to the power of suggestion used by magicians, con artists, communist brainwashers, news media reporters, advertising people, government officials and religious leaders to deceive people. There is no MAGIC power involved; it is simply the natural way the human mind functions. When you are in a state of mental confusion, you are vulnerable to any suggestion made by a deceiver. But, if you understand how the tactics of mind warfare work, and don the spiritual armor of God described in Ephesians 6: 11-18, then you will be able to disarm a deceiver, discern the truth, and survive.

“Put on the whole armor of God; that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” Ephesians 6: 11, 12.

Religious people who believe in several gods, rather than just one, may think the preceding two verses speak of one of their gods, traditionally known as “the Devil” or “Satan,” and possibly many other lesser gods known as “demons” or “powers.” However, if you reject polytheism and believe only in the existence of the One True God of Abraham then you can see that these verses are talking about **mind warfare** - not invisible “spirit” persons.

This warfare is not supernatural or magical, but based simply on wicked men having a cold-blooded, scientific grasp of how the human mind works. Armed with this knowledge, anti-Christ rulers (*“principalities”*) in government (*“high places”*) know that man’s mind is vulnerable to the power of suggestion. If utilized effectively, this power (one of the *“powers”* alluded to in verse 12) can be used by these anti-Christ men to deceive other men, thereby controlling and conquering them without a physical (*“flesh and blood”*) struggle.



To make the power of suggestion work successfully your enemies must first cloud your thinking by their “wiles” (trickery). If you are not thinking clearly, then your mind is an open door for the power of suggestion to invade and conquer. That is why our modern Babylonian system is built upon confusion - a melting pot of conflicting religious beliefs, philosophies, morals,

standards, races and cultures. It keeps people's minds clouded so they cannot discern between reality and fantasy, and are therefore more susceptible to suggestion.

The armor of God protects you from these "wiles": drugs, suggestive music, propaganda, hypnosis, brainwashing, superstition and other deceptions which cloud your thinking. Moreover, in today's society these "wiles" have expanded into sophisticated national campaigns in which everyone unwittingly takes part. In this report we will deal with the most insidious of these "wiles" of mind warfare: HYPNOSIS, BRAINWASHING and SUPERSTITION.

RESISTANCE VS. COOPERATION

"Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to WITHSTAND in the evil day, and having done all, to stand." Ephesians 6: 13.

Before you put on the armor of God, you must realize that it will be useless to you unless you plan to "withstand" or, as the New American Standard version says, "resist" the enemy. Verses eleven and twelve echo the same message by saying "stand against" and "wrestle". So the first principle of successful mind-defense is RESISTANCE and NONCOOPERATION.

Hypnosis is a mind-clouding technique which encourages cooperation and breaks down resistance. This black science is no longer confined to a psychiatrist's office or the stage. It now ranges from TV and movies to the medical profession; from sports to the schoolroom. In fact the Department of Education uses hypnotic teaching methods in government schools for America's children. They want to CONTROL their minds instead of DEVELOP them. Hypnotism is held in such high esteem by our society that it is even used in courts of law,

although it has a very poor track record in helping witnesses accurately recall important details of a case. People have even learned how to hypnotize THEMSELVES (auto-suggestion), hoping to change their lives, or perhaps achieve riches and success, etc.



But a careful analysis of hypnosis reveals that even though it is used for ostensibly noble purposes, it is actually a self-deceiving mind game of cooperation between the person being hypnotized and the hypnotist. **In other words, COOPERATION is what makes hypnosis work** - not some mystical power.

Nicholas Spanos, a psychologist at Carleton University in Ottawa, views the phenomenon of **hypnosis** as: “a person attuned to the demands of a situation who wants to please the hypnotist by having the experiences suggested to him - or seeming to have them.” Theodore Sarbin at the University of California at Berkeley takes a similar view by saying that “the hypnotic subject is not in a trance but is merely playing a role.”

In researching hypnotism I discovered that there is ample evidence to support these claims. For example, G. H. Estabrooks, a noted hypnotist, recorded one hypnotic experiment that involved the claim that under hypnosis people had the ability to raise blisters on their skin when the suggestion that “a bandage was a mustard plaster” was made to them. The results were astounding until the hypnotist, becoming suspicious, decided not to leave the subjects alone in the room, but would continue to closely watch them through a hidden peephole. It was then that the hypnotist observed the hypnotized people trying in various ways to ARTIFICIALLY cause the blister.

In their great desire to COOPERATE with the hypnotist’s suggestion, they would do everything from intensely rubbing the bandage, to thrusting needles under it and through the skin to cause bleeding. And yet, when these same people were not in the supposed trance, they were models of honesty. Also, when questioned under hypnotism, they would deny all knowledge of the trickery. More evidence shows that although there are those people who are able to be hypnotized very easily, many people - as strange as it may sound - have to PRACTICE being hypnotized before they can enter a trance. The practice sessions usually proceed in the following way.

In testing just how “good” a potential hypnotic subject is, the hypnotist can start him off by trying to influence small muscle groups such as the eyes. He does this by suggesting that the person’s eyelids are locked tightly together and that he cannot open them. Usually, only about half of the people cannot open their eyes in the first attempt. After a dozen practice sessions, however, about 90% of all people will reach the stage where they cannot open their eyes. As the person becomes more proficient at COOPERATING, the hypnotist can move on to try and influence larger muscles such as the arms and legs.

This alone should tell you that the so-called “trance” is only a mental state of conditioned response produced by the person’s willingness to cooperate with the hypnotist. It should also reveal to you that when you practice being hypnotized, you are practicing COOPERATING with the hypnotist rather than resisting him. This may seem rather harmless, but in actuality you are learning how to lower your defenses and yield your mind to a man. Through continual hypnotic practice, you can gain great skill at cooperating with or yielding to men. Later on, when moral issues are more crucial, you will have been trained how to yield your mind to anti-Christ men who want you to obey them instead of God.

“Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? Romans 6: 16

MASS HYPNOTISM AND COOPERATION

Furthermore, what works for hypnotism on a small scale works for hypnotism on a large scale.

Mass hypnotism is no longer just some fantastic story from a science fiction novel. In fact in Communist countries, such as Red China, it is mandatory for people to go through hypnotic inducing séances disguised as study sessions. There is evidence that a form of trance state is widespread throughout the populace, just as it is right here in America! The evidence relates to the characteristics which contribute to the hypnotic mental state: restriction of the field of consciousness; emotion; fatigue; mental confusion and the cooperation of the person with the hypnotist.

For example, a well-known hypnotic device in restricting a person's field of consciousness is to have the subject concentrate on an object (you probably remember the proverbial swinging pocket watch). In fact, concentration is easier if the person to be hypnotized is in a dark room gazing at a small area of light. All across the nation this very phenomenon takes place when people sit in a dark room watching TV or a movie screen-the only point or area of light.

Under this RESTRICTION OF THE PERSON'S FIELD OF CONSCIOUSNESS, strong EMOTIONS are aroused by the drama on the program. People usually watch TV at night after a tiring day at work, so in a lot of cases the element of FATIGUE is also present. MENTAL CONFUSION results due to the media events (zoom in, zoom out, switch locations, views from various angles - all impossible in real life), illogical situations and twisted thinking inserted into the TV programs people watch.

The only other element necessary for a person to exhibit signs of the hypnotic state is for that person to want to COOPERATE with, or believe as truth, the propaganda with which he is being "programmed." It is obvious that most Americans believe just about everything they see on "TV programming", whether it be the news, ideas about the supernatural, race, religion, or moral issues. People today willingly cooperate mentally with the brainwashing media. Thus, millions of Americans happily volunteer daily to be victims of mind control.

Because of the pervasiveness of these hypnotic characteristics, and because people - especially children - continually "practice" letting their guard down to mind-changing ideas, they eventually become worn down and fall victim to the power of suggestion. Of course, TV and movies can create the perfect visual and auditory illusion

of ANY THING by means of special effects. It is amazing how much information people accept as true even after they realize that special effects are being used in TV and movies to create illusions.

BRAINWASHING AND COOPERATION

The experiences of American soldiers and missionaries against Communist brainwashing techniques in Korean and Red Chinese prison camps show clearly that resistance helps defend your mind against an enemy. One brainwashing technique that was used in these prison camps was CONFESSION (simply another way to say “cooperation” or “submission”). The Communists insisted that every prisoner perform the rite of confession often. They were forced to constantly give self-criticisms and confessions even about trivial and silly things. It did not matter what they confessed - just so long as they confessed.

John Hayes, a missionary in post-World War II Red China, was arrested and put through an intensive brainwashing ordeal. He experienced the mind control that can result from forced confessing. The Communists made up a situation they claimed Hayes had been personally involved in, and they continued for months to incessantly badger him about it, trying to force him to COOPERATE and confess that he had been there in the particular situation (which never actually transpired). It was a gruelling mind torture that the brainwashers put Hayes through, pushing him to the very limits of sanity, leaving him mentally weak. At one point, back in his cell, discouraged, and convinced that he had done all he could in the Communist courtroom to tell the truth, Hayes let down his guard to his mind. Then a strange thing happened.

After he had lowered his resistance, suddenly a vivid “memory” of the scenario just as it had been alleged by his tormentors (BUT WHICH NEVER REALLY TOOK PLACE) flooded into his consciousness. He had been badgered for so long and hard that his fatigued mind now hallucinated the non-existent event. At this point the Communists obtained a sincere confession from Hayes because the manufactured “memory” was so vivid.

Confession is a resistance-breaking control tactic which dates back to the days of the Roman Empire. At that time a prisoner of the Roman Empire was forced to say, “I confess to the rule of Rome.” He was thus submitting to Rome’s secular and religious control. During the Middle Ages if a person “confessed the Latin rite,” he was actually saying “I agree with all the accepted church dogma presented to me.” The word “confess,” itself is derived from the Latin “*con*” and “*ficio*,” meaning “to be in conformity with.”

MASS BRAINWASHING

The brainwashing technique of confession is no longer something that only happens to a military P.O.W. in some Communist country. Just like hypnotism, it is used on civilians in the U.S.A. on a mass scale from the courtroom to the schoolroom, and even on the job in large corporations. It was first termed “**sensitivity training**,” and consists of small groups of five to ten people getting together and openly confessing their tiniest faults before everyone in the group. Ostensibly, this exercise in submission (cooperation) was supposed to help solve personal problems in each individual’s life. Today, this practice has become very popular and commonplace in American society and is now known as “**group therapy**.”

After twenty years of constant practice, Americans have become very willing subjects, submitting their minds to other men and their ungodly ideas!

The whole idea of you wearing the armor of God is so that it will help you to RESIST the power of suggestion. Unfortunately, many people do not even realize that they are under mind attack by the anti-Christians and are walking around without this armor, cooperating with the power of suggestion. As a result, they have come to believe false doctrines and superstitions without understanding why. They end up worshipping man and his invented ideas (Humanism) and ignorantly calling it “Christianity.” However, it is NOT Christianity! They are slaves to a socialist state and they blindly call this condition “freedom.” After clouding their thinking, Mystery Babylon has “suggested” these ideas to them and they have fallen for them.

CHRISTIAN ARMOR

The armor of truth, righteousness and the preparation of the gospel of peace are biblical protections that can assist you in resisting the enemy and in defending the battlements of your mind from the power of suggestion. Resistance plays an important role in our ability to survive spiritually as a Christian against men called the “*rulers of darkness*” (Ephesians 6: 12).

These flesh and blood men know how to cloud our thinking and then manipulate our minds through the power of suggestion so that we will cooperate with them. In fact, resistance is the whole reason one puts on the armor of God described in Ephesians 6: 11-18. This armor helps us to resist the power of suggestion. Hypnotism and Brainwashing are two weapons which are hurled at people to cloud their thinking.

