

WATCHING THE WATCHERS

Tonight I'm going to do something a little different. I'm going to examine the errors of the "watchmen". People tend to look to the watchmen ministry for discernment regarding the errors all the "wolves" (*false prophets and teachers*) are introducing into the churches. The watchmen are always watching false prophets and false teachers, but who is watching *them*? They are watching everyone and they are exposing anyone they feel is dangerous but nobody is watching them. They say they have been called of God to expose the error that is flooding the churches, but who will expose *their* error?

You see, we tend to think that once someone becomes a watchmen ministry, they no longer need to be watched. People tend to think that the doctrines and the views of the watchmen are correct—that's what gives them *the authority* to be a watchmen. I mean, after all, how can you sit as judge and jury over the teachings of other ministries if your doctrine is just as screwed up as theirs is? Can you imagine someone like Benny Hinn or Kenneth Copeland setting themselves up watchmen ministries? What a joke!

So there's an air of legitimacy that just sort of goes along with the watchmen ministry. People tend to trust you. They tend to give you the benefit of the doubt. In other words, nobody really suspects the watchmen of being "wolves". Nobody really suspects the watchmen are promoting false doctrine. But the fact is, many of those who have become watchmen are promoting doctrines that are no less dangerous to God's people than the error the wolves are promoting.

We need to understand something about "Discernment Ministries"—the vast majority of them are Fundamentalists; which means they are teaching error just like Benny Hinn and Rick Warren are teaching error. They are *just as wrong* in many areas of doctrine as the wolves they are exposing. The errors they have embraced cause them to have a *warped* view of what's happening right now; and many times they lay the blame for the current apostasy at the feet of Pentecostalism, even the old Pentecostalism that was thoroughly grounded in the Scripture. Many of them think the current apostasy is happening in large part because Pentecostals seek to be led by the Spirit, not by the Bible.

Let me explain the *end result* of the Fundamentalist world view. First of all, virtually all Fundamentalist apostasy watchers believe in Eternal Security. Personally, I can't think of one that doesn't. If there is one, I'd be interested in knowing his name.

Secondly, virtually all Fundamentalist apostasy watchers believe it's *impossible* for a genuine Christian to have a demon, or to live under the influence of a demon. They believe God drives all the demons out of a person's life when they truly repent and accept the gospel.

Thirdly, virtually all Fundamentalist apostasy watchers believe the gifts of the Spirit *ceased* when the Cannon of Scripture was closed, or at the end of the Apostolic Age. So God no longer gives believers the gift of speaking in tongues or prophesy.

If you speak in tongues or prophesy, Fundamentalist apostasy watchers view this as something *demonic*, since God could not have possibly given you those gifts. If they think it's demonic—and they do—then they have to believe you *have* a demon, or that you are under the influence of a demon so thoroughly, it's actually talking through you. That's called a manifestation. Just as Pentecostals call speaking in tongues a

“*manifestation of the Holy Spirit*”, so Fundamentalists call speaking in tongues a “*manifestation of the devil*”. If they believe you have a demon—and they certainly do if you are manifesting one—then that means they also believe you are *not* a genuine Christian because a genuine Christian cannot possibly be under the control and power of a demon so much that it actually manifests itself through them.

A equals B and B equals C. If you are Spirit Filled and exercise any of the gifts of the Spirit listed in I. Corinthians 12, then you are *not* a genuine believer in the eyes of Fundamentalists. Just because they don’t spell it out for you like I just did, that doesn’t mean this isn’t what they are thinking. Just because they don’t spell it out like I just did, that doesn’t mean this isn’t their true opinion of us.

Before I move on, let me say there *are* some Pentecostal Discernment Ministries out there and they are usually a source of dependable, balanced, information and discernment. But the main problem I see with all these Discernment Ministries is that they act like doctors and lawyers. They see themselves like some kind of special club and they will never expose each other.

It’s ironic that almost all of them have at one time or another condemned the practice of joining with others who are not doctrinally sound in order to fight a common cause. The *Cultural War* is an example of this. In an attempt to win the Cultural War—which was really lost back in the 60’s—Catholics, Protestants and Christians of every stripe and color have joined together to win that war. Most Discernment Ministries have spoken out against this kind of thing at one time or another.

But these same watchmen don’t mind banding together with all kinds of other watchmen who they would *normally* view as scripturally unsound, in order to battle major threats to the Church like Rick Warren, Joyce Meyers, Joel Osteen, *et al.* People who, under normal circumstances would be completely separated and at each other’s throats over major doctrinal differences, suddenly choose to set those differences aside in order to fight a common enemy.

You don’t ever see, for example a *Pentecostal* Discernment Ministry exposing the error of a *Fundamentalist* Discernment Ministry. This is because being a “Discernment Ministry” is like being part of a very special club. Club members don’t waste their energy *infighting* when there are so many dangerous enemies “out there” in Church World to expose.

This is why I would never be invited to join the *Discernment Ministry Club*. My first allegiance is to God and His truth—and in order to keep that allegiance pure, I would have to expose the error of the “Apostasy Watchers” just as much as I would the error of the wolves. As a matter of fact, that’s precisely what I am going to do tonight. I might just make this a continuing series.

But why would I want to speak out against those who are only trying to warn the people of the error of today’s false prophets and teachers? Don’t I believe God raised them up to protect the sheep from the wolves? Don’t I believe “watchmen” ministries are needed in this hour. Yes, I do—and I believe God has called many of them to be watchmen. The problem is, most of them are very unbalanced, partly because the majority of them are Fundamentalists, and partly because they are always over-reacting and going to the opposite extreme of the errors they are exposing. This does as much damage to God’s people as the errors they expose.

As I said before, spiritual danger is a matter of perception—and our perception comes from what kind of *doctrine* we have accepted. If you believe that God is basically responsible to save you and keep you, and that your only responsibility is to keep believing and trusting Him, then your perception of danger will be very low indeed. But if you believe that you *share* the responsibility for your own salvation and your own spiritual protection, then your perception of danger will be a lot higher.

If you think all you have to do to get the rewards laid out in the Scripture is believe and have faith in God; if you think all you have to do to be an overcomer and receive all the rewards of the overcomer is to believe and trust in Jesus; then the “grace” message that’s being preached in the churches won’t seem like a very dangerous thing to you. But if you believe that you must actually overcome, that believing doesn’t equal overcoming, and that there are certain things you must do in order to receive those rewards, then that same “grace” message will seem very dangerous to you. It’s all a matter of perception.

I can assure you the vast majority of today’s Apostasy Watchers believe God is basically responsible to save you and keep you safe, and that your only responsibility is to keep believing and trusting Him. I can assure you that the majority of today’s Apostasy Watchers believe that all you have to do to get all the rewards laid out in the Scripture is believe and have faith in God. They believe that all you have to do to be an overcomer and receive the rewards of the overcomer is to keep believing and trusting Jesus till the end. So naturally, they would *never* perceive that *their* doctrine is a danger to God’s people. The only danger they perceive is that which comes from the wolves.



