



False Teacher/False Teaching Update (Study #1)

Hello brothers, sisters, and friends,

Here at 'Foundations of Evangelism, Discipleship, and Biblical Preaching' (FEDBP), we try to expose both false teaching and false teachers - that is, teaching that doesn't line up with God's Word. We also strive to teach God's Word in its full-context, rightly dividing the Word of Truth. Our specific emphasis is to focus on fundamental Biblical teaching, so that we might be able to properly identify and avoid more false teachings while holding onto the Truth, and even more - to be able to identify: false teachers in contrast to honest Bible teachers.

So, with that said, on occasion, I intend to post 'False Teacher Reports'. And I really have 2 objectives here, 2 reasons of why I'm trying to do this.

-- 1) We have (in the US and abroad) so much false teaching and lessening of God's Word and changing of the definitions of God's Word that the majority of us are losing touch with what the Scriptures actually say and mean.

-- And 2) Even if you don't know the particular false teacher these various reports are on, I hope you will take away from it a clearer understanding of God's Word as well as a sharper sense of spiritual discernment to see through the false teaching and/or false teachers around you.

So, with this introductory edition of exposing false teaching and false teachers, next I will need to give you a little background on who is writing this. For those of you who don't know me, my name is Steven Henry and I'm the main writer here at FEDBP. And my goal here (and those on this team here) is not simply to expose error, lies, and where God's Word is being twisted, contrasting them to the pure Word of God. I don't make any money by exposing false teaching or false teachers, and I/we publish all of our teachings and exposes for free. I/we are just active students of the Word of God

and Jesus' teachings, and the more we study them, the more we see His words are very true - all that He says will come to pass. In contrast, false teachers prevent people from getting saved so that they can go to Heaven, and we want to rescue as many as possible. So, my/our motivation behind writing these is that I seek to expose some clever false teaching and masterful and smooth false teachers - before they destroy more people in our country. I/we also write these so that we can all sharpen our spiritual eyesight and grow closer in our relationship with the "**Holy, Holy, Holy**" Creator, Judge and Lord, and get ready to see Him in such a way that we will not be ashamed at His coming (1st John 2:28) or when we stand before Him at His Throne to give an account of our lives (1st Corinthians 3:11-15).

So, now what we have that little intro out of the way, I'd like to look at the false teaching of a local false teacher here in FL, a man named Joel Hunter. Joel Hunter may not seem like a big name and in many parts of this country, his name is not well-known, but he works closely with the false teacher Rick Warren for a one-world religion, 'a god we can all agree on' (which is, of course, an idol). Joel Hunter is also very involved in 'bridging the gap' and 'finding common ground' between the Bible and the Koran and other false religions... Hmmm... Did I already mention that he's a false teacher? I think I did. Well, in case you missed it - he's a false teacher. Yet, with that said, we need to remember that false teachers do not get everything wrong when they teach, they do get a few things correct here and there, but most often the whole thing is so twisted that it's hard to pull any clear and right understanding of God's Word and truth out of it. The best false teachers (not something one should be good at) are able to mix heresy and Bible almost seamlessly so that the average non-Bible-reading church-goer cannot tell the difference.

One of my friends pointed out how they will say a truth and then wrap that truth in a lie, and then they'll give a little more truth and wrap that in a lie... And so on, till they have changed the very definition of the truth we once held dear. Satan never comes out and says who he is or what states his ultimate agenda for each of us, but Jesus did: "**The thief comes only to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. But, I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.**" (John 10:10) Satan is a murderer, a roaring lion trying to destroy people (1st Peter 5:8), yet both he and his 'ministers' are very disciplined in being as nice as they possibly can be. They often use flattery to gain the approval and take advantage over people (Jude 1:16). And, false teachers very often portray themselves as Bible teachers. They portray themselves as the good guys. "**For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.**" (2nd Corinthians 11:13-15) ~ Satan's best leaders do not look or sound bad. The only way you catch them is by comparing their teaching to the literal Word of God and by watching what they do in the background (what they try to hide from the people). As Jesus put it: "**Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly**

they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thorn-bushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them. Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in Heaven..." (Matthew 7:14-21...) ~

Matthew 7 is one very rich chapter, and I just picked the several verses that are specifically on the topic of false teachers. Jesus' words here remind us that with proper spiritual eyesight and by being active in our growing in and understanding God's Word, we can identify false teachers by their fruit. Jesus also said to the false teachers of his day: "**Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of [Biblical] knowledge. You did not enter in [Heaven] yourselves, and those who were entering in you hindered.**" (Luke 11:52) That "key" is the fear of the Lord, based on Job 28:28 Proverbs 1:7, 9:10, etc. ~ "**The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy brings understanding.**" (Proverbs 9:10)

On this verse in Matthew 7, notice that these teachers didn't enter that narrow gate to Heaven themselves, and they actively worked to hinder those who were trying to enter. How? By twisting and lessening God's Word and working to subtly change God's definitions. Jesus talked about this too: "**Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the Kingdom of Heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven.**" (Matthew 5:19) If you study this passage carefully, you'll see that the "**Kingdom of Heaven**" there is all of God's creation - including Heaven and Hell. So the "**least**" category there is Hell, which is what God says many times, here are just a two: Philippians 3:19, Jude 1:4. (Verses where God warns of the hard eternal torment false teachers bring on themselves by twisting His Word).

