

Reiki Therapy

by Terry Whitsitt

Reiki (pronounced ray-key) means “universal life force.” It is allegedly an ancient healing technique rediscovered in the mid-1800s by Dr. Mikao Usui.¹ This New Age healing technique has its origins in ancient Tibet. But you don’t have to go to Tibet for treatment by a *Reiki* master today. *Reiki* therapy is taught as an approved course to RNs and LPNs across the country as part of their continuing nursing education (CNE).

A recent issue of the *Cleveland Ohio Nursing Weekly* lists “Reiki: The Transfer of Healing Energy” as a course approved by the Ohio Board of Nursing. Nurses can choose *Reiki* therapy, along with basic trauma life support and advanced cardiac life support, to complete the twenty-four hours of CNE they are required to accumulate during each two-year licensing period.²

But what does *Reiki* teach? It is said that through *Reiki* healing can be transmitted to someone in a distant place. In a telephone interview, Theresa Pachesny, a “*Reiki* therapist” and “Tarot card consultant” in Michigan, said, “*Reiki* is the use of the universal life-force to heal, balance and energize. In addition, *Reiki* balances and clears the *chakra* system, which helps attune a person to his or her higher soul or higher power.”³

According to Hinduism, *chakra* powers rise in the form of a serpent: the Kundalini force, represented at the base of the spine by the Hindu god, Shakti, who ascends to the seventh *chakra* and unites with Shiva, the third member of the Hindu trinity. In *Straight Answers on the New Age*, Bob Larson says, “Those who experiment with *chakra* arousal are

venturing into occult territory where strange, supernatural occurrences may be precipitated by the interference of demonic forces.”⁴

Some *Reiki* masters channel spirits, which supposedly help in the pseudo-healing sessions. Deuteronomy 18:9-12 says: “When you come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you, you must not learn to imitate the abhorrent practices of those nations. No one shall be found among you who makes a son or daughter pass through fire, or who practices divination, or is a soothsayer, or an augur, or a sorcerer, or one who casts spells, or who consults ghosts or spirits, or who seeks oracles from the dead. For whoever does these things is abhorrent to the LORD; it is because of such abhorrent practices that the LORD your God is driving them out before you.”

Acts 16:16-18 says, “One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling.

“While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, ‘These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim

to you a way of salvation.’ She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, ‘I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.’ And it came out that very hour.”

We can see from these and many other passages that the Bible clearly condemns occult practices, such as those found in *Reiki* therapy. ■JCN

¹Typed information sheet (Rancho Santa Margarita, Calif.: Christian Research Institute).

²*Cleveland Ohio Nursing Weekly*, October 11, 1996.

³Telephone interview, November 1996.

⁴Bob Larson, *Straight Answers on the New Age* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1989): pp. 250-51.



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