Today, these weapons have been developed and expanded from their original small-scale forms to a nationwide program aimed at great numbers of unsuspecting people. However, if you understand how hypnotism and brainwashing work, then you can protect yourself against these rulers and manipulators and not succumb to their power of suggestion. And understanding comes when you are wearing all the pieces of the armor of God.

SEEK TRUTH

“Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth...” Ephesians 5: 14a

The armor of TRUTH helps you resist the subtle attack of the anti-Christ because you are resisting falsehood. Yet, a crucial point to note is that the more you entertain false doctrines, lies and other deceptions that are opposed to God’s Word, the more you resist the truth. The behaviour of people who are functionally insane shows us just how this works. Most of the functionally insane CANNOT be hypnotized even to a slight degree. (These exclude “structural” insanities where the brain is physically damaged by tumors, bursting blood vessels etc.)

The reason is that they intensively resist any attempt at hypnosis. They resist because they have spent years retreating into a life of daydreams, cutting off contacts with reality, thus achieving artificial mental happiness. Along comes a doctor who, in seeking to cure their insanity, wants to destroy their happy dream world in a moment.

So it is only natural for the insane person to defend his carefully nurtured mental paradise by resisting. In fact, he resists to such a degree that he is “negatively” suggestible.

For instance, the hypnotist can direct the insane person to sit down and he will remain standing. And when the hypnotist directs the person to stand up, he will sit down. Because he feels his mental paradise is threatened, the insane person's defense is to do just the opposite of the hypnotist's requests.

You probably know a Judeo-Christian who is negatively suggestible and strongly resists you when you try to discuss the subject of the Anglo-Saxons being God's chosen people or some other truth. They have spent so many years entertaining and nurturing the falsehood that the Jews are God's chosen that they immediately react negatively by changing the subject, laughing in your face or walking away.

Also, the danger in entertaining one false doctrine is that it is usually related to several others. So if you subscribe to one falsehood, you could get flooded with other falsehoods, and after a while, you could be negatively resisting a lot of truth and not even realize it.

“Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these (men in the perilous last days) also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.” 2 Timothy 3: 8.

During everyday life in Modern Mystery Babylon you know for sure you are seeking truth and are resisting falsehood if you purposely think the opposite of the prevailing propaganda - even concerning little things. Since Mystery Babylon rejects God, the source of truth, you can assume it is disseminating lies to the public.

For example, you are negatively suggestible when the mass-media tells you that someone is a villain. You tend to believe that he is probably a man with convictions - possibly a Christian.

GOOD MORALS

“...and having on the breastplate of righteousness...”
Ephesians 6: 14

Righteousness concerns following God’s moral code. You can appreciate the importance of righteous morals when defending your mind; especially when you see the results of not possessing this piece of armor in the face of the power of suggestion. It is commonly thought that under hypnotism you cannot be forced to do something that goes against your moral code. To some extent this idea is true, because hypnotists have found that when their suggestions clash - with the person’s moral scruples, then the person may start resisting the suggestions.

Even though the person being hypnotized has put himself into the trance state of full cooperation, his long established moral code .may automatically help him resist when an immoral suggestion pops up. The more integrity the person has, the more powerful this rock is in helping him to resist. Yet, it is not uncommon for a hypnotist to make a person do something against his moral code. The hypnotist can succeed in getting the hypnotized person to follow an immoral suggestion if the suggestion can somehow sneak around the person’s moral code. There are two ways to achieve this. The first is to trick the person into committing an immoral act by convincing him he is actually doing something else.

For instance, if the hypnotist wanted you to murder someone with a pistol, he would trick you by suggesting that the gun was loaded with blanks. He would convince you that you were doing something else by suggesting that you were just trying to scare this person by firing blanks at him. If you believed this, then you would believe that no harm would befall the person.

The second way to avoid a clash with your scruples is to make sure you have no scruples. The hypnotist could be rather straightforward in this case because you would place no value on human life. You could easily carry out the suggestion to kill someone because it would not strain your moral code. On a mass scale the “rulers of darkness” have cleverly avoided a clash with many people’s scruples on the issue of aborticide by employing these very methods.

Formerly, common morality prohibited people from killing or approving of killing babies in the womb. In order not to clash with these common moral standards which existed up until the 50’s and 60s, anti-Christ brainwashers convinced a great number of people that they would actually be doing something else. Instead of “aborticide” it was called “the right to choose,” because the human fetus was supposedly not yet a “viable” human being.

Meanwhile these same “rulers of darkness” were systematically carrying out a continuous campaign of suggestions to rid the American people of any Godly morality. Their campaign has been so successful in the erosion of morality that today there are hardly any morals left to clash with. Most Americans are totally insensitive to the idea of murdering babies in the womb. The problem is compounded when you consider that the power of suggestion has been used to lead God’s people away from Him concerning many other moral issues besides aborticide.

The effects can be seen when film-makers set out to make a cartoon movie that will appeal to all audiences. In other words it will be clean enough so that children can watch it. So they end up with “*Who Framed Roger Rabbit?*” a sexually suggestive movie which, in the 60’s or 70’s would have been rated “R”.

Yet, today, this kind of a movie is considered appropriate for children. There is no clash with the parent's scruples in this case because the parent's scruples are not there; therefore, the parents and the moviemakers honestly believe the movie is a family film!

When you see that the same techniques of hypnotism and brainwashing that were used on a small scale are now being employed on a large scale, and that they are getting results, you can begin to see that the hypnotic mental state has different forms that just the traditional trance state you had first imagined.

CONVICTIONS

"...and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace..." Ephesians 6: 15

If you have been taught in the precepts of the Bible from when you were a child, then you have been PREPARED to defend yourself against mind attack. Because of continual exercise in good morals, you have developed CONVICTIONS which cannot be shaken.

"Train up a child in the way he should go (Christianity) and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22: 6

If followed, this Biblical directive tends to develop strong convictions in an individual. However, it goes entirely contrary to the modern liberal style of education where it is required that students always study the other side of the question concerning moral issues. They are told that this other side is equally as valid as Christianity.

