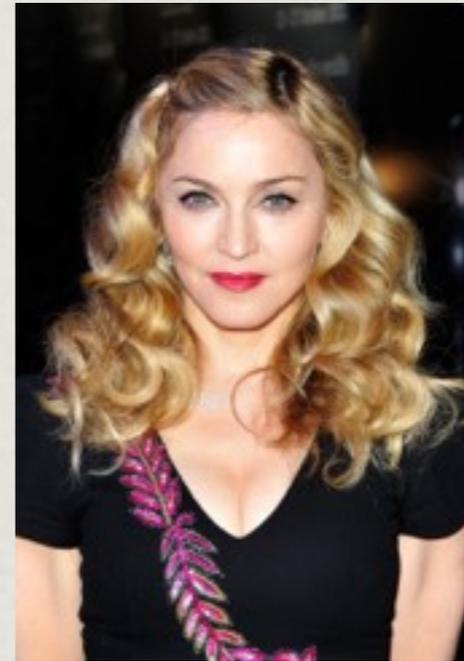
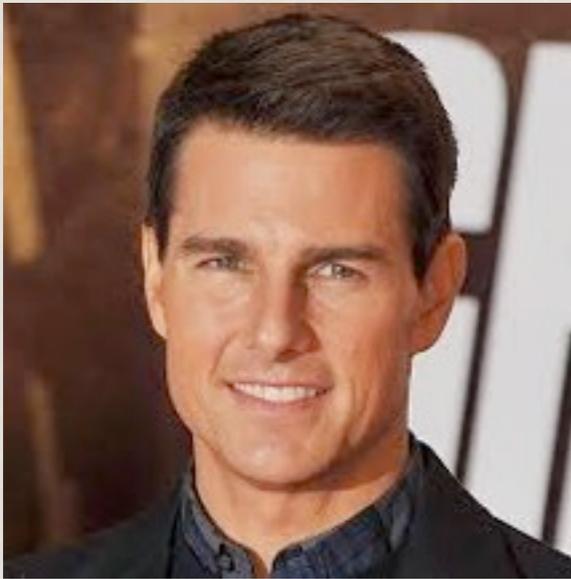


False Religions



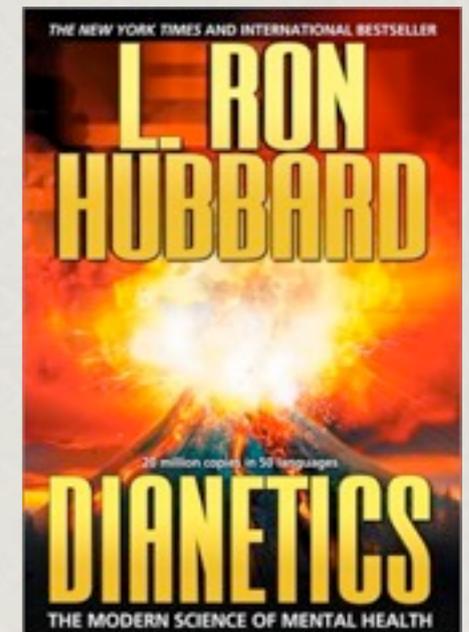
False Religions



Scientology

Founder

- Scientology was founded by L. Ron Hubbard
- 1950 – *Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health*
- 1953 – Hubbard founded the first Church of Scientology in New Jersey



Religion?

- Hubbard once described Scientology as “the Western Anglicized continuance of many earlier forms of wisdom.”
- Combines Confucianism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Gnosticism, teachings of Jesus, and writings of William James, Sigmund Freud, and Friedrich Nietzsche.

God and the World

- We are free to interpret God as we wish.
- God is described in terms like Nature, Infinity, the Eighth Dynamic, and All Theta.
- Basic principle: “The thetan is the source of all creation and life itself.”

God and the World

- MEST is the material, energy, space, and time of our universe.
- Hubbard says that MEST is the projection of a vast number of spirit creatures called thetans who were bored with the non-material existence and decided to emanate a universe to play “The Game of Life.”

Human Nature

- People return through reincarnation, inhabiting different bodies.
- In each new body, their “engrams” (sensory impressions stored in the mind) from past lives stick with them and cause more problems with each new reincarnation.