The first *Apostasy Watcher* I’m going to be looking at is Bob DeWaay, senior pastor of Twin City Fellowship in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Mr. DeWaay holds a B.A. in Bible and Pastor Studies from North Central Bible College, and a M.A. in Theological Studies from Bethel Theological Seminary. He has published over 90 articles on important theological issues through *Critical Issues Commentary*, which is also the name of his web site. See: <http://cicministry.org/>

Mr. DeWaay is best known for exposing Rick Warren and the whole “Purpose Driven” movement. He is also very active in exposing the “Emergent Church” movement. When it comes to these areas, he is very good. I’ve listened to his series on reinventing the Church and could easily agree with most of it. Mr. DeWaay is an interesting case because he is *neither* an orthodox Fundamentalist or a true Pentecostal. He’s sort of a half-baked theological entity. He seems to accept some aspects of Pentecostalism, but his overall views are very much the views of the Reformation—which means Calvinism.

He believes the error of Eternal Security; so this will necessarily produce a theological view that is very biased when it comes to his interpretation of both the Scriptural warning about the apostasy we are now in, as well as his view of that apostasy. In other words, since he believes this false doctrine, he doesn’t think *genuine* Christians are falling away in these days. Of course, the question any *thinking* person should be asking themselves right now is this: If it’s not *genuine* Christians who are apostatizing (falling away) from the faith, who exactly is apostatizing and what exactly are they apostatizing *from*?

In his article, entitled, “Eternal Security”, he states very clearly that the warnings we see in Scripture are real, but they will also be “effectual”. Even though it’s *theoretically* possible for a genuine believer to fall away, the warnings in the Scripture about what will happen to those who *do* fall away will keep all *true*

believers from ever *really* falling away. In other words, no true Christian will ever fall away, even though it's theoretically possible for them to fall away. The theoretical will *never* become a reality.

In my view, Eternal Security is one of the most soul-damning doctrines ever invented. If it wouldn't be for this hellish teaching, the apostasy we see now would never have even gotten off the ground. There could never be a mass defection of Christians from the truth if they were *really* afraid of ending up in Hell as a result. It's because the *fear of God* has been removed from the people through *this* doctrine that they are not afraid to disobey the Bible and engage in all kinds of things they know are wrong.

So even if the Apostasy Watchers manage to pull people away from someone like Rick Warren, they will turn right around and teach them a doctrine that is just as damnable as anything Warren has come up with. Oh yes, we can all agree that Rick Warren is a danger because of the error he preaches; but nobody views Mr. DeWaay as a danger because of the error *he* preaches!

Mr. DeWaay also aligns himself with Fundamentalists in his belief that God only speaks to us through the Scripture. If he would have been in my chat room the other week when I talked about being led by the Spirit, he would certainly have been one of those who stood up and shouted "heresy; heresy"! I have no doubt that if he ever read any of my books or listened any of my chat room messages, he would certainly label me a "wolf". And if you want a taste of the kind of legalistic bondage he seeks to put God's people in, just read the article he wrote, entitled: "*The Problems with Personal Words From God: How People Become False Prophets To Themselves*". <http://cicministry.org/commentary/issue98.htm>



I an article entitled: "*Sola Scriptura for Charismatics vs. the Madness of Mysticism*" << <http://cicministry.org/commentary/issue112b.htm> >> a member of DeWaay's church named Keith Jentoft, explains why we shouldn't try to really be led by the Spirit. He echos the view of his pastor, but he presents that view in a historical context. Mr. Jentoft grew up in the Charismatic Movement. He attended Oral Roberts University and also graduated from YWAM's School of Evangelism in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Like so many people who grew up in error, or have been exposed to some kind of error for a long while, when he realized he was in error, he over reacted and went to the opposite extreme. Since Charismatic are led much more by subjective experiences than by the Scripture, Mr. Jentoft has swung to the other side of the theological spectrum and now believes we can *only* be led by the Bible. Anything else is "Catholic Mysticism" in his eyes. I'm going to take a few minutes and go through his main points in order to show you just how blind he is. Remember, this was posted on Bob DeWaay's web site and this guy is a member of DeWaay's church. His view is the same as DeWaay's view. He begins the article by saying:

"The ministry of the Holy Spirit is central to living Christianity. Charismatic have emphasized the working of the Holy Spirit in their lives and see His power as what separates them from "dead religion." It is true that the Holy Spirit must be present and active in the life of a believer; this is the very claim that the Reformers made, especially Luther. The reformers and Charismatic agree on this. They disagree, however, on something just as crucial – their understanding of how the Holy Spirit comes **and how He is active in the lives of believers**. This understanding of **how the Holy Spirit exercises His authority in both individuals and the church is where Charismatic have wandered from the foundations of the Reformation**

Both Luther and Charismatic complain of "dead churches" that are devoid of the Holy Spirit and agree that "anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to Him" (Rom. 8:9). But **how** does what is dead **become alive and active** in the Holy Spirit? **What are the means** of the Holy Spirit's activity and power? **Sola scriptura claims that the means is the scripture**, the external Word written and preached. Charismatic believe that **the means include internal feelings, impressions, and subjective experiences**. The pursuit of the Holy Spirit through the Charismatic means is a rejection of *sola scriptura* and **a return to the Catholic paradigm that new revelations of men are from the Holy Spirit and have authority**.

The **process or mechanism** through which we **interact** with the Holy Spirit is crucial, a key element in understanding *sola scriptura*. According to John 16:13 when the Holy Spirit comes, "He will guide you into all the truth." John 14:26 tells us the Holy Spirit will teach us all things. Galatians 5:18, 25 addresses this same concept, "if you are led by the Spirit...If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit." This mechanism of "being guided by," "being taught by," "being led by," "living by," and "walking by" the Holy Spirit is **the means, the way** the Holy Spirit carries Christians and rules in their lives – it is how He exerts his authority. Christians who submit to His means exhibit the fruit of His rule in their lives.

Charismatic believe that the means by which the Holy Spirit operates in their lives **is through internal impressions, feelings, thoughts and "anointings."** The presence of the Holy Spirit is "felt" or **perceived internally** and **His leading is sensed subjectively** by those seeking to be led by Him. Evidence of this is seen in their worship services where the goal is to "feel the presence of God" – God being the Holy Spirit (as Jesus is bodily in Heaven with his Father).

The Charismatic means are seen in the pursuit of **internal "words" or revelations** which people feel are from the Holy Spirit. Those means are seen when someone gives a "personal meaning" to scripture which is devoid of context and the meaning of the original author. **Those means are also seen in prayers where they invite the Holy Spirit to come and manifest His presence as an internal feeling or sensation."**

Let's stop here and look at what Mr. Jentoft said so far. The opposing belief systems are clearly stated. Charismatic—which would include all branches of Pentecostalism—think that when Paul told us to "walk in the Spirit" and "be led by the Spirit" he meant "through internal impressions, feelings, thoughts and anointings" (as well as the Scripture). Jentoft says that Charismatics assume the presence of the Spirit is supposed to be felt or perceived *internally* and His leading sensed subjectively. On the other hand, Fundamentalists (those who are part of the Reformation churches) believe that we are to be led by the Spirit through "Sola scriptura"—which means the Scripture alone.