Instead of training children that one moral standard (Christianity) is right and all others are wrong, the government teacher tells them to the among all the world

religions, including Humanism, saying that they all have valid points. After many years of this kind of training the students have developed no strong feelings for any one religion and could very well be undecided on many moral issues. Having firm Christian convictions means that you have a **CLOSED MIND** on those convictions. It also means you have a decisive mind because you have made a decision on what is right and wrong, based on your understanding of God's Word.

A closed mind is usually viewed in a negative way, but on certain things such as Christian morals it could mean the difference between resisting the "power of suggestion" or caving in to it. This has been proven by the ordeals of a great number of P.O.W.'s in Communist prison camps. The majority of those who survived mentally had closed minds on the subject of Communism. As a result, they were able to defend their mind-fortress successfully against the deceit of the Reds.

They fully understood, going in, that the Communists would be telling them lies. Also, they knew that if the Communists did tell them something truthful, it would be with the intent of harming them. With this rock-solid conviction concerning Communism, certain P.O.W.'s were able to defeat brainwashing tactics. The Communists could not even wear their prisoners down by the tactic of fatigue, when these prisoners had strong convictions.



Other P.O.W.'s however, caved in to the Communists. It was found that those who had been given a liberal education were very vulnerable to mind attack. Their vulnerability was due to the fact that they had been trained to always see some valid point in the other side's argument. They had been trained to have a perpetually indecisive mind on matters of morality. Consequently, under pressure, it was relatively easy for the Communists to get these prisoners to decide in favor of Communism.

As a P.O.W. in Mystery Babylon, you can use the same reasoning that the closed-minded P.O.W.'s used in the Communist prison camps. Understand that the mass media lies more often than not. And when there IS any truth in their reports it will be used against the public - especially Christians.

Jesus Christ made the simple statement that He ALONE is the way, THE TRUTH, and the life. When someone, or some Judeo-Christian media source, suggests ideas that are foreign to Christian principles, you will be prepared, having it firmly in your mind that Christianity is the only truth. This conviction will save you from caving in to the power of suggestion.

In part two, we will examine how the ARMOR OF FAITH AND SALVATION shield you from the power of suggestion.

Part 2

The first part of this series explained how the Armor of God (described in Ephesians 6) protects Christians from a mind attack by anti-Christ men. We also noted that these attacks do not come from an imagined supernatural devil. The mind war evil men are waging against Christians has existed since the Garden of Eden.

Down through history these techniques have been improved and streamlined, along with all other science and technology. Today, these techniques embody an advanced science used not only to deceive a few unsuspecting “suckers” or “marks,” but to capture the minds of an entire nation’s people so they can be controlled by an elite group.

The key to this black art is THE POWER OF SUGGESTION. As I have said, this is made possible through the propagation of unclear thinking in people’s minds. This makes the power of suggestion work. It is not supernatural magic. We have seen how the “*rulers of darkness*” (Ephesians 6: 12) propagate unclear thinking nationwide by using hypnotism and brainwashing.

And we now understand that voluntary cooperation (submission) of the mind is a key factor in the success of thought control. In addition, superstition is used along with these two techniques to help cause nationwide unclear, irrational thinking. The lovers of darkness know if they can cause you to base your reasoning on fantasy rather than fact, then your thinking will be unsound, and you will swallow their deceitful, controlling suggestions.

This is where the armor of faith and salvation effectively shield your mind from not only the tactics of hypnotism and brainwashing, but also superstition.

FAITH IN TRUTH

*“Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.”
Ephesians 6: 16.*

The human mind functions on faith either in the one existing God or in one or more of many non-existent gods. Faith in falsehood (voluntary gullibility) can be clearly seen in the behaviour of a hypnotized person.

The hypnotized person has become hypnotized because HE PLACED HIMSELF in a state of cooperation with the hypnotist. As we saw in part one, the person in this advanced state of cooperation will do almost anything to make the hypnotist's suggestions a reality, no matter what artificial means it takes. The inner workings of the mind are still largely a mystery, and it is frightening to think of the potential side effects of the power of suggestion. Side effects can take the form of hallucinations. It is a fact that hypnotists can cause vivid hallucinations in hypnotized people – with their cooperation. In fact, causing a person to hallucinate is recognized as the final test of whether or not a person makes a “good” hypnotic subject. (In other words, a good co-operator.)

For instance, the hypnotist can suggest to a hypnotized person that at a given signal he will see a black cat sitting on the table nearby. Sure enough, when the signal is given, the person vividly sees a black cat. He reaches out, pets it, and hears it purring. In his great zeal to cooperate in this fantasy, some mechanism in his mind causes him to hallucinate and his memory automatically supplies the necessary sensory information, convincing him the imagined cat is real.

This kind of delusion comes through an act of faith on the part of the hypnotized person. By slipping into an advanced state of cooperation, he is able to achieve total faith in the hypnotist. Whatever the hypnotist says is viewed by that person as absolute fact - even if it is false. The cat is false, but through faith in the hypnotist's suggestion, the hypnotised person sees it as real.

On a broader scale, the majority of people, including many Christians, have become extremely adept at having faith in their “high priest,” and whatever he might say. The typical “high priests” take the form of news men,

judges, lawyers, doctors, teachers or pastors-all modern counterparts to the traditional hypnotist. Their statements are taken as “gospel truth,” even when they are false!

A good example of faith in delusion is the classic explanation of the “near-death experience.” Instead of placing their faith in God alone, Judeo-Christians embrace the established traditional superstition of the church which says that when you die, you DO NOT ACTUALLY DIE. This is an impossible oxymoron (a single concept forcibly composed of two incompatible things). Because such a concept is impossible, placing faith in it leads to confused thinking.

“Near-death experiences” sometimes produce hallucinations with one who believes this superstition. In the weakened and imbalanced condition of being near death, he may hallucinate that his “ghost” leaves his body and floats up near the ceiling, observing his own body on the bed below. It then continues to float upwards toward what appears to be a white light, etc. (“white light” would symbolize God).