And as you are reading this, please remember that false teaching and false teachers should be identified in 2 ways: by **both what he does say/teach** about God and His Word, and by **what he does *not* say/teach** about God and His Word. In other words: notice the verses he uses and also note the verses he doesn't use. If the way he interprets the verse(s) he does use contradicts verses he doesn't use, take note. Because that person is either a brother who needs to keep spiritually growing and needs the accountability of someone to graciously point out to him a gap in his understanding and/or teaching, or he's intentionally being a false teacher - teaching some of God's Word with a twist, not consistent with the whole counsel of God's Word.

In contrast, a Biblical teacher must study diligently so that he can rightly "**divide the Word of Truth**" (2nd Timothy 2:15) and teach the "**whole counsel of God**" (Acts 20:27). Will genuine Bible teachers make mistakes? Yes. That is why God established levels of leadership - first - apostles (the Biblical writers), second - prophets (still around today), third - evangelists (still around today), fourth - pastors/teachers (still

around today) [1st Corinthians 12:28 and Ephesians 4] -- all of which must continue to stay accountable to the Head, Jesus the Christ. And when they don't, they need to be called to repentance, or removed from their position of spiritual leadership, and replaced with those who are faithful students and teachers of the Word of God. Accountability is the role of everyone in the body of Christ - keeping each other accountable, in our lives and in our teachings.

Analyzing Joel Hunter

Okay, back to topic of Joel. For those who don't know Joel Hunter, he is the one who led the 'benediction' and 'prayer' at the DNC (Democratic National Convention) in '08. I assume everyone remembers his non-specific 'prayer' ending, but if you don't, here's the clip: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iQyXd33Y1KU>

Please note this quote he said: "*... Now, I interrupt this prayer for a closing instruction. I want to personalize this. I want this to be a participatory prayer. And so, therefore, because we are in a country that is still welcoming all faiths, I would like all of us to close this prayer in the way your faith tradition would close your prayer. So, on the count of three, I want all of you to end this prayer - your prayer, the way you usually end prayer. Ready? 1.2. 3. *chaos* In Jesus' name, Amen. Let's go change the world for good.*" - Anyone who knows something about the Bible should quickly notice that something is terribly wrong with this 'closing' on Joel's 'prayer'. And it becomes, even deeper, this statement of Joel's shows that Joel doesn't believe in the God of the Bible who says that He (Jesus) is The ONLY Way, The ONLY Truth, and The ONLY Life and that no one comes to the Father's presence in Heaven except through Jesus (Yeshua), the Jewish Messiah. There are many verses that would show how Joel contradicted the Bible in that statement. Here are just two: John 14:6 and Acts 4:12. "**I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.**" (John 14:6) So, with that we are left with one of two conclusions: Joel either doesn't read his Bible or he doesn't believe it to be the Truth. Either way, he just showed he is not a Biblical pastor. His 'god' doesn't exist, for God does not accept any idols. "**Is there a God besides Me? Indeed there is no other Rock; I know not one. Those who make an image, all of them are useless, and their precious things shall not profit; they are their own witnesses; they neither see nor know, that they may be ashamed.**" (Isaiah 44:8-9)

As I hope you are starting to see, Joel is in full agreement with the one-world religion. What many don't know is that he's been doing that since at least 1995. And, that's what he's doing with the 'common-ground' talks between those who claim to believe the Bible and those who follow the Koran. Joel is a key member of the global Elites' one-world religion task force. He doesn't say these things by accident - he's actively promoting a one-world religion. And, as you look at and/or read his stuff, you also have to remember that he has different definitions of the carefully picked words he uses. When he talks about 'god', he's not talking about the God and Creator in the Bible. When Joel mentions 'god', he's talking about the 'universalist god' - the genie/god that we can 'all agree on'.

Okay, now that leads me to talking about what Joel did on June 26th, 2011 - on the week that more than 50 one-world-religion 'churches' celebrated a new monster false teaching called 'chrislam'. I'm sure you're just as curious as I was to see what Joel talked about on that day, right? Well, I'll tell you. (If you want to understand what chrislam is, I think this report will help you, here's a link: <http://www.incpu.org/Report-on-Chrislam-FEDBP.htm>)

On the week of the launch of Rick Warren's new monster of a religion that they blasphemously call 'chrislam' (there is nothing Christian about it - it's one-world religion), Joel and his team put on quite a show. And you know what his topic was? How we all need to stop getting mad and get rid of the fear behind our anger. Looks pretty good at first glance, yes? It's not and it won't take long till you see what I mean. So let's dig into what he said and analyze it through the perspective of Scripture.

I could give you the link, but I really don't want anyone to take in lots of Joel's brand of clever, deceitful false teaching, so I don't think I'll post that here. (If you really want the link, email me.) And a friendly caution: If you do look up Joel and his stuff, please read as much of the Word of God as you listen to his stuff - it's masterful and spiritually destructive. And please also note that his books are written by someone else not him - you'll only be able to find what Joel believes by what he says himself.

So, in this speech (it's not a sermon) - you'll notice that he loves to tell stories? Not historical stories from the Bible, but his own stories that have a psychological direction that fits the point he wants to make.

So in this speech, Joel talked about how the root of anger is fear (which is not always the case), and how we need to work through our fears so we can be stable people. He also said that he has a lot of people who get angry at him and he feels sorry for them because they don't know him and how nice he is. He also worked pretty hard to craftily make all anger sound wrong and the summed it up by saying that Jesus isn't angry like that. To better understand this false teacher and his false teaching, let's look at key quotes from this speech, and we'll work from there. At the end of this report, I plan to also show very simply how Joel was working with the 'chrislam' agenda too. So, let's take a look at the subtle false teaching of this clever false teacher.

