

Hello. Sid Roth here. Welcome to my world, where it's naturally supernatural. A counterfeit of Christianity is sweeping our churches. According to the Pew survey, 61% of all practicing Christians are now involved in this counterfeit in one form or another. Next, on ***It's Supernatural!***

*Is there a supernatural dimension? A world beyond the one we know? Is there life after death? Are there hidden forces of darkness trying to block God's blessings for your life? Do angels exist, providing us with supernatural protection? Can our dreams contain messages from Heaven? Is God ready to bring a tsunami wave of healing onto planet Earth today? Sid Roth has spent over 40 years researching the strange world of the supernatural. Join Sid for this edition of ***It's Supernatural!****

SID: Steven Bancarz. We hear the New Age talked about in various situations, but most of us don't even know what the New Age is. What is it?

STEVEN: The New Age Movement is a compilation of pagan beliefs and practices. So, the word pagan refers to any type of spiritual system that deviates from that in the Scripture. But what you have with the New Age Movement is not just one set of pagan beliefs and practices, it's the compilation, a mixing pot that draws from things like Buddhism, Hinduism, Mysticism, includes practices like crystal healing or Reiki, astrology, meditation, Yoga, and so forth.

STEVEN: Some common New Age doctrines would include things like reincarnation or the belief that man is intrinsically divine by nature or the belief that all paths ultimately lead back to God in the end. The end goal of the New Age Movement is to reach a state of enlightenment or spiritual awakening, which is essentially, that the ego, the personal self is an illusion; all that there is God. God is all and all is God.

STEVEN: Reaching that state of consciousness, which they call Christ consciousness or God consciousness, that's the goal of the New Age Movement; and unfortunately, some of the most influential people in our society right now are teaching this stuff. People like Russell Brand, Jim Carrey, Ellen DeGeneres, Oprah Winfrey. So, this is actually coming down from the highest levels of social influence.

SID: So, you say this is the goal. What is the overall goal of this, to get everyone into this New Age? Is that the goal?

STEVEN: No. The goal is, on a personal level, the goal is to reach a state where you realize that you are God.

SID: That's the personal level?

STEVEN: That's the personal level.

SID: What does it try to accomplish with people?

STEVEN: It tries to bring them into a spiritual awakening of their true nature. So basically—

SID: Which on the surface, sounds good.

STEVEN: On the surface, it sounds good, but it's a false spiritual system. So, it's a deception.

SID: You personally when you were in the New Age, had huge success. At your highest, what's going on?

STEVEN: I did have huge success. I had a website that was getting 200,000 to 300,000 website views a day. It was one of the largest in the world at the time. I was actually a lead author on the largest New Age website for a while. This was my career, it was my passion. I was making \$40,000 to \$50,000 a month in ad revenue. During this time, I actually thought God was blessing me. I thought this was God saying, "Congratulations, you're helping humanity wake up to their true spiritual nature out of the trap of materialism."

STEVEN: But Jesus says, Satan is the god of this world, and sometimes the Devil doesn't come to you as a guy with a pitchfork and horns. Sometimes he comes to you, is everything that you thought you've always wanted. And little did I know that I was being rewarded by the satanic kingdom, thinking I was serving God the whole time.

SID: Now, you mentioned many Hollywood stars are propagating this, but how dominant is it?

STEVEN: Right. Well, you have some of the bestselling books of all time that are explicitly New Age and occult. You have 40% of Americans who say they meditate at least once a week. You have 36 million Americans practicing yoga. It's a \$10 billion industry. The crystal industry is \$1 billion industry. The psychic services industry, things like palmistry, tarot card reading, astrology readings, up to \$2 billion industry.

STEVEN: You have 27% of the American population who says they identify as being spiritual but not religious. There's scores of New Age beliefs. If you include all the New Age beliefs and tests for those, you're looking at 90%, 95% of the average American population is consenting to New Age beliefs, which is a testament. This is no longer secluded to a handful of hippies on the fringes of society. It's infiltrating every part of our culture and now occupies the vast majority of western thought right now.

SID: You talk about the wonderful experiences you had in the New Age and on your website, but not all your experiences were wonderful. Did you ever talk about them on your website?

STEVEN: I did, but I was deceived. I saw a demon. Long story short, I saw a demon. I was in a lucid dream. A lucid dream is where you're in a dream state, but you become consciously aware that you're in that dream state. You're aware that you're dreaming within a dream. I'm in this dream and I get pulled up by this entity who appears in front of me, we're hovering in the air together. He has red skin, a red cloak, and black markings on his face.

STEVEN: He's staring at me, about 20 feet away from me and he has a third eye in between his two regular eyes, which is a symbol for psychic empowerment and spiritual power. He opens his third eye at me. And when he does that, I experienced about three seconds of disorientation and

darkness. When I finally opened my eyes and came to, I found myself hovering four feet over my body in my bedroom. I got pulled out of my body by this demon. I stood up and I look around and I think, "Oh, my goodness. I'm out of my body."

