

Definitions

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Ancient Wisdom: The supposed laws of the Universe that, when mastered, enable one to control one's own reality—another word for metaphysics or occultism.

Centering/Centering Prayer: Another term for meditation (going deep within your center). A type of meditation being promoted in many mainline churches under the guise of prayer

Christ-Consciousness: Taught by New Agers to be the state of awareness, reached in meditation, in which one realizes that one is divine and one with God and thereby becoming a Christ or an enlightened being.

Contemplative Prayer: Going beyond thought by the use of repeated prayer words.

Contemplative Spirituality: A belief system that uses ancient mystical practices to induce altered states of consciousness (the silence) and is rooted in mysticism and the occult but often wrapped in Christian terminology. The premise of contemplative spirituality is pantheistic (God is all) and panentheistic (God is in all). Common terms used for this movement are "spiritual formation," "the silence," "the stillness," "ancient-wisdom," "spiritual disciplines," and many others.

Creative Visualization: Imaging in the mind, during meditation, what you want to occur and then expecting it to happen. In simple terms, you are creating your own reality.

Higher Self: Supposed God Self within that New Agers seek to connect with through meditation. Also called the Christ Self.

Labyrinths:

According to the international Labyrinth Society it is "a single path or unicursal tool for personal, psychological and spiritual transformation. Labyrinths are thought to enhance_right brain activity."



Don't be fooled!

The labyrinth is just another way to perform contemplative or centering prayer in which all paths supposedly lead to God.

"Within the world of the New Age and the occult, initiation is the principle key used in advancing the student of mysticism along the path of occult learning."

The Labyrinth: A Walk to Life or A Walk to Death Steve Muse - Eastern Regional Watch

"Is the labyrinth inherently New Age or can orthodox Christians embrace it as an acceptable tool for prayer and meditation? The labyrinth has its origins in ancient pagan rituals, most famously at Knossos in ancient Crete, where one was located in the basement of the famous palace where the man-eating Minotaur was said to roam. The mythic hero Theseus journeyed through the labyrinth to slay the creature, which had a human body and the head of a bull. Theseus's double-headed ax was called a "labrys," hence the name. Other labyrinths in ancient cultures were tied to fertility rites and goddess worship." Maze Craze Labyrinths Latest Fad for Spiritual Seekers by Mark Tooley

Lectio Divina: Leading Sheep to a New Level of Consciousness

by Wolf Tracks blog

Lectio Divina is derived from a Latin word that means "holy reading." It is an ancient method of slowly reading the scriptures in a repetitive fashion in order to encounter the presence of God.

Friar Luke Dysinger explains that this "VERY ANCIENT art, practiced at one time by all Christians, is the technique known as lectio divina - a slow, contemplative praying of the Scriptures which enables the Bible, the Word of God, to become a means of union with God."

Mantra: Word or words repeated either silently or verbally to induce an altered state.

Meditation: Meditation is practiced by all major world religions and is often described as an essential discipline for spiritual growth. Yet, like mysticism, there is great diversity in the practice of meditation. While some see meditation as simply spending time thinking quietly about life or about God, others use meditation techniques to experience altered states of consciousness that allow them to have esoteric experiences. In addition, meditation is promoted in secular society for the personal benefits of health, relaxation and improved productivity.

Pantheism: God is all things. The universe and all life are connected in a sum. This sum is the total reality of God. Thus, man, animals, plants, and all physical matter are seen as equal. The assumption—all is one, therefore all is deity.

Panentheism: God is in all things. In panentheism God is both personal and is also in all of creation. It is a universal view that believes God is in all people and that someday all of God's creation will be saved and be one with Him.

Self-Realization: Full contact with the higher self resulting in knowing one's self to be God.

Spiritual Directors International (SDI) is an interspiritual "learning community committed to advancing spiritual direction around the world" with a membership that "consists of people from many nations and many faiths." According to SDI, spiritual direction is "the contemplative practice of helping another person or group to awaken to the mystery called God in all of life," and they respond "to this call by tending the holy around the world and across traditions. Ray Yungen discusses SDI in *A Time of Departing*:

Spiritual Formation: A movement that has provided a platform and a channel through which contemplative prayer is entering the church. Find spiritual formation being used, and in nearly every case you will find contemplative spirituality. In fact, contemplative spirituality is the heartbeat of the spiritual formation movement. –Lighthouse Trails Research.com

The Silence: Absence of normal thought. For those who are not yet aware of what "the silence" is, "the silence", according to Buddhist, Hindu, Theosophist, Christian mystic, etc. literature is a self-induced altered state of consciousness one enters when practicing contemplative "centering" prayer. Referred to by occultists and Christian mystics alike, "the silence" is where individuals say they "commune with the Divine Consciousness", or, the "Divine Self". This is one of the roles of "meditation, concentration and contemplation" in the occult training of Hindu Yogi's and Zen Buddhists. . . In actuality, "the silence" is an altered state of consciousness (Alpha state) whereby human beings, in a self-induced mystical way, interface spiritually with demonic entities that teach pantheistic (All-is-God, God-is-All) and pan-en-theistic (All-in-God) occult philosophy. Occult literature bears this out perfectly and this is why so many practitioners of Contemplative centering prayer end up believing an unbiblical, mysticism-friendly, Eastern occult world-view. Buddhist's, Theosophist's, Hindu's, Jain's, Witches, etc. do not come to the Biblical Jesus through Contemplative prayer. In fact, professing Christians can very easily erode their own personal biblical view of God as a result of practicing the unbiblical Contemplative prayer centering method.

<http://www.spiritual-researchnetwork.com/christianleaderscontemplativeprayer.html>