I wonder if Mr. Jentoft has ever taken the time to talk to any Pentecostals who were not part of his (Charismatic) religious matrix to see if their experience matched his. I wish he would come talk to me, or to dozens of people I know who have never "*invited the Holy Spirit to come and manifest His presence as an internal feeling or sensation to us.*"

You see, we're not to pray to the Holy Spirit, or invite the Holy Spirit to do anything. We are to pray to Jesus, or to the Father in Jesus's name. Just because everyone Mr. Jentoft knew prayed to the Holy Spirit, that doesn't mean all Pentecostals everywhere do so. He's judging all Pentecostals in the entire world, from 1905 until now, through the eyes of his little life-experience in the modern Charismatic movement. He goes on to say:

“However, this battle went much further than just revelations within the papacy. In fact, some of Luther's main battles for sola scriptura were against freestyle spirituality and revelations claimed by the new ‘Charismatic’ emerging within the Protestants that embraced these mystical traditions. **The Charismatic Luther battled were broadly called "enthusiasts" because of their excessive emotional zeal and ‘subjective’ means to approach the Holy Spirit.** These enthusiasts included **Anabaptists** and the followers of various leaders whom people perceived as having some special ‘anointing.’ Luther opposed both Catholic mysticism and protestant enthusiasts because they both rebelled against the authority of scripture.

For Luther and the reformers, the Holy Spirit came to them and interacted with them **through the scriptures alone not through internal feelings.** Here is what Luther says concerning their freestyle spirituality:

‘It is good to extol the ministry of the Word with every possible kind of praise in opposition to the fanatics who dream that the Holy Spirit does not come through the Word but because of their own preparations. They sit in a dark corner doing and saying nothing, but only waiting for illumination, as the enthusiasts taught formerly and the Anabaptists teach now.’

Luther was not necessarily claiming that these people openly rejected or denied the scripture, but that they rebelled against its authority by rejecting the meaning originally intended by the author. The enthusiasts made scriptures say what they felt or wanted them to say through personal interpretations and allegory which they claimed were revealed to them by the Holy Spirit.

‘In these matters, which concern the external, spoken Word, we must hold firmly to the conviction that God gives no one his Spirit or grace except through or with the external Word which comes before. Thus we shall be protected from the enthusiasts — that is, from the spiritualists who boast that they possess the Spirit without and before the Word and who therefore judge, interpret, and twist the Scriptures or spoken Word according to their pleasure.’

Once freed from the tyranny of the Catholic Church, many of these enthusiasts continued the Catholic paradigm and rejected the legitimate authority of the Holy Spirit speaking through the scripture. **They practiced freestyle Christianity interacting with the Holy Spirit through whatever means they felt inspired. These enthusiasts demanded interactions with the Holy Spirit outside of scriptures - revelations felt and perceived internally by individuals to be the ‘voice of the Holy Spirit.’** Luther attacked these ‘revelations’ because they had no authority and resulted in people following their own imaginations.

‘For the Holy Spirit does not—as the enthusiasts and the Anabaptists, truly fanatical teachers, dream—give His instruction through new revelations outside the ministry of the Word.’

Luther knew this appetite for new **internal** revelations of the Holy Spirit was damaging to those who believed that **inner words had authority.** Luther witnessed the death of tens of thousands in the Peasant's War; people who were deluded into believing their own internal feelings and those of their ‘spiritual leaders’ like Thomas Münzer were the Holy

Spirit and should be obeyed. Münzer claimed the Holy Spirit gave him revelations that asserted his rebellion against Germany's leaders as God's will. Münzer even claimed God told him that his 'righteous followers' would be miraculously immune to the weapons of their adversaries. His revelations were wrong, the peasants were slaughtered and Münzer was beheaded in 1525.

Mr. Jentoft says very clearly that, "...for Luther and the reformers, the Holy Spirit came to them and interacted with them through the scriptures **alone**, not through internal feelings". He calls a true walk in the Spirit "freestyle spirituality", "excessive emotional zeal" and a "subjective approach the Holy Spirit. He also says that those who believe "inner words" have "authority" are no different than the deluded leaders of the Peasants War. In other words, if you believe you have heard the voice of God in your heart, or in your mind, or arising from your spirit-man, and you assume that voice *is* the voice of God and therefore contains *the authority* of God, you are deluded. In Jentoft's mind, people who believe their own "internal feelings" are coming from God are simply deceived.

He also claims that the Anabaptists were the *equivalent* of today's Charismatic—which is a slanderous lie. It's truly ironic that an arrogant legalist like Jentoft would seek to slander the name of the Anabaptists, since they were the *real* Reformers. The Anabaptist were the *only* group during that period who didn't sell their spiritual purity for the protection of the State. All of Jentoft's heroes—Luther, Zwingli, Calvin, all of them—sold their allegiance to God for the protection of princes and the power of city-states.

It's also ironic that Jentoft should talk about "Sola scriptura" when the Anabaptists were the only ones who actually *followed the Scripture* when it came to water baptism. While Luther and Zwingli and the rest of the "Reformers" were still *disobeying* the Scripture and baptizing babies as a sign of citizenship, thus showing their allegiance to the kingdoms of this world, the Anabaptists rejected infant baptism because it clearly was not Scriptural.

Only the Anabaptists *followed the Scripture* by re-baptizing the people who had been baptized as infants, but who could not have possibly known what they were doing when they did it, and who had now come to true faith in Christ. In fact, that's what the term "*Anabaptist*" means. It means "to baptize again". None of the "Reformers" had the courage or the integrity to actually *follow the Scripture* when it came to the doctrine of baptism because re-baptism was illegal and viewed as treason. It was viewed as *renouncing* your citizenship and allegiance to the city-state of your birth.

The Reformers were brave as long as they had the protection of the various princes and councils and city-states of Europe—like Germany for Luther. But when it came to obeying God's Word in an area that was *certain* to get them killed; when it came to obeying the Scripture in an area that would separate them from the kingdoms of this world *in truth* and not just in talk; suddenly "Sola scriptura" lost its luster.

The Anabaptists may not have been legalists like Luther and the Reformers, but they were willing to die in obedience to *the Scripture*—and they did die. They were butchered by *both* the Catholics and the Reformers. So I'll gladly take my stand with *them* any day of the week.

The Anabaptists, along with a stream of brethren outside the Religious System of that day who were neither Catholic or Protestant; were the *true* church at that point. The Reformation churches were part of the System. They were filled with doctrinal error then, and they are still filled with that same error today. Satan

made sure that the Anabaptist—who were one of the *purest* expressions of Christianity at that time and were the real “witness” of the kingdom of God—were expunged from the planet and that we were left with compromiser’s like Luther and Zwingli.