When the hallucination is over, and he awakes, still in his old body, he explains it based on the superstition he has been indoctrinated with all of his life. He believes that his separate, conscious, immortal self actually separated from his body and almost went to “heaven”. Superstition has negated clear thinking and the person does not review alternative explanations for the phenomenon as he normally would with other topics.

Just as in the example where the hypnotized person, at a given signal, is made to hallucinate a phantom cat, the superstitious (religious) churchgoer on the brink of death, with faith in what he has been pre-programmed to expect, at the given signal (the near-death experience) hallucinates his departing “ghost.”

SALVATION FROM SUPERSTITION

“And take the helmet of salvation...” Ephesians 6: 17

Religious people sometimes try to hold Christianity prisoner within a church building, or within a structured set of church dogmas. They usually think of “salvation” strictly in terms of obtaining blissful, eternal life “in heaven” after they die - in contrast to being condemned to eternity in “hell.”

But to those who see Christianity as an ENTIRE WAY OF LIFE - not only fellowship of believers, but government, business, and all other aspects of everyday life, “salvation” is a practical thing for the PRESENT life. It means Jesus Christ is the head of everything. Their decisions are based on His example, His standards, and His explanations of how and why things happen. Furthermore, when they have Christ at the center of their lives, they have a purpose in life. They also realize that being saved from physical harm is part of what “salvation” really means, as well as being saved from spiritual harm. Just as the warrior’s armor saves him from the enemy’s spear, the armor of God saves the Christian from an enemy’s attack on his mind.

But those who reject God still have a need for some kind of salvation, purpose and sense of the basic issues of life, death, health and money. So in order to reduce his anxiety, man fills the void with his own creative superstitions, sometimes referred to as “valid psychological insights,” or “beliefs.” Of course, their conclusions are not founded on truth, and thus of no benefit. Examples of these “beliefs” are like college students who wear lucky socks, sneakers, or blouses to bring about better grades; gamblers who resort to random numerology by betting or choosing lottery numbers based on their odometer readings, their license plate numbers,

their children's birthdays, or their wedding anniversaries; baseball players who refuse to shave or change their shirt or pants during a hitting streak because it might affect their good luck; etc. Then there are those people who believe that if you wash your car, it will rain.

Superstition takes on a serious note, however, when it becomes officially recognized and established by the state in what is called "religion."

The Catholics are an example of this, believing that if they perform intricate rituals just right, then something supernatural will be accomplished. If the priest swings the smoking censor just right over the wine and the altar, or if he holds his hands outstretched a certain way when he chants a prayer, or if he bows on bended knee before a statue of "Mother Mary" and "crosses" himself, then his God will be more apt to hear his prayer and help him. This is just an advanced form of the college student's 'lucky socks' or the other off-beat rituals which superstitious people perform.

The apostle Paul preached about superstition to the philosophers of ancient Athens when he denounced their superstitious idolatry:

"Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in ALL THINGS ye are too SUPERSTITIOUS. Acts 17:22

Just as true Christianity is a way of life. The Greek word for "superstitious" in this verse literally means DEMON-FEARING! If people had Jesus as the centrepiece of their faith, they would not need superstition, because Jesus is THE truth. Neither would they need emotional "church" experiences and high priests! When you program your mind with truth, then you think clearly. However, when you feed on superstition (falsehood), your thinking is clouded.

“And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; BECAUSE THEY RECEIVED NOT THE LOVE OF THE TRUTH, THAT THEY MIGHT BE SAVED. AND FOR THIS CAUSE GOD SHALL SEND THEM STRONG DELUSION, THAT THEY SHOULD BELIEVE A LIE.” 2 Thessalonians. 2: 10-11

It is no wonder that religion has correctly been termed “the opiate of the people.” An opiate brings on strong delusion so that you cannot think straight. The “rulers of darkness” know very well that when people are addicted to the opiate of superstition, they are extremely susceptible to just about any kind of suggestion.

A good example of this is the religion of Voodoo. In the past, when a man began placing his faith in his own superstitions, he imagined that innumerable entities and powers inhabited what he termed “the supernatural realm.” These false ideas of magic and the occult have become so ingrained in people, including Christians, that the power of suggestion from the occult has become a very strong force. All the practitioner of Voodoo (witch doctor) has to do, is in plain view of the intended victim, stick some pins in a little effigy of that person. Then the victim’s own mind, with determination to cooperate with the witch doctor, and with faith in superstition, will do the rest. The victim then reacts with a negative psychosomatic response (i.e. emotionally induced physical disorder).

It is amazing to observe the reactions of a superstitious person. Their faith in fantasy is so strong that they flee when the wind rustles through the leaves. Moreover, they are “tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine” that comes along. They view the occult as a RIVAL supernatural power to God. In some cases they end up destroying other people’s property in order to get rid of imagined “demons” or “forces” of evil which are supposed to be dwelling inside that property.

With the armor of faith and salvation, however, you can be saved (as per 2 Thessalonians 2: 11) from this irrational mental state of delusion that comes with superstition. Wielding the (S)WORD of God imparts wisdom to discern scams of all kinds.

In the pluralistic melting pot of America, there is a confusion of various religions, laws, and cultural systems. On top of this, the “*rulers of darkness*” (Ephesians 6: 12) continually use the power of suggestion in every aspect of society to deceive the people. In this type of society, how can you possibly discern the difference between truth and falsehood?

The answer is found in the armor of God! The armor of the Word of God imparts wisdom and clear thinking to lovers of truth, helping them to see through the daily deceptions that attack us from all sides.

WISDOM FROM GOD’S WORD

“(And take) ...the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God...” Ephesians 6: 17b

If you do your own study of The Bible instead of merely believing (cooperating with) one of the modern “high priests” who dispense a confusing, hypnotic, brainwashing blend of Christian and anti-Christian principles, then God’s Word will be a lamp unto your feet as you navigate through the spiritual darkness of America today.