“Joel says” versus God’s Words:

>> ***"Our charge is not just to go to Heaven. It's to make Earth more like Heaven."***
>> In case you were wondering, yes he said that with a straight face. My question to that is - what verse was that? Many, many times, God's Word is clear that this world is not our home and our business isn't to make this temporary sin-cursed Earth a nicer, better place or to make people nicer, but instead our charge (from our Creator) is to call people to repentance (Acts 3:19) and to make disciples. And, even more to the

point, what Joel means by that is teaching people to be 'better for the society' - be plastic-nice, recycle, 'love' one another (as long as their friendly back), don't offend, don't have radical opinions like taking the Scriptures literally... etc. And how could Joel forget 2nd Peter 3? **"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness."** (2nd Peter 3:9-11)

>> **"Anger is a natural emotion... it's a defense mechanism."** >> Wait! Really? All the time? What about righteous indignation? Good question! And, Joel gets there and twists that too.

-- But God's Word says:

"²¹ Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in Heaven. ²² Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' ²³ And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"

(Matthew 7:21-23)

"²⁰ Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, 'The kingdom of God does not come with observation; ²¹ nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.'"

(Luke 17:20-21)

>> **"And then there's righteous anger. And I just want to do a little disclaimer here on behalf of us all, I just want to say this to us. Most of us feel like our anger is righteous anger. No it's not - come on. Well you say - well God gets angry. Yes, yes He does. The Bible talks about God getting angry. Jesus got angry. Yes He did. you know. (pause) You're not Him. (audience laughs)..."**

-- In case you were wondering, anger about false teaching and false teachers isn't wrong, despite his subtle implications there. Now, Joel should have covered any of the verses that talk about controlling our anger and exercising more self-control, letting go of wrong anger, confessing it and correcting it, etc - but, he didn't. You'll see what he did in the next quotes.

>> **"When you're angry about something, it usually means that you're afraid of something."**

-- First off, there are at least a couple of verses that contradict what he just said. When we sin while angry it's most often not because we're afraid of something, but because we are fighting to get what we want.

And we all need to have Ephesians 4:26-27 hidden in our hearts: **“Be angry, and do not sin’: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil.”** (Ephesians 4:26-27)

And in James 1, we see what leads to this fall: **“Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am tempted by God’; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.”** James 1:13-15

Also, another verse we ought to hide in our hearts is also in James 1: **“So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.”** (James 1:19-20)

-- Okay, so Joel doesn't cover any of those or many other helpful and applicable verses. If you know/knew him personally, like we do, then you would see this next slow shift in altering definitions away from Biblical ones. It's very subtle, but I'll try to note them in the next several quotes. Also, you will see how he continues to chip away people's desire to stand and even fight for the truth, getting them to relax and ignore it all and just become 'kind' and docile. That's psychological and intentional. Yet this response he's trying to conjure up is far different from God who is jealous for His people and Who is furious with those who twist His Word. God wars against the pride of men (James 4:6). He is angry with the wicked every day. (Psalm 7:11) No, God loves truth and holiness, so therefore He hates sin/rebellion and is angry with those who rebel against Him and truth (taking satan's side). Yet, at the exact same time God loves people beyond our comprehension and is not willing that anyone should perish (2nd Peter 3:9), so God (our Creator and Judge) calls all men constantly to repent from their rebellion against Him and to learn of Him and draw near to Him (Acts 17:30). This God - the Creator, Judge and Lord of the Bible, is not the one Joel is describing. And as you continue to look closely at his words (and this speech), I expect you'll continue to see what I mean.

Just a few verses that show how Joel contradicts what God's Word says: **“These six things the LORD hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: a proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil, a false witness who speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren.”** (Proverbs 6:16-19)

“Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.” (Romans 12:9) --- By the way, to **“abhor”** means literally to **“utterly detest or hate”**. That's God's Word.

“Therefore ‘Come out from among them and be separate’, says the Lord. ‘Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you

shall be My sons and daughters', says the LORD Almighty." (2nd Corinthians 6:17-18) --- We should take note - God says clearly in this verse that there are things/actions/desires that according to His Word are "**unclean**". That is God's Word, not mine. And the teaching in this verse goes hand-in-hand with the 7 things God hates. Joel is clever here, but these verses prove God is true and Joel is a liar. Jude 1:4 says it this way: "**For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.**" (Jude 1:4)

>>> **A catch-up note:** Early on in this speech, Joel clearly says that he isn't a counselor/psychologist. And in at least 2 places, he states that he's just a 'pastor' and a 'preacher'. And yet, minutes later, Joel is already twisting the verses to say what he wants them to say, not teaching them literally with Biblical definitions. His presentation style is psychology and not the clear accurate teaching of the Word of God, as you can see. He says that he's not a psychologist - but his own "teachings" prove that he loves psychology more than the Bible, meaning he **is** a psychologist, and **not** a Bible teacher. Joel's words were/are a clever introductory lie, but it's a very blatant one. Hopefully by the end of this report, you will be able to see through many false teachers, Joel and many others. Okay, back to Joel quotes compared to God's Word.