“Because of this tendency to mysticism, after he left Rome Luther opposed Protestant mysticism because it was as damaging to Protestants as it was to Catholics. Luther fought this Charismatic paradigm with as much vigor as He did the abusive Catholic Church – the mystical authority supporting them both was the same. Protestants simply replaced the Catholic pope with mystical feelings. Luther knew that *sola scriptura* was the certain authority that mysticism sought to undermine with internal revelations. Luther says:

‘Away with our schismatics, who spurn the Word while they sit in corners waiting for the Spirit’s revelation, but apart from the voice of the Word! They say one must sit still in a corner and empty the mind of all speculations, and then the Holy Spirit will fill it.’

The modern Charismatic ‘paradigm’ and their concept of the means to interact with the Holy Spirit is not new. The concepts Luther wrote against in the 1500s are the same issues Charismatic struggle with today. These Charismatic **dilute the authority of scriptures with mysticism, internal feelings, or allegorical or personal interpretations** of the scripture as how the Spirit communicates. Again, the Reformation considered the work and power of the Holy Spirit essential and crucial in the life of the individual and the church. However, the means that the Holy Spirit came to the church and exerted His rule – how the Holy Spirit interacted with Christians – this was Luther’s battle.

If we reject Luther’s concept of *sola scriptura* we reject the Reformation – regardless of what is in a statement of faith. Rejecting **scripture alone means serving popes and returning to the foundations of Catholicism**. God’s will, in that case, is revealed to men by the Holy Spirit **through freestyle revelation and it leaves us with only one question: which pope are we to serve? The Catholic one, a new ‘anointed’ leader, or perhaps we should set ourselves up as a ‘personal pope’ receiving revelations for ourselves?**

The blindness of Fundamentalists is only exceeded by their arrogance. Jentoft says that if we reject being led by the Bible alone (*Sola scriptura*) we will definitely end up serving popes and returning to the foundations of Catholicism. That’s nothing but a bunch of hog wash. He also says that in rejecting Luther’s concept of *sola scriptura*, we reject the Reformation. Well, I’m no Roman Catholic, that’s for sure; and I’m no Catholic mystic—regardless of Jentoft’s careless use of the term—but if my only choices are the legalism he and DeWaay are promoting or rejecting the Reformation, then I *gladly* reject the Reformation and all it’s spineless leaders!

In Jentoft’s mind, since those who seek to be *led by the Spirit* cannot possibly do so, the only thing they will be led by is some kind of pope—the Catholic Pope, some anointed Protestant pope, or ourselves. Can you see the arrogance of these people? They have the audacity to not only tell us we can’t be led by the Spirit (except through the Bible), they tell us if we even try to be led by the Spirit (except through the Bible) we will end up deluded. If you don’t think this kind of doctrine and these kinds of people are *dangerous*, you need to have your spiritual eyes opened.

Mr. DeWaay really shows his confusion in the area of spiritual gifts. Both DeWaay and Jentoft claim they are not Cessationists; but their “Sola scriptura” beliefs cause them to put very strict restraints on those gifts. In his article: “*The Gifts of the Holy Spirit: Showing That Spiritual Gifts are Not for New Revelations and Have not Ceased*”, DeWaay describes his view of tongues and prophesy. He says:

“Have the gifts ceased? Many have argued ‘yes’. They reason that the completion of the canon of the New Testament (the written form of the apostles’ teaching) makes spiritual gifts superfluous. Since the apostles have died and the canon is closed, we do not need spiritual gifts. Others have argued ‘no’. The presence of spiritual gifts indicates a new work of God that places certain Christian into a higher spiritual category than ordinary Christians. Both of these teachings are false because they are based on a misunderstanding of the purpose of spiritual gifts.

The misunderstanding is that spiritual gifts ‘fill in’ missing revelation. In other words, **spiritual information that is not available through ordinary means can be accessed through the gifts of the Spirit.** I will defend a third position—that the gifts of the Spirit did not cease, but **their purpose is not to bring extra-biblical revelations to the church.** The gifts of the Holy Spirit are given to the church to edify the body of Christ and to cause every member to be an important and useful part of the body. To this end the so-called revelatory gifts are for edification, exhortation and consolation (1Corinthians 14:3). **This does not mean predicting the future or bringing spiritual information to the church that was not written in the Bible.”**

Mr. DeWaay begins by asking if the gifts have ceased, and his answer is “no”. Then he explains two common theological positions regarding the gifts. The Cessationist says the gifts have ceased because the purpose for which they were given has been *fulfilled*. They think the gifts were basically given in order to “fill in gaps” of revelation which the apostles did not provide. In other words, as long as there was no Bible, the Lord used spiritual gifts to guide and enlighten His people. Since the Bible has been completed, we are now to be guided and enlightened by it. There is no more need for spiritual gifts.

The second position is said to be held by people who endorse the whole clergy-laity system. He says these people believe the gifts are still valid because they believe those gifts put them “*into a higher spiritual category than ordinary Christians*”.

DeWaay says there is a third position which he believes is the correct one. This position is that the gifts of the Spirit did not cease, but their purpose is *not* to bring *extra-biblical revelations* to the church. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are given to the church to *edify* the body of Christ and to cause every member to be an important and useful part of the body.

When he talks about the gifts not being for the purpose of bringing “extra biblical revelations to the church”, he is not only talking about the wild ideas propagated by C. Peter Wagner and the Apostolic Movement, or the false predictions of Mike Bickle and the Prophetic Movement. He is also talking about *personal guidance*. The gifts are not given to provide personal guidance or reveal specific answers to situations that the Bible does not even address.

When you consider the ramifications of this idea, the gifts become very constrained, almost to the point of being useless. He goes on to say:

“One of the objections to the gifts of the Spirit is that they are ‘revelatory’ and thus of no purpose after the New Testament was completed. Let us consider two of the more prominent gifts, tongues and prophecy, in light of this objection. Paul wrote about these gifts:

For one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men, but to God; for no one understands, but in his spirit he speaks mysteries. But one who prophesies speaks to men for edification and exhortation and consolation. One who speaks in a tongue edifies himself; but one who prophesies edifies the church. (1Corinthians 14:2-4)

Paul's definition of tongues and prophecy does not view them as adding revelation beyond the teachings of Christ and the apostles. Paul had written earlier in this epistle, "not to exceed what is written" (1Corinthians 4:6b). Already they had received the true gospel of Christ and the truth from the apostles, plus the already completed Old Testament scriptures. They needed no new revelations, they badly needed to walk obediently in the ones they already received. The person speaking in tongues is speaking to God, Paul said. Clearly, **in this case, new revelations are not being given or received.**"

It's interesting that DeWaay conveniently left out the rest of what Paul taught about speaking in tongues in that chapter. Maybe this is because it would not help his view that no new revelation is ever received when speaking in tongues. There are three different kinds of tongues spoken of in the Scripture, two of which are taught in this one chapter. First, there is a “tongue” that is for the edification of the unsaved. That is, a *foreign language* is given to a person supernaturally, who does not know that language (*See: Acts 2:3-6*). This is a “sign” to the *unsaved* that something supernatural is going on.