“Keep therefore and do them (statutes and judgments) for THIS IS YOUR WISDOM AND YOUR UNDERSTANDING in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.” Deuteronomy 4: 5, 6.

When you “keep and do” God’s Law as found in The Bible, you are “fearing” the Lord, and “*the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.*” (Proverbs 9: 10). You can also derive wisdom from wearing the piece of armor called the Breastplate of Righteousness

“He layeth up sound wisdom for the RIGHTEOUS: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly. Proverbs 2: 7

And notice how Paul, in his letter to Timothy, explains how the armor of faith and salvation are directly tied into the Word of God:

“And that from a child thou hast known THE HOLY SCRIPTURES, which are able to make thee wise unto SALVATION through FAITH which is in Christ Jesus. 2 Timothy 3: 15

THE MARKS OF A SCAM

Just as God will send “*strong delusion*” to those who do not love the truth, He will send discernment and good judgment to those who DO love the truth and are “wearing” the battle armor of the Word of God. However, the Word of God is more than just armor. It is also a powerful weapon. Truth lovers can wield the (S)WORD of God which will enable them to see through all manner of hoaxes, scams, superstitions and false doctrines, Armed with this sword, you will have CLEAR THINKING in the midst of people who have clouded thinking. Since the power of suggestion only works on people whose thinking is clouded, it will not work on you if you have a “sound mind” (2 Timothy 1: 7)

Confusion and unclear thinking are the basis for all scams, whether it is the classic “Pigeon Drop” money scam, the so-called “psychics” fortune telling, or even a

false doctrine that supposedly can be “proven” from scripture. As you read the following **marks of a scam**, notice how unclear thinking and confusion are the keys for successfully tricking people. Also remember that the con artist may not only be a fortune teller or a fast talking salesman, but he can also be a mass-media newsman, a Judeo-Christian pastor, a government bureaucrat, a lawyer, a hypnotist, a psychiatrist, etc.

1. LACK OF INFORMATION

Con artists take great pains to conceal vital information so their deceit will be successful. On a national scale this is done by the controlled news media which suppresses truth, leaving you to make a decision or form an opinion without getting all the facts. You should never allow con artists to push you into making a decision based upon THEIR selected pieces of evidence; Get your own facts!

A good example of this is the suggestion that vaccinations are good for you and keep you well. This suggestion is promoted by the mass media and medical doctors (more witch doctors sticking pins in victims, instead of into effigies?) as the COMPLETE truth, even though there is a lack of information.

The suppressed truth, which has finally leaked to the public via antiestablishment sources, is that the vaccinations THEMSELVES can cause severe health problems. In many cases these vaccinations have lethal side effects, sometimes surfacing in a person's body decades later.

2. AMBIGUOUS INFORMATION

The information is open to various interpretations. In many cases the con artist will try to convince you that

there is only ONE interpretation when there could really be several interpretations.

A good example of ambiguous information is the popular song “*American Pie*” by Don Maclean. Shortly after the song came out, radio disc jockeys analyzed the lyrics and came up with a word-for-word interpretation describing a short history of rock and roll music in the 60’s, mentioning song titles and various rock celebrities. It could fit, given the vagueness of the lyrics.

However, another interpreter caught up in the “pursuit of revelation*” insists it describes the end of the age and all the religious/ political events that are or will be transpiring. The interpreter gave his readers the impression that this rock and roll record carries the same weight as a book of the Bible! Again, the vagueness of the lyrics makes it impossible to judge.

So which interpretation is correct? Neither! Certainty cannot come from calculated ambiguity. Christians who recognize ambiguity as one of the marks of a scam realize that the power of suggestion is being employed here. To say that “*American Pie*” was divinely inspired implies that God approves of rock and roll to teach people about His Word.

Clear thinkers realize that another clever person could, with some effort, come up with a third, equally reasonable-sounding interpretation of the lyrics. But, again, nothing could be proven because the lyrics are so open-ended and vague.

In fact, popular music lyrics are PURPOSELY written to be ambiguous so ANYONE can relate to them. The more interpretations that can be derived from the lyrics, the more universally appealing the song will be. The more appealing the song is, the more people buy it and the more money the songwriter makes.

3. UNTRUTHFUL INFORMATION

The claims and information DO NOT ALIGN WITH TRUTH. Of course, this is the most obvious mark of a scam, but the only way to know that the claims are untruthful is through research. The con artist will try to prevent you from doing any research by limiting your sources or slandering your name if you question his tactic.

Sometimes the public's faith in the mass media, the government, their pastors, etc., is so strong that these con artists do not have to dispense just half-truths. They can suppress ALL the truth and dispense The Big Lie. This lie is so big that people figure it has got to be the truth. They reason that no one would be crazy enough to lie about anything so outlandish. That is exactly how the power of suggestion works.

An extreme case of suppression of truth is the so-called "Holocaust" of 6 million Jews during World War 2.



Although the “Holocaust” has been adequately proven to be a hoax by a minority of clear-thinking people, it is still believed by the majority of the public to be historical fact. Through the media and public education, the truth has been suppressed and the con artists have promoted the hoax as truth.

Those few people who DO expose the scam behind the Holocaust myth are smeared and labelled “anti-Semitic” or “hateful.” Because of the power of suggestion, the public, instead of looking into the claims, simply believe what they hear from their accepted sources.

4. APPEAL TO THE SENSES

The claims and information APPEAL TO YOUR SENSES and SOUND TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE. The con artist promises that you will make a lot of quick, easy money; that you will be able to develop certain abilities others do not have; that you will be like a god being able to perform some supernatural feat; or that you will be able to achieve ideal health, happiness, freedom, comfort, love etc.

This approach not only works when a con artist is trying to get you to buy a product, but also when false prophets try to get you to “buy” false doctrines. They tell you that if you believe the doctrine they are promoting, then you will know that you are one of God’s elect. This appeal makes you think that you will be a privileged member of an elitist club. Other prophets will make you feel like a god with supernatural powers such as immortality and superhuman intelligence, by preaching such doctrines as “pre-existence” (i.e. we are all immortal spirits) and “speaking in tongues.”