>>> Previous to this next quote, Joel just misused and abused 2 verses [Proverbs 29:11 and Psalm 37:8], and then his next quote is:

>> "**Every point of fear... (pause) You know, when you say 'Why am I angry?' The next question is 'What am I afraid of?' The next question after that is 'What am I not trusting God with in this?' Because if God's in control, then somehow there is an area of life that we are not trusting Him with.**"

-- Did you notice his use of the word 'every'? Here again, he is trying to use psychology and misinterpreting 2 verses to manipulate (as I mentioned above). Yet, God tells us to "**contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.**" (Jude 1:3)

Let's look at this a little deeper. You would have to know and/or talk to a variety of the people whom Joel has hurt and/or driven away from his 'church' to get them to stop them from questioning or challenging his false teaching - for you to really see what Joel is doing here. Joel doesn't like questioning, because his teaching doesn't match the Word of God. And, that is why God clearly tells us to expose false teaching and false teachers. Here is just one verse: "**And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.**" (Ephesians 5:11) Why does God tell us to expose false teaching and false teachers? Because it makes people uncomfortable? No. The truth may be painful sometimes, but it's better to know the truth so we can work with reality and not be surprised when we stand before God. The lies of false teachers do lead people to Hell, from which there is no escape. So, the main point here is this - there are both good fears and a good type of anger (which I explain briefly below). But Joel is trying to craft his words and twist the Word of God to make it appear that all anger and fear is wrong. Just keep that in mind as you read these next quotes.

>> [Joel uses a superhero movie (Spiderman) to make this 'spiritual point'] "*... and the reason I loved it is because that's exactly what the Devil does - he plays on your fears. And when he can elicit all that fear, then you're the one who gets consumed by the evil that follows. See? So, we've just got to.. we've just got to interrupt this whole cycle.*"

-- Um, excuse me, but the Devil does not feed on our fear. Satan uses irrational fears to try to get us to do things, and he uses temptations and pressures to get us to do what we know is wrong. Yet, here Joel just portrayed something totally unBiblical instead of a Biblical perspective. And, even more, Joel used a fictional superhero story to emphasize his point. ~ That's Joel.

>> "*Why do people get angry? I got to tell ya - because it feels good to be angry. Doesn't it feel good..? I mean you just... you... you... From one point you feel helpless. And then you feel: 'I'm taking control'. For a moment. And it just lasts a moment...*"

-- Notice here how he plays up the emotions a little - another example of how he's psychological implying that when we're angry, it's a bad or wrong emotion.

And here's the punch line he's been working up to:

>> "*You know there are a lot of people that yell at me. But, they don't know me. They don't know me. And so people... And I always can learn something - I can learn better - you know, how to come across better, I can always learn something. You know. But, but, honestly, I don't take offense to that. I don't feel bad about myself when people accuse me of stuff - people who don't know me. You know, when people really are angry, it's because they're afraid. And when people are making all these types of... [he made some noise - essentially: blah blah blah] and now, these are people not really from this church. They're from other parts of the country [again, some noise - essentially: yada, yada] And I'm just thinking to myself: 'man, sucks to be you' [audience laughs] I mean can you - you have to live in that. Holy cow. To live in that kind of anger and fear all the time - in that type of scenario that you've got to find somebody and yell at them. Oh my goodness. So, the point is when someone's yelling at you, 90% of the time it's not about you. It's about what's going on inside of them. It's about the fear they have inside of them. You triggered something - had nothing to do with you. You know that old Abbot and Costello film 'slowly I turned...' So, don't get so offended because even though - again, if you listen closely, you can always learn something. This isn't... even things that are said to you are not about you. Are not all about you. It's about what's happening in that person."*

-- Wow - lots to dissect here, and yes his thought was that broken, but the above quote is a direct un-edited quote. So, I won't even cover his use of cuss words, which the Bible defines in this verse: "**Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place [for followers of Christ], but instead let there be thanksgiving.**" (Ephesians 5:4)

Notice in the above quote how Joel doesn't use verses here - not one. Instead, he uses subtle psychology to get us to try to change our perspective on anger and fear as though both 'cycles' are supposedly always wrong, in all situations, in all forms. And yet, to make this point, he uses 2 stories and 2 references to movies (which weren't worth quoting), and yet also in doing so, Joel skips and overlooks many verses. But, he does that all the time, so that's not really new, but it is Joel, and Joel is still wrong.

Do you remember that God has emotions? Do you remember there are things and attitudes and actions that God hates? That word 'hate' is a strong word, and yet God uses it to describe His view on some things. Here's just one passage: We already looked at Proverbs 6:16-19 above.

>> **Please again notice** God hates these activities: a proud look, a lying tongue, hands that murder, a heart that devises evil plans, feet that are quick to do evil, a false witness who lies, and one who sows sinful discord among brothers and family. There are things that make God want to vomit here - there are 7 things that God calls abominations here, but there are others verses that talk about things God hates and that are an abomination to Him (Deut. 7:25 - idols; Proverbs 11:1 - schemes for stealing; Deut. 18:10-12 - witchcraft; Romans 1:18-32 - various rebellion, including all forms of sexual immorality). God is not wrong in His love of holiness and righteousness and hatred of evil and sinful rebellion. It is man who is wrong. **"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it? I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings."** (Jeremiah 17:9) ~ **"There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death."** (Proverbs 14:12)

Now, with those verses in mind - a question for you: Is God insecure? Does He have some 'fear' of something that drives this Holy and Righteous Anger? Or does He love Truth, Holiness, and perfection so much that He absolutely hates what is evil and becomes angry with those who do things that are evil? God's Holy anger isn't driven by fear, but by a love for truth, and a love for people wanting to rescue them from the self-destruction of their rebellion, as well as from the one who is bent on their eternal destruction and separation from God - satan, the devil.