Another kind of tongue is for the edification of the individual believer. This is the one DeWaay describes in his article. Nobody but God understands this kind of tongue. No one can interpret it. When you speak in this kind of tongue, you are speaking “mysteries” and edifying yourself.

*How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying. **If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret. But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.***

I. Corinthians 14:26-28

A third kind of tongue is for the edification of the local body. This is commonly called a “message in tongues” by Pentecostals because one person speaks out in an unknown tongue, and then someone else in the assembly *interprets* the message in English (or whatever native language the groups speaks). Maybe DeWaay doesn't like to talk about this kind of a tongue because there is no way around the fact that when this happens, God is speaking to people through a means other than the Bible.

The issue isn't whether any “extra-biblical” revelation is being given; the issue is simply that God is speaking without the help of the Scripture. God is speaking through another avenue than Scripture. He's giving the

people *guidance* and revelation—and quite possible “extra-biblical” revelation—through another avenue than Scripture. That’s anathema to people like DeWaay and Jentoft. If God is speaking to you through *any other means* but the Bible, you’re a “Catholic Mystic; you’re functioning as your own pope and you’re deluded.

*But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit **the word of wisdom**; to another **the word of knowledge** by the same Spirit; To another **faith** by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another **discerning of spirits**; to*

I. Corinthians 12:7-10

It’s pretty pathetic to say the gifts of the spirit do not impart any “extra-biblical” revelation, when three of those gifts are “the word of wisdom”, “the word of knowledge” and “the discerning of spirits”. DeWaay is a very *confused* individual. He can’t deny some of the obvious truths in the Word which validate Pentecostalism, but he has been so turned off by his Charismatic experience, he has, for all practical purposes, embraced Fundamentalism, which is what Reformation Theology is. He is drinking from two opposing *theological wells* at the same time. How can he not be walking in confusion?

So we have an Apostasy Watcher here who believes in Eternal Security; who believes we can only know and hear God through the Scripture; and who is totally confused about the gifts of the Spirit. For the icing on the cake, he speaks *confusion* regarding the issue of Christians and demons. Some of his statements lead you to believe he *doesn’t* think a genuine believer can have a demon. But other statements seem to indicate that he *does* think it’s possible. Apparently, back in his other life as a flaming Charismatic, he was in the “Deliverance Ministry”. After getting burned out because he wasn’t having any lasting success, he asked the Lord to show him what he was doing wrong. The Lord then showed him a verse of Scripture that brought him out of that whole stew. He tells his story in an article called: “*How Deliverance Ministries Lead People Into Bondage*”.

The point of DeWaay’s article is to show that the Deliverance Ministry in general, and the ministry of a man named Bob Larson in particular, is a gigantic delusion. Now let’s see; if you wanted to discredit the *entire concept* of a deliverance ministry, who would be the best person to do it? Well, the best person to expose that whole thing as a delusion would be a person who was part of one of those types of ministries for many years, but who has now seen the light—right? And that’s what we have here.

In looking at this particular article, my intention is not to defend Bob Larson or his methods. I don’t even know who Bob Larson is. The issue I want to focus on is the Providential “world view” Mr. DeWaay now propagates. After reading his testimony, it’s pretty clear to me that the only thing he’s ever been exposed to is *counterfeit* deliverance. He doesn’t say anything in this article that leads me to believe he’s *ever* seen a true deliverance ministry. Maybe that’s the reason he got burned out trying to deliver people. Maybe that’s the reason the people he *thought* he delivered never stayed delivered. Demons love to play “good cop-bad cop”—and that’s precisely what goes on in *counterfeit* deliverance. You have people who are totally deceived and walking under the influence of powerful religious demons, (supposedly) casting spirits out of other people; and the demons put on a big show for everyone.

My point in looking at this article is to show that DeWaay never really got straightened out, spiritually. All he did was move from one “world view” that is error, to a completely opposite “world view” that is also error. The view he held when he was a Charismatic deliverance minister, he calls a “*Warfare*” world view. The view he now has, as a Reformed minister, he calls a “*Providential*” world view. He says:

“The **warfare worldview** holds that the battle between good and evil, God and Satan, is played out in human history, with an uncertain outcome. By uncertain I mean that **God does not sovereignly determine the outcome. There are casualties in this battle.** The battle to free individuals from spiritual bondage is carried on by people of faith who have learned the tools of battle and become mighty warriors for God. According to many who hold the warfare worldview, even the destiny of nations is in the hands of human spiritual warriors who will capture nations for the Kingdom of God. My fondest hope in 1977 was that I would become one of these mighty warriors who would plunder Satan’s kingdom on the field of battle.”

Notice that according to DeWaay, in the “Warfare” world view there are “casualties” because God is not really sovereign. There are casualties because God has *not* already sovereignly determined the outcome of the battle before hand. You see, there can be no casualties in DeWaay’s *present* world view because that world view is Calvinistic, and no true Christian will be a casualty (ie: fall away or be lost eternally). God sovereignly chose who would be saved in Eternity Past and those whom He chose to save, He will save and *keep saved* until the end.

Like all Calvinists, the issue at the root of everything is God’s sovereignty. When you talk about the doctrine of Eternal Security with them, they may have all kinds of angles and answers, but beneath them all lies the fact that they believe God sovereignly chose to save certain people before the foundation of the world, and those people cannot possibly be lost. If any of them are lost, then God is not *really* sovereign. Either the will of man, or the power of Satan, or something in the universe will have proven itself to be more powerful than the sovereignty of God.

Even though DeWaay says his reason for believing a Christian can’t fall away is because the “warnings” in the Scriptural will be “effectual”—that is, they will keep the *true* Christian from falling away—the *real* reason He thinks a genuine believer will never fall away is because God has sovereignly chosen him and will therefore *sovereignly* keep him. There are no *casualties* in the Providential world view.

“One might ask **what role God plays in the warfare worldview.** The answer is that He commissions us to the battle, equips us for the battle, and gives us the tools we need. God gives the exorcist knowledge and power for battle. However, it is up to the exorcist to **use his toolbox** to cast out the demons. **The exorcist must use the tools properly or the demons will stay.** For example, Larson tells how he taught a pastor why demons kept coming back: “You probably never found the gatekeeper demon. It didn’t matter how many demons you cast out, they don’t have to go to the pit because the gatekeeper kept the door open for them to return. The arrangement and locations of the spirits are determined by the knowledge and ability of the exorcist. Larson claims the right to assign demons to the pit if he does everything right.”

What we must keep in mind is that the information needed to do effective spiritual warfare according to the warfare worldview is **not revealed.** What I mean is that it is neither found

in God's specific revelation (the Bible) nor in general revelation (what may legitimately be learned about the creation using our natural senses and rational mind). **The knowledge that is required is secret knowledge.** God has not revealed the names of demons over nations, cities, neighborhoods, or in demonized persons. The only source of such information is from **some other type of revelation, either extra biblical divine revelation** or revelation gained from demons themselves. Those who hold to the warfare worldview believe that **it is their role to gain this knowledge and use it in the battle.** Since the knowledge is "secret" it is of the realm of the occult. They have to somehow justify gaining forbidden knowledge in the name of helping the victims of evil spirits.