The exaggerated importance of the appeal to the senses clearly shows the unclear thinking that is rampant in our

present society; even though things are not always as they appear, people still believe that PERCEPTION IS REALITY. People are more impressed with the form of things than with the substance of things. Con artists known as politicians will go to great lengths to improve their image, but they could care less about what is morally right in God's eyes.

Witches and Gnostics are also con artists. The first rule of witchcraft is something like this: "If I can convince you I have 'power', then I DO have 'power' (over your mind)." Many people have been convinced that witchcraft (the occult) has power. You can tell if they have been convinced by the way they are intimidated by the occult. They never stop and think that 'the power of suggestion might have something to do with the power they think they see.

5. FEAR TACTICS

The con artist making the claims or dispensing the information usually PRESSES YOU TO MAKE A QUICK DECISION or RELIEVE HIM out of fear or in order to avoid something bad. There is usually some impending deadline, imminent danger or some other reason that a snap decision is required.

Judeo-Christians fall for this ploy when they believe a preacher who tells them they must go through some ritual to go to "heaven" and avoid burning in "hell", or that "the Rapture" is about to happen on a certain date. According to the scam, if you miss being taken in "the Rapture," then you will be left here on earth to go through a terrible tribulation and possibly "hell!"

In Heaven, on the other hand, things will be easy. Inevitably, the appointed date comes and goes and no-one is "raptured" away.

Meanwhile the “suckers” who fell for the scam, have sold their houses and all their possessions or have generally made fools of themselves. Unfortunately, fools rarely admit their foolishness, thus they help cover up the scam.

6. DOUBLE-TALK

The claims, information, or doctrines are usually couched in CONFUSING DOUBLE TALK so you will not understand what is being said. However, con artists choose their words well so that their presentation sounds good. They also change the meanings of words or invent new words or terms to cast you further into the dark.

“Legalese” is the confusing doubletalk that con artists known as lawyers use to deceive you. Lawyers would go out of business if everything connected to law was written in COMMON everyday language that the average citizen could understand. People would be able to defend themselves easier and settle their own problems without opportunists making money off those problems.

Occult gurus engrossed in reincarnation, channelling, aliens from outer space, divination, numerology, dowsing and related superstitions also tend to double-talk. One such guru, Shirley MacLaine, has said:

“The cosmic Law spirals the light.”

“Love travels faster than light.”

“It’s a question of frequencies.”

“The vibrational oscillation of nature is quickening.”

And look at this pearl of wisdom:

“All time is happening at the same time.”

It all sounds so “spiritual,” but it makes no sense! It is vague and confusing! Of course, if you have been feeding on falsehood then you will be dazzled and impressed.

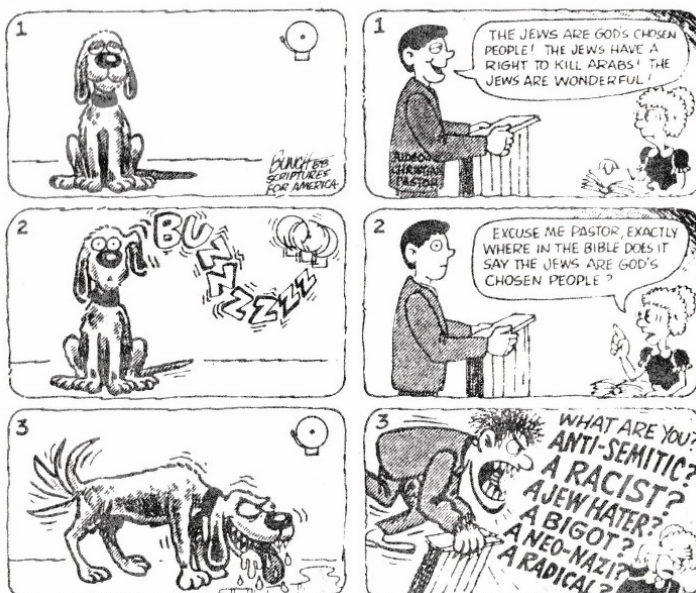
Thus, you will automatically read into the vague words your own meaning, and gullibly accept the impossible.

After Ivan Pavlov discovered, in 1904, that he could get a dog to salivate by turning on a light or ringing a buzzer, the Communist brainwashers took the principle of **CONDITIONED RESPONSE** a step further and discovered that they could get people to respond either positively or negatively by using certain key words and slogans.

CONDITIONED RESPONSE - IT'S STILL WORKING.

THE GREAT RUSSIAN SCIENTIST, PAVLOV, DISCOVERED THAT WHEN HE RANG A **BUZZER**, A HARMLESS POOCHY WOULD TURN INTO A HUNGRY SALIVATING BEAST.....

THE GREAT AMERICAN BRAINWASHERS HAVE DISCOVERED THAT WHEN "**BUZZ**" WORDS ARE SPOKEN, MEEK, MILD-MANNERED JUDEO-CHRISTIANS TURN INTO VICIOUS ATTACK DOGS



Today this type of conditioned response is a standard tactic of suggestion used by the mass media. The modern "light" or ringing "buzzer" comes in the form of words called "buzz words." The modern experimental animal is the human being - the public. The brainwashers are able to give a word a "buzz," which elicits a predetermined

reaction from the public, by forcibly redefining it on a popular level. Examples of words which have a negative “buzz” are: “Neo-Nazi,” “Racist,” “anti-Semitic,” “nigger,” “Right-wing,” and “Ku Klux Klan.” Words with a positive “buzz” are “gay,” “New Age,” and “World Citizen.”

If you are trying to decide if some doctrine, product, news story, or person is truthful, and you hear double-talk or “buzz words,” then beware of the power of suggestion!

If you spot any of these marks of a scam, whether they be in a preacher or the doctrine he is promoting, or in something the government is telling you, or in anything, then keep your guard up! These marks are good signals that tell you the power of suggestion is making an attack on your mind.