Salvation

- Scientology offers us a plan for self improvement.
- Through hard work and auditing with an E-meter you can discover the truth and reach a god-like existence.



Scientology E-meter

Salvation

- Through successful auditing, you can become an Operating Thetan and wear an OT bracelet.
- This is a sign that you have reached “total spiritual independence and serenity.”



History

- Seventy five million years ago an evil leader called Xenu decided to wipe out most of the population of a galactic confederacy consisting of 26 stars and 76 planets.
- With the help of psychiatrists, he tricked billions of people into submission and exported them to planet earth.

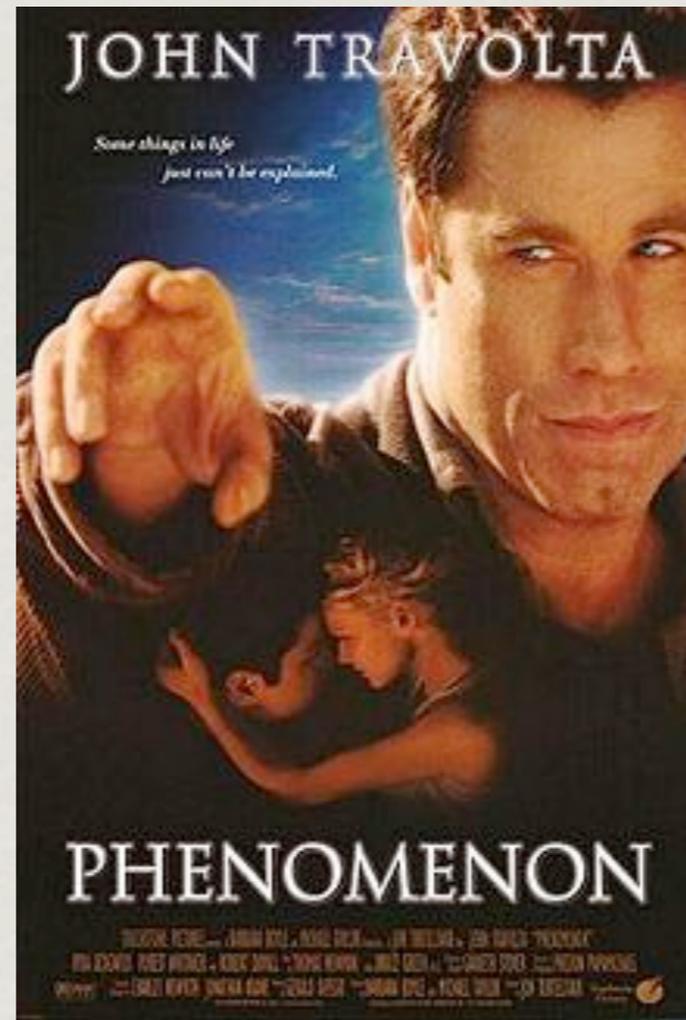
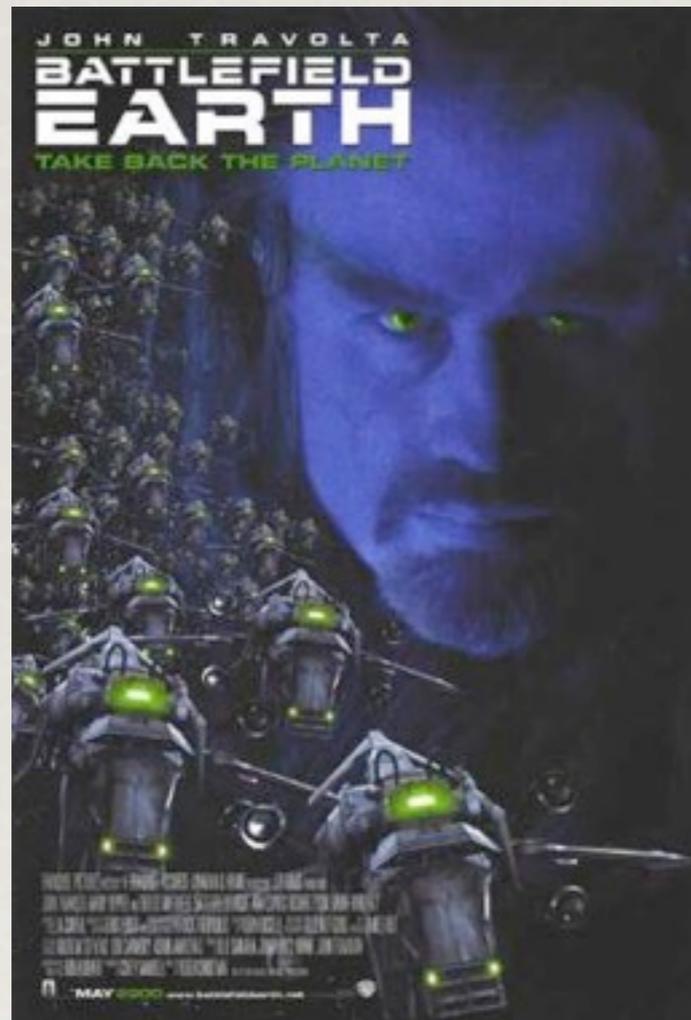
History