This man's description of deliverance is foreign to me. Just in case anyone's interested, none of the stuff he describes is part of *my* world view—with the exception of receiving "extra-biblical" knowledge. I do receive what he would call extra-biblical knowledge as God leads and guides me by His Spirit. But in the realm of deliverance, none of the stuff he describes is even necessary. Every time we have prayed over someone for deliverance, we *already knew* what spirit we were praying against because the problem was pretty obvious. I mean, when someone is having a problem with, say, watching pornography, you don't need a "deliverance tool box" full of "secret knowledge" to know what to pray for or what kind of spirit you are dealing with.

All true deliverance is done *by* the Holy Spirit and under His strict direction. The Spirit is not a "tool". You don't *use* Him at your own discretion or any way you think is appropriate. He is a Person. He is the one who is *in control* of the deliverance. He speaks, and you obey what He says. If it's Him speaking, and you obey Him in faith, then people will be set free when you pray for them *if* they really want free.

One of the reasons deliverance doesn't work is because the person who has a problem is *double-minded*. Part of them wants free from whatever it is that's binding them, but another part of them doesn't want free because they like what the demon is doing for them, or to them. There have been many occasions when people asked us to pray for them and the Lord very clearly said "No", they aren't ready for deliverance. They still want that demon. See, the problem is not casting out a demon; the problem is keeping the person from *allowing it* to return. If part of you *likes* what the demon is doing for you we cast it out, it will be back in minutes because part of you *wants it back*.

There is a certain amount of knowledge that comes with experience over the years when dealing with people in deliverance, but this doesn't come from "talking to demons" in people and getting them to give you information on how the demonic kingdom operates. The Scripture gives you enough information to know how that kingdom operates. The knowledge true deliverance ministries acquire has more to do with understanding the people who need deliverance than with the demons they need delivered from. Motives, desires, the level of honesty they are displaying, the level of true repentance that is present, their readiness to even be delivered, and things like that are what's really important. And of course, all of this has to come *by direct revelation* of the Spirit. There is no "tool" you can use to gauge it.

It's very interesting to see how these Discernment Ministries double-talk and contradict themselves. For instance, DeWaay describes how it's wrong to think there are spiritual laws or rules that govern how the demonic world operates. He also says it's wrong for deliverance ministries to try and figure out these laws and rules in order to properly know how to cast demons out and keep them out. He mocks the idea that because demons have been around for thousands of years and know how things work in that kingdom, humans are at a disadvantage and need to learn those rules to even the playing field.

“Evidently we need a spiritual “lawyer” to figure out the spiritual contracts of the universe by which the demons operate, and the laws that apply. In the warfare worldview the battle is between humans and wicked spirits. **The humans are at a huge disadvantage because the spirits have been navigating the spirit world for thousands of years and only they know all the “rules.”** The exorcist must query the demons to find out needed information and then beat them at their own rules.”

In the Warfare world view, says DeWaay, “the battle is between humans and wicked spirits”. Since he now believes the Warfare world view is a delusion, it only stands to reason that he also sees the view that the battle is between “humans and wicked spirits” as a delusion too. In the Warfare world view, the humans are at a huge *disadvantage* because the spirits have been navigating the spirit world for thousands of years and only they know all the “rules.”

In an article called “*The Discerning Of Spirits*” <<<http://cicministry.org/commentary/issue81.htm>>> Mr. DeWaay warns of all the deception that is taking place and how demons speak through those who are deceived. He says:

“In every case in the New Testament, we have seen that the discerning of spirits is objective, not subjective. This is necessary because **spirits have a great advantage over humans in the realm of the spirit world. They have been in that realm practicing deception for thousands of years and they are good at it.** They can produce whatever feeling or experience a person would normally associate with God or the Holy Spirit. **The dangers of deception are greater than most people realize.**”

Here he is admitting that there *is* a battle going on between humans and wicked spirits—which is more than most of the Apostasy Watchers I know will even admit. Most of them say our battle is with the “flesh”, not with wicked spirits. He also admits that we humans *are* at a great disadvantage in this battle—thus the need to test the spirits.

So far, Mr. DeWaay is in perfect agreement with Bob Larson and the whole Warfare world view. It’s only a question of *how* we humans are to fight the battle against these wicked spirits. That’s where the big difference lies. People like Larson believe we need to confront them directly; overpowering them and casting them out. Mr. DeWaay used to believe that too. But now he believes we should “teach” the demons out of people.

Mr. DeWaay says demons “*can produce whatever feeling or experience a person would normally associate with God or the Holy Spirit*”. I’m not sure if he thinks they can do this to a genuine believer, but if he does, then he’s way ahead of the curve because most of the Apostasy Watchers I know are loath to admit such a possibility. Then he says the “dangers of deception are greater than most people realize”. I agree. But how can he say such a thing in one breadth, and then turn around and assure us that God is in absolute control (sovereign) over all this deception, so we *need not fear* the Devil?

I mean, if we need not fear Satan himself, then why would we need to fear his deceptions? Isn’t it a bit *inconsistent* to tell people in one breadth that they should *not* have any fear Satan the person, but then turn around and in the very next breadth and say we *should* fear the deceptions that come from Satan? Isn’t

it bit *inconsistent* to mock others who say we are in a battle against wicked spirits and then turn around and say the same exact thing? Isn't it bit *inconsistent* to mock others who say we humans are at a big disadvantage in the battle against these spirits and then turn around and say the same thing?

By the way; if demons can produce whatever feeling or experience a person would normally associate with God or the Holy Spirit in a *true* Christian—and I know they can—then the whole question of whether or not a Christian can “have” a demon becomes moot. You don't have to have a demon in order to be *totally deceived* by one. They can produce *internal* feelings and experiences from the *outside*. They don't have to be inside of you in order to make you feel things, experience things, and think thoughts. And yes, you should have a healthy fear of an enemy who is invisible, who hates you and wants to destroy you, and who has the power to do that kind of thing to you!

Two years after that encounter where I learned that Satan was afraid of me, **I was wearing down from the long days and nights of helping people in bondage**. There were late night phone calls from troubled people and the burden of the sheer number of ministry cases. Some individuals were in constant need of help. **One very troubled person could sap the emotional and spiritual energy out of a counselor**. I was dealing with up to 15 of them every week.

About that time one of these people was going off the deep end. She was running off late at night leaving her husband and children behind to go to bars and meet men. She had been through all of the various ministries we had to offer. Her husband would call me desperately needing help because she was destroying him and the children. One night after a 3:00 am call from this woman in which she blamed me for her problems because I was a bad counselor, I felt I could take no more. I cried out to God, praying something like this, “Dear Lord, I really want to help this lady and the others. I have prayed for her, ministered to her, helped her and her family in practical ways, and cast out demons, I have done everything I know how to do. I cannot take this anymore. If I do not get some better answers I cannot stay in the ministry.”

The answer to that prayer came in the form of a Scripture. It changed my life and ministry from that day on. I did not know it at the time, but what resulted from that situation was **my conversion from the warfare worldview to what I am calling the providential worldview**.