STEVEN: I spent the next four or five minutes fighting to get back into my flesh and I couldn't. I didn't have control. I didn't have sovereignty like I was told I did in the New Age Movement. Just your intentions protect you, your affirmation to protect you. No, they don't. You're in the Devil's arena and you're playing by his rules now. I was pulled twice out of my body against my will by demons. And this, unfortunately, it made me feel like I was spiritually superior, that I had a leg up on Christians, that I had a leg up on the average folk, that I had these entities giving me all this secret spiritual knowledge and power now.

SID: How's [this happen to] someone raised in a good Christian home? What was the first crack that got you away from biblical Christianity?

STEVEN: Yeah, like you said, Christian home, Christian private school, Christian homeschooling, grew up in the church my whole life, church home groups at my house. What really led me away from the biblical worldview and caused me to deviate from Christianity was the topic of aliens. I couldn't reconcile this.

SID: I see that as a choice on things to go to on television. Something in me says, "That'd interesting," and then God says to me, "Don't even look at it," but you looked at it. What happened?

STEVEN: I did look at it. It was actually a program on the History Channel, which is still there unfortunately, called Ancient Aliens, where they present this alleged evidence that mankind was visited in the past by our cosmic brothers and sisters, these extra terrestrials. Little did I know, Sid, that even secular researchers believe these are inter dimensional entities, not extra terrestrial. They believe they are spiritual in origin. I didn't know this. I thought the New Age explanation was the only game in town, and I couldn't reconcile this with Genesis. I wondered where God said, "Let there be aliens."

STEVEN: Did Jesus have to go and die on every single planet that housed extra terrestrial life? I could not reconcile it with the Christian worldview. There's lots of people, there's lots of resources available to help people with this, but I never heard it from the pulpit, and the Bible says God's people perish for a lack of knowledge. It's exactly what happened to me.

SID: At your height, how financially successful was this industry you were in for you?

STEVEN: At my height, I was making \$40,000 to \$50,000 a month. Actually in my first three weeks, I made over \$50,000. I remember buying my sports car, cash, and I'm sitting in my sports car and my Christian father is outside the window and I rolled down my window and I literally said—here's how deceived I was—I said, "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and all these things will be added onto you as well."

STEVEN: I thought I was serving the Kingdom of God. I was told by New Age teachers that the kingdom is this mystical state of consciousness and that I was helping people reach this. I thought this was God's abundance on my life.

SID: Steven, I can see what was going on in the outside, but what I'd like to know is at that time, how much peace were you're really in? What was going on in the inside?

STEVEN: Well, Jesus says, "Whoever commits sin as a slave to sin." I was a sin slave. It says in Ephesians 5:8, it's interesting. It doesn't just say that you were a little dark and now you are light or you had darkness, then you're now, you're light. It says, "You were darkness." I was darkness. The thoughts and intents of my heart were evil continuously. I was an addict. I was violent. I was lustful. I was greedy. I was depressed. I was extremely broken and deprived.

STEVEN: I wasn't just spiritually ill, I was spiritually dead. I was spiritually bankrupt. I was in a state of turmoil all day, all night.

SID: Everyone looking at you said, "Boy, he's got it all."

STEVEN: Right. On the outside, I'm living the dream.

SID: I wonder how many of you guys watching right now are playing a game like an actor, but you're coming apart on the inside. It took a supernatural visitation for Steven to be free. This visitation showed him something that New Age couldn't even offer.

SID: Next, be right back.

*We'll be right back to **It's Supernatural.***

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*We now return to **It's Supernatural.***

SID: Steven, on the outside, you had it made. On the inside? You're coming apart at the seams. So, how in the world that you get free?

STEVEN: The Bible says, "Be sure your sins will find you out," and my secret sins started catching up to me. It reached a point where I really had to start confessing the sin I was suppressing and hiding from people in my life. So, I confessed sin to people. It was the first time I was really looking in a mirror and coming to terms with my own brokenness, "Wow. I really am a slave to sin. I really am deprived. I really am twisted on the inside," and I was broken. I was really broken. My mother, my Christian mother who was praying for me vigilantly the entire time I'm in this movement. She says, "Are you ready to give your life to the Lord yet?"

STEVEN: I was like, "Okay." I mean, I had intuitions about Jesus that I was suppressing when I was in the New Age Movement. Every New Age teacher goes out of their way to try and account for Jesus. Never Buddha or Muhammad, but for Jesus, they always have the new explanation

about what His ministry really was. That was always a red flag to me. I had a soft spot for him, so I was like, "Okay, Jesus, if you're real, I want more of you. I want you as you actually are. I'm not going to fit you into this New Age paradigm anymore."