And, there are healthy fears. The fear of getting burned teaches us not to put our hand on a hot stove and not to get too close to an open fire. The fear of intense pain stops us from standing in the path of a moving vehicle or train. There are good fears - these are just two of them. A good fear stops us from doing something that will hurt us, physically or spiritually. The **"fear of the Lord"** is one such healthy fear. That is why God calls it a holy fear (Hebrews 12:28-29) and the beginning of wisdom (Proverbs 1:7, 9:10).

More Joel quotes:

>> [notes: Joel then went on to talk about how our whole culture is made to get us angry and how they make all this money and get high ratings when we get angry

about what they say - but, I'll spare you those quotes, for the sake of time and length of this report.] >> [after using another useless story about horse racing, Joel used it to make this point]

>> **"I tell you that for a very important reason. You can't win with the other guy's horse. We are not to use anger and fear to win. That's not who we are. That's not who Jesus Christ was."**

-- Wow. So Joel, then what Bible and what Jesus are you referring too? Because Jesus said this: **"And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into Hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him!"** (Luke 12:4-5) That's Jesus' own words. Either you agree with Him or you're contradicting His Word. Oh, and by the way, Jesus brought out fear and hatred too (Matthew 26:4) - do you know why? Jesus accurately preached against sinful rebellion and brought conviction on the hypocrites, and some people literally hated Him for it. Some hated Him so much, that rather than repenting, when they had the opportunity, they murdered Him (Matthew 27:1). Yet Joel makes no mention of that here. You see how subtle his psychology and careful crafting of his words are as he is leading us in trying to make us think that all anger and fear are wrong is? Yet, simply put, Joel again is clearly wrong.

Remember, there are things that God says to us that we should fear and run from (3 key examples):

-- Immorality - **"Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body."** (1st Corinthians 6:18)

-- Idolatry - **"Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry."** (1st Corinthians 10:14)
"For the love of money is a root of all [kinds of] evil... But you, O man of God, flee these things..." (1st Timothy 6:11)

-- Witchcraft - **"There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. For all who do these things are an abomination to the LORD, and because of these abominations the LORD your God drives them out from before you. You shall be blameless before the LORD your God."** (Deuteronomy 18:10-13)

>> God does not hate people like we do, but He does hate sin and He hates it when people taking the side of satan in rebellion against God, Who is our all-loving, beautifully Holy, Holy, Holy Creator and Judge. The solution to get right with God from having been in witchcraft, is to repent of it - leave it behind, burn the books and never go back. That's all God's looking for. If you'd like to know more, just message me. (Steven.H3(at)gmail.com) [(replace "at" with @)].

>> **“We have to understand that we’re here for a constructive purpose not a destructive purpose. We’re here to lift up, not to put down. We’re here to create Heaven [on Earth], no matter how much Hell we’ve been through.”**

-- Wow. Hmm... Here, Joel is starting to sound a lot like another false teacher with the same first name - Joel Osteen. Yet, God’s Word says: **“Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: ‘The Lord knows those who are His,’ and, ‘Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.’”** (2nd Timothy 2:19)

Yet, Jesus reminds us that if we follow Him, those who love sin will hate us. ~ **“If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.”** (John 15:18-20)

“Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword... [for those who follow Christ] a man’s enemies will be those of his own household.” (Matthew 10:34,36)

“Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works [obedience to Christ] which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.” (1st Peter 2:11-12)

“You are My friends if you do whatever I command you... These things I command you, that you love one another. If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before [it hated] you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.” (John 15:14, 16-20)

Those who become genuine followers of Christ will feel the hatred of those who walk in rebellion to God, but will be able to find God’s grace to get through it and to find His strength and love to show to them, as we call them to repentance from their rebellion against God.

>> **“Jesus Christ took the pain. He didn’t impart the pain.”**

-- Did you catch that? That’s some smooth-talking deceit right there. Yes, Jesus is the perfect example of turning the other cheek. But He isn’t the ‘mr. nice guy’ that Joel is portraying that Jesus was. Jesus showed absolutely perfect love - rebuked with perfect love, exposed false teachers with perfect love, taught profound and

convicting truth with perfect love. That's different from what Joel is describing. Remember what Jesus' disciples said about Jesus' teaching? **“Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?”** (Luke 24:32) When God speaks, it doesn't make us feel warm and fuzzy, but compelled to grow in more obedience to Him and to become more like Him. If the teachers we are listening to do not bring a strong conviction of sin and compel us to walk in more obedience, then we need to recognize they are not faithfully following Christ.

>> **“Our family is the one that makes it better to live in the world - not scarier. And we have in this congregation - no matter where you are. Whether you are online on any of the sites right now, you can go and I bet we would have political worldviews that would radically differ. I mean radically differ. Do you know what? It doesn't matter. Because our unity is in Jesus Christ. That's our identity - that who we are. And we may think that each other is crazy. It doesn't matter, we're still family. All those differences - all those opinions are only secondary. Because our unity is in Jesus Christ and we have the same mission, and that is to extend the Kingdom of God in this world. So, all that - you can argue all you want, you can get mad all you want. If you, if you need to - I don't think it's constructive. But, you know. But, I'm just saying - you've got people in your family who think you're crazy. And you know their crazy. But, they're family. They're family. So, that's what we extend to the world.”**

-- Notice how he takes blood family relationship and tries to extend that to spiritual family relationships - yet with no Biblical references at all. Why is that? Because, he's using psychology to try to adjust your and my thinking, rather than just literally teaching the whole counsel of God's Word. I'll explain more in a minute.