Mr. DeWaay says he was wearing himself down from long days and nights of helping people in bondage. After being blamed for not being able to deliver a woman from a bad spiritual problem, he couldn't take it anymore and he cried out to God for help. The answer came in the form of a Scripture and eventually he converted to a whole new world view that he calls the *Providential* world view. Later, he says that as looks back over his time in the deliverance ministry, he sees that he never really had any success with anyone, not just this particular woman. He says even though the demons *seemed* to leave people when he prayed for them, they always came back.

Well, maybe they came back because he was using his “deliverance tool box”—methods, formulas, and “how to” manuals—instead of really being *led by the Spirit* in dealing with them. Or maybe they always came back because he was casting them out through the power of a *counterfeit* Christ instead of the power of Jesus Christ. Or maybe those people weren't ready for deliverance yet. Or maybe, like he says in the next quote, they weren't true believers.

Mr. DeWaay then gives the scripture God spoke to him and explains what the Lord showed him through it. However, I want to jump to his conclusion. After seeing the truth that was revealed in that passage, and after being delivered from his “Warfare” world view, he says he can now look back and understand *why* he was such a failure. He says:

“What I had been doing wrong before was assuming that because the people I was counseling **all said that they had met Christ**, and yet they were still in bondage, that therefore **the gospel does not deliver people from darkness** unless special techniques and processes are added to it. Now I believe in the power of the gospel. God can deliver the most demonized **sinner** from the clutches of Satan through **the power of the gospel**...Since now I realized that **the means God uses to deliver people from their bondage to Satan is the gospel** and all of its implications, I could **patiently teach the truth**, trusting that God will use it to change lives.”

In other words, Mr. DeWaay now believes the reason he was such a failure in the deliverance ministry is because *none* of the people he was praying for were genuine Christians. They said they had met Christ, but since the gospel can “deliver the most demonized sinner”, if they were still in bondage, then they hadn’t really accepted the gospel.

The passage of Scripture the Lord spoke to him was:

*And the Lord’s bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, **able to teach**, patient when wronged, with gentleness **correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance** leading to the knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.*

II. Timothy 2:24-26.

The gist of the revelation he received through this passage is that instead of holding people down in the middle of the night, screaming at the demons to come out of them for hours at a time, and trying to use all the “tools” in his “deliverance toolbox”, he realized the key to deliverance is *teaching* people who are in bondage the truth of the gospel, and *hoping* the Lord will grant them repentance.

“The third thing I learned from the passage was the means of escape. **This was what led me away from the warfare worldview toward the providential worldview.** People in bondage to Satan escape **only when God grants repentance!** This shocked me when I first read it. It says, “*if perhaps God may grant them repentance.*” The view I held before was that if things did not change either: a) I am a bad counselor or better get some better counseling techniques or b) the person is messing things up by not following my prescriptions and thus letting in seven worse demons. We went around and around trying to see which was the case. I finally came to see that **if God grants repentance they will escape from the devil, and if He does not they will not.** That was the key! Why He does in some cases but not others is part of God’s secret will that I cannot know. However since **I did not know** if God would grant repentance, **it was always possible that He would** in any given case.”

You see, in the *Providential* world view—that is to say, the *Reformation* world view; that is to say, the *Calvinistic* world view—God is in absolute and complete control of everything, even *our ability* to respond to Him, even *our ability* to repent. His sovereignty is so all-encompassing, He decides to whom He will grant repentance and to whom He will not grant repentance to. He decides who He will save and who He will send to Hell. These kinds of decisions are based on His “secret will” which none of us will ever know, and which none of us must ever question.

But don’t you ever question the *justice* of arbitrarily granting one person repentance or salvation, and arbitrarily deciding not to grant another person repentance or salvation? Don’t you ever question the *justice* of arbitrarily deciding to send one person to Hell for all eternity and arbitrarily deciding to bring another person to eternal life? And yes—these issues are decided *arbitrarily* according to the Reformers. They were arbitrarily decided in Eternity Past, long before you and I were ever born; long before you or I ever had a chance to *do* anything to *influence* God’s decision one way or another.

At this point I want to look at one specific aspect of DeWaay’s “key” verse, which is that God may or may not grant these people who are opposing themselves repentance. Why does God sovereignly grant repentance to some people and withhold it from others? The King James says: “*In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will*” (II. Tim. 2:25-26).

Who is Paul talking about in this passage. Exactly who are the ones who “oppose themselves” and are in captivity to the enemy? Are these people unbelievers or are they Christians? Mr. DeWaay can’t possibly view them as *genuine* Christians because then you would have a situation where a genuine Christian is not only held captive by Satan, he could also end up eternally lost if God doesn’t grant him repentance. Then you would have a situation where God chose *not* to grant repentance to one of His own children, and that would certainly mess up Mr. DeWaay’s theology, big time! So he must view the ones who are opposing themselves and doing Satan’s will as *unbelievers*.

But you see, Paul said Timothy was to “instruct” these people. The Greek word that is translated by the KJV as “instructing” there, is “*paideuo*” (pahee-dyoo'-o)—Strong’s # 3811—and its primary meaning is: “to train up a child” (ie: educate). A secondary meaning is: “to discipline” (ie: by punishment). The KJV translates this Greek word variously as: instruct, learn, teach, chasten and chastize.

The point is, *paideuo* is not the kind of word Paul would have used if he were talking about unbelievers. The unsaved who are opposing the gospel don’t need trained up or educated. *Paideuo* is what baby Christians or young believers need. New Christians need to be trained up and educated in the faith. Unbelievers are a different story because they are not yet in the faith. They don’t need “training” or “teaching”; they need to have the gospel *preached* to them.

So, in my view, the ones who were opposing themselves in that passage were genuine believers—which means a believer can be held captive to do Satan’s will, even though he is a believer. Paul is talking about believers who *got deceived* and were challenging the teaching and the training that Timothy was providing for that assembly. They were challenging his truth with their own deceptions.

It's very interesting because the KJV says these people were: "*taken captive by him [Satan's] at his will*". Most of the other versions say these people were: "*held captive by him [Satan] to do his will*". But whether they are taken captive *at* Satan's will, or they are simply being held captive to *do* his will, this is the position a genuine Christian can find themselves in if they end up deceived.

For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

I. Timothy 2:3-4

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

II. Peter 3:9

The Scripture is very clear about God's desire for ALL mankind. It is *not* His desire (will) that anyone perish. It *is* His desire (will) that "all men be saved" and that all would "come to repentance". So how do you reconcile Paul's statement that God *may* or *may not* grant the ones who oppose themselves repentance, with the clear statements that God desires that all men repent? If God desires that all men repent, why would He (possibly) *withhold* repentance from someone?

My answer is that in this case, the ones who were opposing themselves were really *opposing Timothy*. They were walking in deception and they were filled with pride. They were walking in rebellion towards the *God-appointed authority* in that fellowship and doing Satan's bidding to destroy that church, and God was very displeased with them. If He decided to withhold repentance from them, it would be because they had moved Him to anger and they were under His judgment.