STEVEN: A few weeks went by and nothing really changed in my life until I confessed another round of sin that was worse than the first one, and that's really when I bottomed out. I had nothing left. I had no strength left. I had nothing good in me. I was a wreck. I realized I'm not fit to be lord of my own life anymore. I went outside on the back balcony of my house, my stupid 4,000 square foot house I was living in, and I just fell at the feet of the Lord and I was weeping.

STEVEN: It was the first time I was actually repenting. I had this conviction, I hadn't just wronged people. I'd sinned against the Holy God and I was weeping before Him, apologizing to Him, reaching out to Him. I didn't know what was going to happen. I was just giving Him everything that I had. When I did this, I felt His presence enter in on the horizon in front of me. I felt Him enter in and this presence engulfed me.

SID: As you're saying this, I can feel the presence of God. Can you? Some of you in the audience and you at home? Go ahead.

STEVEN: Right. Yeah. So, His presence comes in and it starts engulfing me and it starts filling me at the same time. It's a personal presence that is self-authenticating. I knew when I was in this presence that this was the Jesus of the New Testament. This is the Jesus I was suppressing in unrighteousness. All I could stay in my head during the [], during this time, was "Jesus is Lord."

STEVEN: It's so simple. He's the Son of God. I was making it so complex. It's the simple thing. Jesus is Lord. What really stuck out to me, Sid, which wrecked me, it really broke me. The Lord showed me how creation was responding to Him. When He was there, I could hear and detect in the Spirit that the sounds of nature, the crickets, the leaves on the trees, the sound of the wind was glorifying Him. All of nature was crying out and I was detecting that. I picked that up in the Spirit.

SID: I believe God knew you needed to have that. Am I right?

STEVEN: I needed to have that because I believed that nature was God and that I was God; and He was showing me, "No, even nature itself knows who I am." I thought to myself, "If nature itself recognizes Jesus is Lord, who am I to deny Him?" I went back into my house after and I was filled with the Holy Spirit. I had all these light bulbs going off in my head showing me the New Age Movement is a demonic deception set up strategically to lead people away from the experience, the born again experience I just had.

STEVEN: From that day forward, I never wrote another New Age article. I quit my job overnight, sold my house, sold my car, made an apology video online, apologizing saying, "I'm really sorry, guys. I'm no longer writing New Age articles, and I'm actually a born again Christian now. So, I just want to share with you my story and my testimony."

SID: So, you were able to tell hundreds of thousands of New Agers that Jesus is Lord. But then these demons, they didn't want you doing this, and they came back and hit you again. What happened?

STEVEN: Yeah, there was demonic attack going on in my life. I was having night terrors. I was having nightmares. I was having things fall in my house randomly. It like there was a demonic fester in the atmosphere in my house. What the Holy Spirit started to show me and reveal to me was, "The reason why you're being attacked, the reason why you're being oppressed, even though you're walking with Me, is because you are giving legal ground and legal right to these demons by having occult and New Age paraphernalia in your house."

SID: So, what did you do with all this paraphernalia?

STEVEN: Well, I had a bonfire. I put them all together, I burnt them all. I threw all my objects, my trinkets, my jewelry, even my clothing, my idols, I threw it all in the garbage. As soon as I did this, there is instant spiritual breakthrough in clarity in my head. Praise God.

SID: The sad thing is, this New Age movement is invading the church. You mentioned that the Pew survey showed 61% of professional Christians are involved in one or more New Age practices or beliefs. I want to know what these practices are. We'll be right back

*We'll be right back to **It's Supernatural.***

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*We now return to **It's Supernatural.***

SID: Steven, I know you had all sorts of experiences in the New Age and feelings. Tell me about the feeling you had when Jesus revealed Himself to you and maybe the difference between the two.

STEVEN: The most striking difference was that when I was in the presence of Jesus, I knew I had found the answer to the questions about who am I? Why am I here? What is the meaning of life? I was satisfied. I knew I had come into contact with the ultimate truth, the highest truth. There was no more searching. Now, it's just a matter of growing in that truth.

STEVEN: I remember staring at my bookshelf at all these New Age books and I had peace. For the first time, I had real lasting peace that the New Age practices couldn't give me because I knew the Spirit of truth Himself. Jesus, who is the truth, was now living in me, and so I knew that this was the highest truth you could possibly attain and reach—was the knowledge of Jesus Christ. It was interesting. When I was in His presence, I felt like I was being crushed like a diamond almost. The word in Hebrew for glory has a sense of, of weightiness to it, and I felt like there was this weightiness that was upon me.

SID: Wait, when it comes on me, sometimes if I'm standing, I have to almost bow down because there's a weight upon me.