>> **“And I've got to tell you, anger is not just a dismissive, dismissed... um, um... characteristic that we have. 'Ah, well you know everyone gets angry.' Anger causes real spiritual and relational damage. Our job in this world is not to win. Our job in this world is to build relationships.”**

-- Three verses come to mind here that expose the subtle lies he just said:
“The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise.”
(Proverbs 11:30)

“Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men.”
(2nd Corinthians 5:11)

“And on some have compassion, making a distinction; but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.”
(Jude 1:22-23)

“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise [return], as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.” (2nd Peter 3:9)

-- Joel ignores that there are 2 families on this Earth - satan's family and God's family. We are by choice in satan's family, but God calls all of us to come to His grace, repent of our rebellion and become adopted into His wonderful family - quite literally to turn from sin to Christ. Yet, Joel is trying to blurr the lines between these two families. Those in God's family will be will God forever and ever - that'll be wonderful! But, those who are in satan's family will be in Hell, not Heaven - forever and ever (horrible, with no escape, ever). It is those who are in satan's family that we need to compel to repent and turn to Christ away from their life of rebellion.

>> ***“We’ve read the end of the book - we’ve already won.”***

-- Okay very subtle error there ~ Here are just 2 verses he just contradicted:

“Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.”

(Philippians 3:12)

“Then one said to Him, “Lord, are there few who are saved?” And He said to them, Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able.” (Luke 13:23-24)

-- Those who do not commit their lives to follow Christ and are growing in obedience to Jesus, and have not been cleansed by His precious blood - have not won. Only those who know and follow Christ can walk in that victory over sin, growing in purity so He can use us.

>> ***“And so, don’t worry about winning. Our job is to build relationships. Relationships with God and relationships with each other.”***

-- Notice it? The "god" Joel is talking about isn't the real God, but an unBiblical one. You have to keep Joel's unBiblical definitions in mind - always. Otherwise, you'll be confused by what he says.

>> ***“So, therefore anger absolutely sabotages relationships. It does damage to you. It does damage to other people. And so.. And so, for that reason, Jesus talks very plainly about anger in Scripture. He says in Matthew chapter 5, starting in verse 21... This is what Jesus says. ‘You have heard that the ancients were told - you shall not commit murder. Whoever commits murder will be liable to the court. But, I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty of the court.’”*** >> Oh yay! Joel finally quoted Scripture... Oh, wait. Stop right there. He carefully skipped over a very important little phrase in that passage. Let's look at what it says in the NKJV: **“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.’ But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment.”** (Matthew 5:21)

Do you see what Joel left out? One little phrase that Joel thinks is unnecessary, but it's in the literal Greek and it's a very important little phrase. The little phrase

“**without a cause**” is a very important phrase that Joel cannot explain away. Righteous indignation is not wrong anger. As we’ve already briefly looked at in verses above. ~ Joel skips over inconvenient verses and/or uses versions of the Bible that say what he wants them to say, often. Many times (even in this report), we and others have caught Joel trying to make the Bible say what he wants it to say, rather than teaching what it says, for our instruction and spiritual maturity.

>> Joel continues:

*“... ‘**whoever says to his brother, ‘You good-for-nothing,’ shall be guilty before the supreme court...**’ How many times do you hear that voice? ‘These people’. ‘These vermin’. ‘These traitors are destroying our way of life. They’re destroying our country. They’re destroying everything we hold...’ How often do you hear that? This is what Jesus says about that. How often do you say that? This is what Jesus says about that voice: ‘... shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, ‘You fool...’ Raca is the word here - it means ‘you moral idiot’. That’s what the.. that’s what the word means. [*single laugh from the audience, so he laughs*] I know it’s funny, but... ‘Whoever says Raca’ - You moral idiot. You... It says: ‘shall be guilty enough to go into fiery hell.’ ”*

-- He does a poor job here. And the way he describes this is still a part of his pushing his whole point from the beginning - all anger and fear are wrong. And yet, he again contradicts the Bible. And Joel left out a word there too: the word ‘the’ in the phrase “**the fiery Hell**”. That’s important, and you’ll see why in just a minute.

Watch this next one. You remember I mentioned that you really need to watch the definitions of the words of false teachers, including Joel. Here is another example of why - Joel is about to redefine Hell. Yes, you read that right. Watch as Joel redefines the definition of Hell - ie. the physical place of eternal torment that God created for satan and His demons (Matthew 25:41)

>> *“**That’s serious business. Do you know why it’s so serious? Because that’s exactly where it takes us. It takes us into a Hell [points to the inside of him] where we’re always mad at the world. Nobody ever measures up. And, and the direction of life isn’t going in the right way. You’re talking about the isolating fires of somebody who wants to judge others, and somebody who stays alone and disappointed all their life. This doesn’t mean that you can’t be saved and you won’t go to ultimately to Heaven after you die. This means that you are in Hell when you’re here - if you’re angry all the time.**”*

-- Did you catch that? Jesus’ words are not describing some word picture of pain and anguish on the inside of us. Here is one example:

“But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” (Matthew 8:12) Jesus’ words are describing an eternal physical place from which there is no escape and in which there are flames, weeping and gnashing of teeth and eternal torment.

Here is what God says in Revelation 19: “... **the lake of fire burning with brimstone... The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the Lake of Fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever... And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the Lake of Fire.**” (Revelation 19:20; Revelation 20:10, 15)

-- Those are just 2 of many verses in the Bible about Hell - and Jesus talked about Hell more than He talked about Heaven. Yet, Joel carefully picks his words to try to twist God’s Word to make it say that Hell is not a real place, and in doing so, Joel contradicts Jesus Himself. Why does Joel twist God’s Word this way? Because he has an agenda that the Word of God doesn’t support.