This whole thing has nothing to do with the Reformer's perverted view of election and predestination. This was a case of *rebellion in the camp*, much like the rebellion of Korah against Moses. These people had become nothing but tools of Satan to disrupt and destroy that fellowship. When you allow yourself to get so deceived that you become a tool for Satan to cause rebellion and destruction in the camp, God may just choose not to grant you repentance.

In his summation of the issue, DeWaay says the following:

"The key issue is the underlying worldview that one holds. The warfare worldview claims that history is played out as a battle between the forces of evil and believers. According to this view, **God works through believers as much as they allow Him to.** The more knowledge and power believers gain the better they can defeat the forces of darkness. If believers lack knowledge and techniques for spiritual warfare they will be victims and not victors. There are casualties in this battle and God does not assure the outcome.**The providential worldview believes in God's sovereignty over all the forces of darkness. Spiritual forces of darkness cannot harm believers without first getting permission from God. What He allows them to do always is for our greater good.** The key issue is not our knowledge about the forces of evil but our knowledge of God through the gospel. The battle is between the lie of Satan that man can be like God and the truth of the gospel..."

...The options are **whether one believes in God's sovereignty** over all of these spiritual beings and realities or whether one believes God is allowing the battle to run its course on its own. Those who hold to the later view see God there to help if we figure out and use the right techniques **but not sovereignly keeping us and carrying us to glory**. Does God determine the outcome or is the outcome determined by humans and demons?

I believe that God uses the gospel to deliver people from the hostile powers and that the gospel effectively accomplishes all God intended to do from all eternity to save sinners. **Those who believe are "saved to the utmost"** (see Hebrews 7:25) **and need not fear the hostile spiritual forces of the universe**. The means of grace provided in the Bible are sufficient to cause us freedom and growth in the grace and knowledge of the Lord."

The key issue in this whole deliverance thing, according to DeWaay, is which "world view" a person holds. The Warfare world view claims that history is played out as a battle between the forces of evil and believers. According to this view, God works through believers *as much as they allow Him to*.

The Providential world view on the other hand, *believes in God's sovereignty* over all the forces of darkness. Spiritual forces of darkness cannot harm believers without first getting permission from God, and what He *allows* them to do *always* is for our greater good.

Don't you just love the definition of the Providential view? I mean if this view is correct, Satan can't possibly destroy you. Oh, he may be able to *touch* you a little; he may even be able to *hurt* you a little. But whatever he does, it's all under the strict control of the sovereignty of God and it's for your own good. God will never allow him to actually *destroy* you. You will never become a "casualty" in the battle!

Doesn't knowing that make you feel all warm inside? Doesn't knowing that give you an enormous sense of release? Doesn't knowing that just want to make go out and hug someone? The thought of being eternally secure feels soooo good, doesn't it? Knowing that God will never let the Devil *really* hurt you is such a relief, isn't it? especially in these days of wide spread apostasy.

And should the following questions ever try to creep into the back of your mind, just reject them as coming from your wicked evil heart of unbelief: *What about all the people who are being deceived right now? What about all those casualties? Not **one** of them is a genuine believer?*

You see, if just *one* of the hundreds of thousands of people who are being deceived right now is a *genuine* Christian, then Bob DeWaay is a deceiver just like the wolves he exposes. His "gospel" is not the true gospel but a perversion of the true gospel. The only difference is, he's a *Christian* wolf. Many of the other wolves aren't really Christians.

He says the options we are faced with are whether one believes in God's sovereignty over all of these spiritual beings and realities, or whether one believes God is allowing the battle to run its course *on its own*.

But what if a person doesn't subscribes to *either* of these world views? What if a person doesn't believe that God just allows the battle between good and evil to "run its course on it own"; but also doesn't believe God controls every little detail of everything that happens on this planet? What would Mr. DeWaay do with that kind of person? What kind of theological *label* would he use to describe *their* world view? Maybe he would call it the "Providential Lite" world view; or the "Semi-Warfare" world view.

His last statement really *sums up* the Providential world view. He says he believes God uses the gospel to deliver people from the hostile powers, and that the gospel *effectively accomplishes* all God intended it to do from all eternity [past] to save sinners. Those who believe are “saved to the utmost” and *need not fear* the hostile spiritual forces of the universe.

Again, this gets back to the question of *what gospel* are you preaching? People think that all you have to do in order to preach the true gospel is present what Jesus accomplished for us on the Cross, and then call people to repent and accept that atonement. But if part of the “gospel” you are preaching is the lie of Eternal Security, and double talk about not being afraid of Satan but fearing his deceptions, then you have *perverted* the truth and you are setting people up for deception. As a matter of fact, I don’t know of a greater way to set God’s people up for delusion and eventual destruction than to tell them that since they are eternally secure, and since God would never let Satan make them a “casualty” in the battle, they need not have any fear of him.

I think Mr DeWaay is in for a rude awakening when he stands before the Lord. Not only will he be shown that he was deceived by the powers he didn’t fear, he will also realize those powers turned him into a *deceiver* and used him to do great harm to the body of Christ. Think of how devastating that kind of revelation will be to a man who fancied himself an “Apostasy Watcher” with pure doctrine.

One of the most ironic—or should I say *pathetic*?—statements Mr. DeWaay makes is that the dangers of deception are greater than most people realize. No kidding! Take a wild guess as to *why* God’s people don’t realize the danger they are in. They don’t realize the danger they are in because of people like DeWaay, who tell them they are eternally secure! They don’t realize the danger they are in because of people like DeWaay, who tell them they don’t have to fear Satan because God is sovereign—and just as He sovereignly chose them and saved them, so He will sovereignly *keep them* until the end! God’s people are blind because of the *confusion* that comes from listening to Apostasy Watchers who double talk, contradict themselves, and teach them errors that produce a *false security* in them!

Christians aren’t being deceived right now because they are trying to be led by the Spirit. They are being deceived because they have been taught the “*Providential*” world view since the Reformation, and that view is *extremely dangerous*. It’s not only the prevailing view of the Religious System, it’s the prevailing view of the Apostasy Watchers. It says all you have to do to be saved and to be *kept safe* throughout your journey is believe and trust in God. And people wonder why Satan is having such a hey day right now? Wake up and smell the coffee, Bob!

Like or not, there are things *we* are responsible to *do* if we want to stay out of deception. There are things *we* must *do* in order to be kept under the protection of God. Those things are revealed in the Scripture. You don’t need to go out and buy a Bob Larson video to learn them. You don’t need to talk to demons to learn them. You don’t need a “deliverance tool box” to learn them. Just read the New Testament. All the information you need is *there*. It’s available to anyone who will earnestly seek it out. And by the way, God isn’t going to seek that information out *for* you “by grace”. He’s not going to dump that information into your brain “by faith”. Neither is He going to *cause* you to seek it out. The choice is yours and yours alone. God will honor your choice. If you *choose* to search out the truth, He will reveal the truth to you. If you *choose* not to search out the truth, you will never know the truth.