

Trance Evangelism

Sermon By John A. Dowie¹

AMONG the many strange things, too numerous to mention, which we have seen in this strange land, one of the strangest and most absurd and yet most dangerous forms of antichristian error is that of "trance evangelism."

A Mrs. Woodworth, calling herself "an eldress of the Church of God of Indiana," has appeared on this coast, and is at present preaching in the city where we are writing, Oakland, Cal. Many Christians, and especially those who have received the doctrine of healing through faith in Jesus, have been attracted to her meetings by the widely-published statements which she has made that the Lord is using her in the ministry of Diving healing, and our attention was first directed to her by some of those who had been blessed under our own ministry. Rejoicing, as we heartily do, in hearing of any whom the Lord is thus using, we visited her tent, and have given much attention to her work. We know of not a single case of Divine Healing in this city through her agency, and have asked again and again concerning those whom she publicly alleged were healed, and in every case have found that they were not healed. Some are dead, some are dying, and, so far as we have been able to ascertain, we say before the Lord that we do not know of one case of healing, and we bare made close inquiry. Recently little claim has been made, and little attention seems to have been given, in her mission to Divine Healing.

Reading her own writings and listening to her own words, we say emphatically that she is ignorant of the very first principles of the truth of God concerning the doctrine to Divine Healing. neither understanding the teaching of God's Word concerning the nature and origin of disease, nor the remedy for this, as for all other evil, to be found in Christ our Lord. We also say that, reading closely what she has written, and listening earnestly to what she has said, we have failed to recognize that she is teaching the doctrine of Salvation by faith through grace in Christ. The work of true repentance for sin in the heart of the sinner and the setting forth of the Atoning Sacrifice of Jesus as Saviour, and justification by grace through faith in Him alone, are manifestly untaught by her. She quotes in her biography with approval reports of her own meetings which must be shocking to every true Christian who reads them. At page 376 of her "Life and Experience," in large type, she quotes the words, in giving a description of a baptism at Anderson: "WASHING AWAY SIN. The turbid waters of White River as the soul-cleansing element. Singly and in pairs and in bunches, men, women and children are made pure. 105 persons received the rites of baptism by immersion." And further on, at page 381, under the appropriate heading of "Bubbles," she quotes these words: "The load of sin, floating down the river jarred the foundation of the Moss Island Mill."

Any true Christian will at since perceive that such statements as these indicate, not Salvation by faith in Christ and regeneration by the inward work of the Holy Spirit, but cleansing through the mere outward ordinance of baptism, which, however important in itself it may be, and is, can only be an outward act of obedience without in itself possessing any spiritual cleansing power.

Indeed, the Gospel of Salvation and of Healing plays little part in the work in this “trance evangelist,” for everything is subordinated to the continuous craving, croaking cry for “power,” and to a declaration over and over again that that “power” is present, “the very same power that came on Pentecost! “Hence she is continuously declaring that men and women must come up within the reach of her touch and influence to there confess their sins and receive the “power.” She declares this power “is the power of the Holy Ghost, and is in accordance with Joel 2:28, 29 and Acts 2:16-18, and women of all ages and children and young people of both sexes have come under “the influence” as she calls it, and trances, dreams, visions and revelations “from the Lord” are alleged to have been given to these, but in not one single case are the allegations supported by the facts.

Knowing the facts intimately, as we do, and having in our ministry given much attention to this subject, we say unhesitatingly that these so called “divine revelations” are but shameful diabolical delusions, and it is painful in the extreme to see how many of God’s children are being led away into darkness by this “eldress,” whom we can only compare fitly with one spoken of in the message to the Church at Thyatira, in the second chapter of the Book of the Revelation, twentieth verse, who is referred to as “that woman Jezebel who calleth herself a prophetess.”