PRAYER

“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;” Ephesians 6: 18

Prayer is a powerful weapon against the power of suggestion. This fact becomes apparent in cases of American P.O.W.’s who underwent Communist brainwashing in the 50’s and 60’s. A survey of survivors of Communist brainwashing shows that prayer was closely linked to faith and convictions.

One P.O.W.’s prayer defeated the brainwashing tactic of ISOLATION. While the Reds isolated the P.O.W., tortured him, drugged him and forced him from one confession to another, they constantly told him that he was completely abandoned, out of reach of any aid. Yet, with prayer the P.O.W. defeated this tactic because he knew that he was not isolated from God. He also gained strength when he knew that other people were praying for him.

Today, in .Mystery Babylon, there are many “P.O.W.’s” who are isolated on a broader scale. They are the Christians who, as children, lived in a society where the fundamental principles of Christianity were essentially the main stream of public thought. As the years went by, however, the majority of citizens fell prey to the power of suggestion and gradually shifted from a Christian right-wing standard over to a humanist left-wing standard.

Anti-Christianity is now the mainstream of public thought. Those few Christians who faithfully adhered to pure Christianity, despite the changing philosophies of man, find themselves not fitting in with the humanistic-minded majority. Even in the midst of well-populated cities, truth-loving, patriotic, Christians are spiritually isolated.

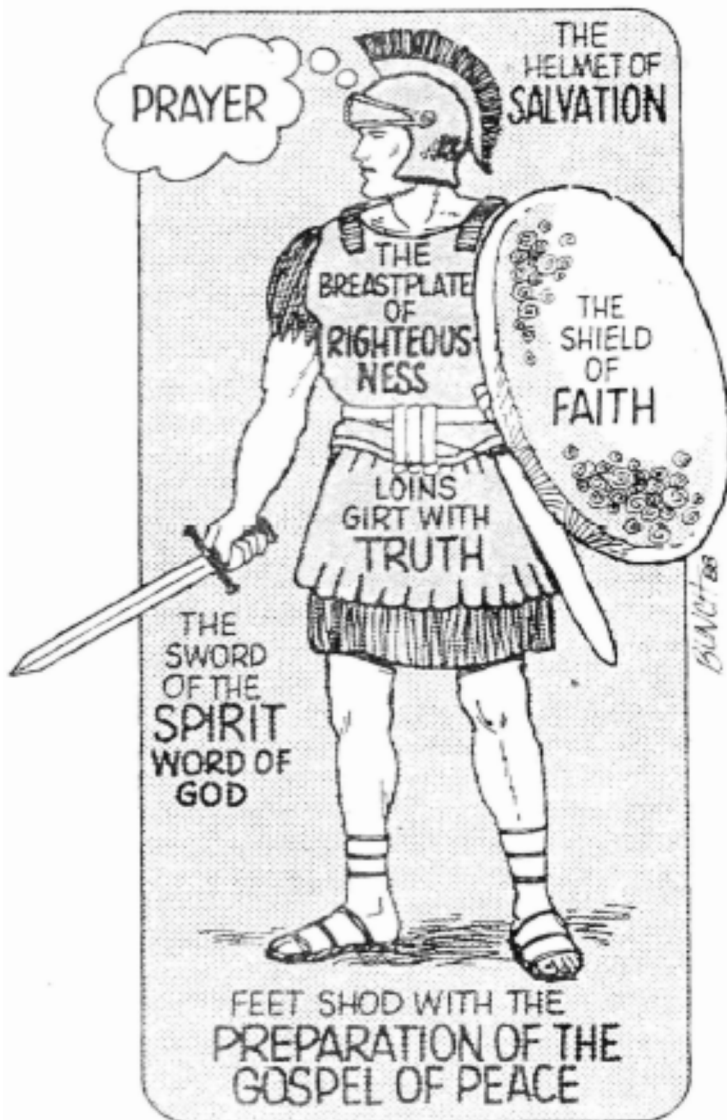
If you find yourself in this predicament, then take a lesson from the P.O.W’s who survived the Communist brainwashing torture years ago. Take up the armor of prayer; stay in touch with God and He will not abandon you.

CONCLUSION

Are you defending your mind against the power of suggestion? Many people are so hypnotized and brainwashed by the “high priests” and “con artists” of Mystery Babylon that they are not even aware there is a war going on. Many are so steeped in superstition that they have been duped into believing they are merely spectators of a war between two armies of supernatural beings (God and angels vs. Satan and demons).

People who believe either of these two ways are “spiritual casualties” in the mind war. They have gone to sleep or have become deluded and confused because they

are not equipped with the armor of God. What is worse, they COOPERATED with the various outlets of hypnotism, brainwashing, and superstition instead of resisting them.



Usually, certain pastors and political prisoners are believed to be the only Christian soldiers who are on the front lines in this spiritual battle with “the rulers of darkness;” but ALL Christian soldiers are on the front lines. We ALL must RESIST, daily, to protect our minds from the deception of our enemies.

In the following passage the Bible assures us that the Christian’s spiritual weapons are stronger than the anti-Christ’s:

“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but MIGHTY THROUGH GOD TO THE PULLING DOWN OF STRONGHOLDS; CASTING DOWN IMAGINATIONS, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every THOUGHT to the obedience of Christ;” 2 Corinthians 10: 3-5.

Notice the words and phrases in this verse which have to do with the mind. “Imaginations” and “thought” are obvious, but “strong holds” also relate to the mind. The Greek word for both of these words is “*ochuroma*,” which means “a castle.” It is used figuratively to mean “arguments” or “beliefs.”

IMAGINATIONS, THOUGHTS, and ARGUMENTS are all weapons of the power of suggestion. Therefore we can see that the armor and weapons of God can help you, as a Christian, defend your mind against these imaginations, thoughts and arguments and conquer the power of suggestion.

“The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, AND LET US PUT ON THE ARMOR OF LIGHT.” Romans 13: 12.



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