STEVEN: That's right. It makes you want to bow down.

SID: Yeah.

STEVEN: That's difference. Nothing I encountered in the New Age movement made me want to bow down and that's because your spirit man knows when you're in the presence of the living God.

SID: Tell me some of the New Age practices that have invaded the church, but even before that, you talk about Oprah as a pied piper of the New Age. Explain that.

STEVEN: Yeah, she is. I don't think there's anybody who has done more to promote New Age spirituality in the west than Oprah Winfrey, that's a very strong claim, but from her programs like Super Soul Sunday, the books she promotes and advertises, I'm talking millions and millions, tens of millions of New Age books have been promoted and sold through her book club, through her programs. She's really running the show in the west right now.

STEVEN: As far as New Age practices getting into the church, a part of that is accredited to just the fact that it's so prevalent in our culture right now. It happens to leak in there by osmosis. So an example of something would be a mystical practice called contemplative prayer. There's a difference between praying contemplatively and contemplative prayer. Contemplative prayer is essentially where you pick some kind of mantra, like a word, and you repeat this word over in your head over and over and over again. There's no vertical connection made between you and God. You're just trying to say this word to shift your consciousness, to dissolve your personal sense of self, and attain what it's called pure consciousness or unity consciousness, where you achieve unity with God.

STEVEN: Another example would be angel Ouija boards, where, "Hey, rather than contact Satan and demons, here's a Ouija board, contact your guardian angel."

SID: Is there a danger to a Christian doing these things?

STEVEN: It's extremely dangerous because the Bible says that Satan could masquerade himself as an angel of light, so how do you know you're not contacting Satan when you're doing these things? If you don't have the discernment to know in advance, you shouldn't be going there. You don't have the discernment to discern what spirit's coming through from the other side.

STEVEN: Another example of the New Age Movement in the Church would be the practice of yoga, which is controversial, but just on the least, definitionally, [what] Hinduism in practice is. I would say go to a kinesiologist, go to a chiropractor, get some back stretches from a local personal trainer. Scientifically, they've been shown to be just as effective in alleviating back pain as yoga. Now, what's scary, Sid, and what's dangerous is a lot of these practices, they're actually named after the gods of Hinduism. When you hold these postures, what it's meant to do is invoke the character, the properties, and the essences of these certain gods.

SID: So, ignorance of the law is no excuse.

STEVEN: Right. The Bible says, "Flee from idolatry."

SID: What is Christ consciousness?

STEVEN: Christ consciousness, it's a staple New Age doctrine, which is this idea that man is intrinsically connected to God by nature and we're just itself ignorant of it. So, the New Age teachers will tell us, "Not just Jesus was Christ-ed, you can be Christ-ed too." What's dangerous about this and scary about this is Jesus actually warns in the last days, people will come. He says, "Many people will come saying, 'I am Christ,' and deceive many."

STEVEN: So, is He referring to the dozen or so cults [whose] followers have all dissolved with time, and have relatively small cult followings, or is He referring to the millions and millions and millions of New Age practitioners who literally believe "I am Christ" and will say "I am Christ."

SID: Did you believe that?

STEVEN: Absolutely. I believe that was a state I was working toward. I believed I was God. I believed everyone was God.

SID: Isn't it? What originally Satan told Eve, "You can be like God"?

STEVEN: Absolutely.

SID: That's where it all goes back. There's a counterfeit and there's the authentic. Why would anyone want the cheap counterfeit when they could have the authentic? I want to say a prayer with you and I'm promising you if you say this prayer and mean it to the best of your ability, you can do that out loud, that God is not a man that He should lie, and changes will occur in your life that will be monumental for eternity. Repeat this prayer after me.

SID: Dear God...

Audience: Dear God...

SID: ...I'm a sinner...

Audience: ...I'm a sinner...

SID: ...against you.

Audience: ...against you.

SID: And you alone have I sinned.

Audience: And you alone have I sinned.

SID: ...and I'm so sorry.

Audience: ...and I'm so sorry.

SID: I believe...

Audience: I believe...

SID: ...the blood of Jesus...

Audience: ...the blood of Jesus...

SID: ...makes me clean.

Audience: ...makes me clean.

SID: And now that I'm clean...

Audience: And now that I'm clean...

SID: Jesus, come inside of me.

Audience: Jesus, come inside of me.

SID: I make you my Lord.

Audience: I make you my Lord.

SID: I'm so happy to know you.

Audience: I'm so happy to know you.

SID: Amen.

Audience: Amen.

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SID: Next week on ***It's Supernatural!***

Rob and Aliss Cresswell: Are you ready to receive God's blessings and also release His power? Then join us right here on the next *It's Supernatural!* with Sid Roth and learn how to release supernatural, miracle working power everywhere you go. And, get ready for breakthrough in your own life too.

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