This is a key message by Joel on tolerance toward all religions and to use psychology to make people relax and stop being so fussy about truth and absolutes, because Joel doesn’t believe in absolutes. But, God’s Word is black and white - there are absolutes and people who twist God’s Word, like Joel, will spend forever in Hell, unless they repent.

>> Joel: **“And let me ask you why? For what? Is it changing anything? Is it helping anything? Is it making your life better? More pleasant? No. So, let’s kinda give it up. And let’s do 2 things to give it up. First off all I want you to keep track of this week - how often you get angry and why. And then ask yourself this question - ‘What am I afraid of here?’ ‘Is this something I can do anything about?’ And if you continue to dwell on something you can’t do anything about, you’ve got to give that over to God...”**

-- So, did he end on a verse from Scripture? Nope. What did he end on? Worldly-minded, flesh-pleasing, self-centered psychology. He wants you and I to believe his psychology that contradicts God’s Word, so he’s repeating, just so we can remember it. However, what Joel should be quoting is God’s Word: **“So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.”** (Isaiah 55:11) God’s Word changes lives - our words don’t, and worldly psychology only hardens hearts in sinful rebellion against Him. The reason pagan, demonic psychology hardens hearts in sin is simple: it is man using rebellious 'logic' and lukewarm definitions to 'solve' man’s problems. God’s Word is the opposite of pagan demonic psychology: it uses God’s Holy definitions, and God’s very Words to convict means hearts and call them to turn from their favorite sins and rebellions, to give their lives wholly to God in an eternal covenant through the cross: the *“Covenant of the Cross”* (Matthew 26:28; Mark 14:24; 1st Corinthians 11:25).

Remember, Jesus said this of the false teachers of His day: **“Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for so did their fathers to the false prophets.”** (Luke 6:26) The word “woe” in the Bible is actually a spiritual judgment. In 2nd Timothy 4, God says this: **“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up**

for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.” (2nd Timothy 4:3-4)

-- That's Joel: tickling itching ears and telling them that their sin really isn't that big a deal to God...

A more personal question: How many false teachings have you fallen for? And how many false teachers have fooled you? From time to time, all of us have a slick false teacher who has confused us. But, all of us - you, me - can get free from these false teachers and find the real Jesus, but we've got to really want the truth so we don't lose it again.

Jesus explained this as His remedy to false teachers: **“For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind.”** (John 9:39) God makes it very clear that those who teach a false gospel bring an actual curse on themselves in doing so - one that will last for eternity, if they don't repent. **“But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.”** (Galatians 1:8-9)

If this study/report and these verses convicts you, then I hope you'll keep reading, because I'd like to show you verses of Jesus' words where He explains how we can be saved and how we can know 100% sure we are going to Heaven.

Conclusion

Okay, first note - how does Joel's message here dove-tail into the 'chrislam' message? Simple - Joel was trying to erode people's God-given cautions against false religions and false 'gods', like Islam, and trying to adjust his hearer's thinking to believe that all our anger and fear is irrational. Yet, Islam (and the Vatican and big bankers who sponsor it) needs to be watched, very closely. Also, in this speech, Joel tried pretty hard to help people to soften their love for the truth of God's Word, which opens people to embracing all kinds of false teaching.

So, from what we've seen, Joel was working with the same agenda, just didn't mention 'chrislam' on this morning. So, that's a pretty good snapshot of Joel, his story-telling, 'feel-good, be happy' emotions, pagan demonic psychology, clever false teachings, and his unBiblical definitions. His deceptive message is smooth isn't it? And, sadly many fall for it.

Back to what we said at the beginning of this report, Joel Hunter believes that people of all religions will be in Heaven. Did I mention that he's a part of the one-world-religion global leadership? (Like 'ecumenical church' kind of stuff). Yet, Joel is clearly contradicting the Jesus of the Bible and redefining the definitions of the words he's using - a very subtle method of false teaching - a little truth wrapped in a lie. And, I hope as you've read this report, that has become more and more clear. As you can

see, studying Jesus' actual words here will protect us from being fooled by smooth-talking false teachers like Joel, so that our soul's may be saved and we may continue to grow as genuine followers of Christ with an active and genuine relationship with the Living God, our Creator and Judge. So, let's look at some of what Jesus said that will help us re-establish a Biblical perspective. In John 14, Jesus said: "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." (John 14:6) One path - through Christ - no other way. No other way, including Muslims who don't repent, Mormons that don't repent, Catholics, Freemasons, Protestants, Lutherans, Episcopalians, Baptists, and non-denominationalists who don't repent and become genuine followers of Christ. There's only one way, it's through Christ - the real Christ of the Bible. And notice - it's not on our terms, but on His terms: "... **but by Me.**".

Let me give you the literal translation of this verse really quick for it emphasizes this point even better. "**Jesus is saying to Him: 'I AM the Way, and the Truth, and the Life. No one is coming toward the Father, if not through Me.'**" That is where Joel errs. Joel really wants an all-friendly 'god' and not the God of the Bible. Joel wants to explain away God's consequences for sinful rebellion instead of getting ready to meet his maker one day. And to clarify it further, Jesus more clearly defined this narrow path through Him. Here are 3 passages. "**Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.**" (Matthew 7:13-14)

-- Please notice 2 phrases of Jesus' words: "**many go in by it [wide gate, broad path]**" - many go in by the wide path, the easy path, the path that allows you to bring all of your and my selfish self-interests, pride - ego, our vain and short-sighted temporary earthly wants and pleasures, laziness and lust for whatever makes us happy. But, notice where that broad path goes: "**... broad is the way that leads to destruction...**" Don't go there - it leads to eternal torment. Instead find out what about Jesus' narrow path that "**leads to life and there are few who find it.**" Did you catch that? Not only do few enter it, but few even find this path that leads to eternal life. Why?