On two occasions we tested the nature of these alleged divine trances. In one we found a woman extended upon a bench, called by them “the altar,” who was said to be “under the power.” and truly she was under the power of the devil; for when we laid our hands upon her in the name of the Lord Jesus and lifted up her hands, we found that she was perfectly sensible and conscious of surrounding things. Accordingly, we whispered in her ear, “You are in no trance. In the name of the Lord Jesus get up,” which in a few seconds she did. The following day, in another case, we saw an aged lady extended upon her back on the damp straw of the tent, surrounded by a crowd of merely curious people for the most part, in a state of apparent unconsciousness, yet struggling, writhing, and screaming petitions to God for unconverted friends. This we were told was another manifestation of the “power;” but, as we looked at that aged sister of Christ, with her nerves wrought up to the highest point of tension, and the veins standing like whip-cords on her brow, perspiring in her agony, we felt once more that this was the power of the devil. Accordingly, quietly entering into the midst, we, asked those, who were holding the struggling victim to let her go, and, breathing first an unspoken prayer to God that He would give us power in Jesus’ name to cast out the evil spirit that was possessing her, we bent down. Quietly placing our right hand upon her brow and seizing her extended left hand without left hand, we said audibly, “In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ be perfectly still,” and in a few moments she was still and lay without movement of any kind. We then caused her at once to be lifted up and seated in a chair. In a few moments she regained consciousness, and then, exhorting her in a few words to remember that she would not be heard for her much speaking, but quietly to rest in the Lord for her dear ones, we left her perfectly calm and composed, and have heard that she has remained so ever since. Not more than a minute had elapsed after this incident when an impertinent message reached us from one of the female, helpers who travel with the “trance evangelist” requesting us to keep our “hands off God’s

work.” Quietly saying it was the devil work in Jesus’ name we had been destroying, we left the tent.

Subsequent visits, and many other facts coming to our knowledge, have convinced us more deeply that this is indeed the only right verdict, and that we are face to face on this coast with one of the most dangerous forms of antichristian error coming in the guise of Christian teaching. We therefore give warning to all the members of the American Divine Healing Association throughout this coast, and to all to whom our words may come, that, having fully considered the importance of the statement, we say, Beware of this false prophetess, who, in the name of Jesus, is, like her of Thyatira, teaching and seducing God’s servants. She is, we believe, leading many into paths where they will drink the cup of devils, and find themselves at last to be in company with others who also speak lies in the name of Jesus, such a Christian Scientists, Spiritualists, Free Lover: Papalists and others, “led captive by Satan at his will.”

It is our purpose, to deliver lectures on this subject on Thursday, January 23d, in Hamilton Hall, Oakland, and on Lord’s Day, January 26th, in the large Saratoga Hall, Geary Street between Hyde and Larkin, San Francisco; but these words of warning we have felt it our duty to place on record so God’s children shall take heed. “Blessed is he, that watcheth and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame.” Rev. 16:15.

(END)

1. Dowie, John A., “Trance Evangelism”, Leaves of Healing Volume 1 No. 5-7, October-December, 1890 pg. 99

She had buried all six of known as the Trance Evangelist, but now known as the Mother her children and her two husbands. Her first husband openly of the Pentecostal movement. harassed, abused, betrayed, and persecuted her, and then died Woodworth Etter (1844-1924) lived and preached in an era after she divorced him; the second she described as the greatest when women were required to be silent in church, and to submit love of her life and a gift from God. Evangelist. 1.6K likes. Destroying modernism and restoring tradition since 2008 A.D. Evangelist - Mystification (In Memory of Mark Shelton). We are proud to share this moving tribute to Mark Shelton, two years after his passing. Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/evangelistmetal> Bandcamp: <https://> We are proud to share this moving tribute to Mark Shelton, two years after his passing. Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/evangelistmetal> Bandcamp: <https://> Evangelist. March 27. People magazine featured the evangelist in an article about public access television. Feature articles about the renowned transgender preacher have appeared in many local newspapers. Sister Paula continues as a regular guest on the Sir Darryl internet Radio Experience, the most listened to program on the internet. Tagged. #progressive #trance #psy-trance #the electronic evangelist #valley of trance. Escapism influenced progressive psy-trance mixtape journey that will take you away! Comments. Post comment.