There are 2 reasons:

- 1) they are not looking in the right place, and
- 2) they are not willing to give up their own rebellious beliefs and selfish wants so that they might be saved from Hell and be in Heaven with God's wonderful personality and presence forever.

Okay we've looked at one passage, but we need to look at 2 other passages to get what Jesus said. "**Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in Heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'" (Matthew 7:21-23)**

-- Again, please note the word “many”. This is Jesus talking. This is still part of His sermon on the Mount of Olives in Israel. Just because you or I say that we know God doesn’t mean that He knows us. And just because we say that we love Jesus doesn’t mean that we are His children or adopted by Him out of Satan’s family into God’s family. And just because we go to church, sing some superficial ‘I love you’ songs, and hear a peppy message that makes us feel good - doesn’t mean that we are saved. Notice these people were doing much more than the average church-goer. They were doing miracles and healings (real ones, not fake like most of what Benny Hinn and others like him do).

These people that Jesus was talking to were apparently teaching God’s Word, probably pretty well. And, even more, they were doing something that almost no church-goers today ever do - casting out demons. Most people today love witchcraft so much, because they can use the demons to get just about whatever they want without consequences (or so they think...) So, they’d never cast out demons from people and free them from that evil oppressive bondage. Yet, the people Jesus is referring to here will have done that - they will have freed people from the oppressive bondage of demon-possession.

And yet, look at what Jesus says to them: **“I never knew you.”** Ouch. And He says further: **“Depart from Me...!”** I believe these are some of the most chilling words in all of Scripture, because many walking and talking all around us will hear these words. But, wait. Why would Jesus say this to them? Look at Jesus’ last few words in verse 23: **“you who practice lawlessness.”** And, there we find the catch. These people thought they could do a few trinkets for God and live for themselves, only to find Jesus say to them - Depart, I never knew you, because you practice and enjoy lawlessness. >> If my cautions here cause you concern and help you to realize that you are not 100% sure that you’d be in Heaven - good! There’s still hope for your soul! Because, those who are genuinely saved are growing obedience to Christ’s commands (John 14:15, 24) and they have the confirmation of the Holy Spirit that they are saved (Romans 8:16).

“Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves.” (2nd Corinthians 13:5) So, don’t stop examining yourself and praying, pleading with God to save you until you know you are saved, because if and when you become saved, the difference will be clear - not on the outside (at first) but on the inside. **“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”** (2nd Corinthians 5:17) And another verse of comfort is in Romans 8 - **“The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.”** (Romans 8:16) ~ Those who are genuinely saved have the Holy Spirit inside of them and He confirms that we are saved, as well as teaching us daily how to be closer to God and walk in more obedient fellowship with Him. In John 14, Jesus gave a quick test for us to check ourselves by: **“If you love Me, keep My commandments... He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father’s who sent Me.”** (John 14:15, 24)

Now, with those passages in mind, we still need to see one more passage that sums up Jesus' teaching here and helps further clarify it. "When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, 'Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.'" (Mark 8:34-38)

Our new life in Christ has to start with one word: repentance.

"Do you think that they were worse sinners than all other men who dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish." (Luke 13:5)

"Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord." (Acts 3:19)

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already... And this is the condemnation, that the Light [*Jesus*] has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than the Light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the Light and does not come to the Light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the Light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God." (John 3:16-21)

Another helpful one is found in 1st John 1:

"This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no shade of evil at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us [our] sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1st John 1:5-9)

So, what should you start with? First thing is you and I have to repent of our rebellion against God. That's where it starts. We have to hate how we've done that we know is wrong without caring that it's wrong. That's both a starting point and a continual process. And, we need to ask God to teach us His ways and re-arrange our lives - making His Word our priority and spending quality time in it - daily. Next, we will need to learn to talk to Him about everything and work on a perspective that includes

Him in every detail of your life - holding nothing back. And, we'll want to find a group of believers whom we can talk about the Bible and how to please God in the details of life, as well as removing friends who try to distract us from pleasing Christ or at least diminish their influence in our life. ~ These things will take time. But, as you continue to grow in these things, you will see God molding you into His image, and you will also see that He can use you because you, especially as you are trying to carefully and intentionally grow in obedience to Him and His Word - confessing when you see you're wrong, and starting again, doing what you know is right.

If this encourages you, you're welcome to share it or message me. If this false teacher report has raised many questions for you and you'd like to get some answers, just email me: Steven.H3(at)gmail.com [replace "at" with @]. I'd love to hear from you and I'll be glad to help you as best as I can.

Also, a good next step for you, is for you to spend time reading the book of 1st John. If you don't know where that is, check the index - it's one of the last books in your Bible. Read it every day for a month. And ask God to show you more about Who He is, how you're really doing, and how you can draw closer to Him and grow in obedience to Him and His Word.

Take care, servants of Christ,
Steven Henry, and the FEDBP team

This report was done by the FEDBP team (Foundations of Evangelism, Discipleship and Biblical Preaching). If you'd like to get more of these, just email me:
Steven.H3(at)gmail.com [replace "at" with @]. ~

If you appreciated this and you'd like to share it. You're welcome to share it, though I'm requesting that you don't make any major changes in the text above, if you leave my name and contact info on it.

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Thank you. ~ a growing servant/life-slave of Jesus, SH