- These victims were stacked around active volcanoes in which hydrogen bombs were placed and detonated.
- The disembodied souls or thetans were captured and brainwashed into believing in the existence of a God and the devil.

History

- This action planted ideas of Catholicism and the image of crucifixion into the minds of these hapless thetans.
- It also deprived thetans of their own sense of identity - they were left clinging to the few physical bodies that remained after the explosions.

Influence



Kabala

The Stars of Kabala

- Actors: Madonna, Kate Capshaw, Roseanne Barr, Jeff Goldblum, Ashton Kutcher, Naomi Campbell, and Liz Taylor.
- Sports: David Beckham.



Kabbalah Centre

History

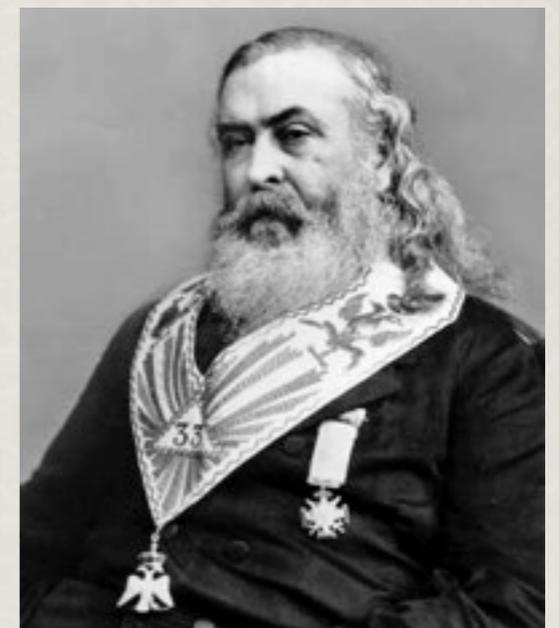
- It uses a mystical interpretation of the Old Testament. Every word, letter, number, and accent contains mysteries interpretable only by those who know the secret.
- Emerged among Jews in Babylonia, and later Italy, Provence, and Spain, between the sixth and thirteenth centuries A.D.

History

- Kabala means “to receive,” and refers to heavenly revelation received by Jews
- The true meaning of the Hebrew Scriptures was kept hidden from the masses and only made known to those who were spiritually ready to receive it.

History

- Kabala also has connections to masonry.
- Albert Pike wrote: “the Kabala is the key of the occult sciences.”
- “Masonry is a search after Light. That search leads us directly . . . to the Kabala.”



Human Nature

- Kabala teaches the pre-existence of the soul.
- All souls destined to enter human bodies have existed from all eternity in a fixed number.
- They are nourished by the sight of the divine radiance of the Shekinah.

Human Nature

- Kabala teaches reincarnation.
- Each soul undergoes a period of trial in this world: returns to heavenly origin or is subjected to a purification
- Those who fail return in a lower form of existence: animals, trees, or stones.

Salvation

- Salvation by works:
- Penance, self-mortification, prayer mantle, prescribed ceremonies, wearing white, and wearing phylacteries.
- Red string - talisman to ward off misfortune from the “evil eye.”



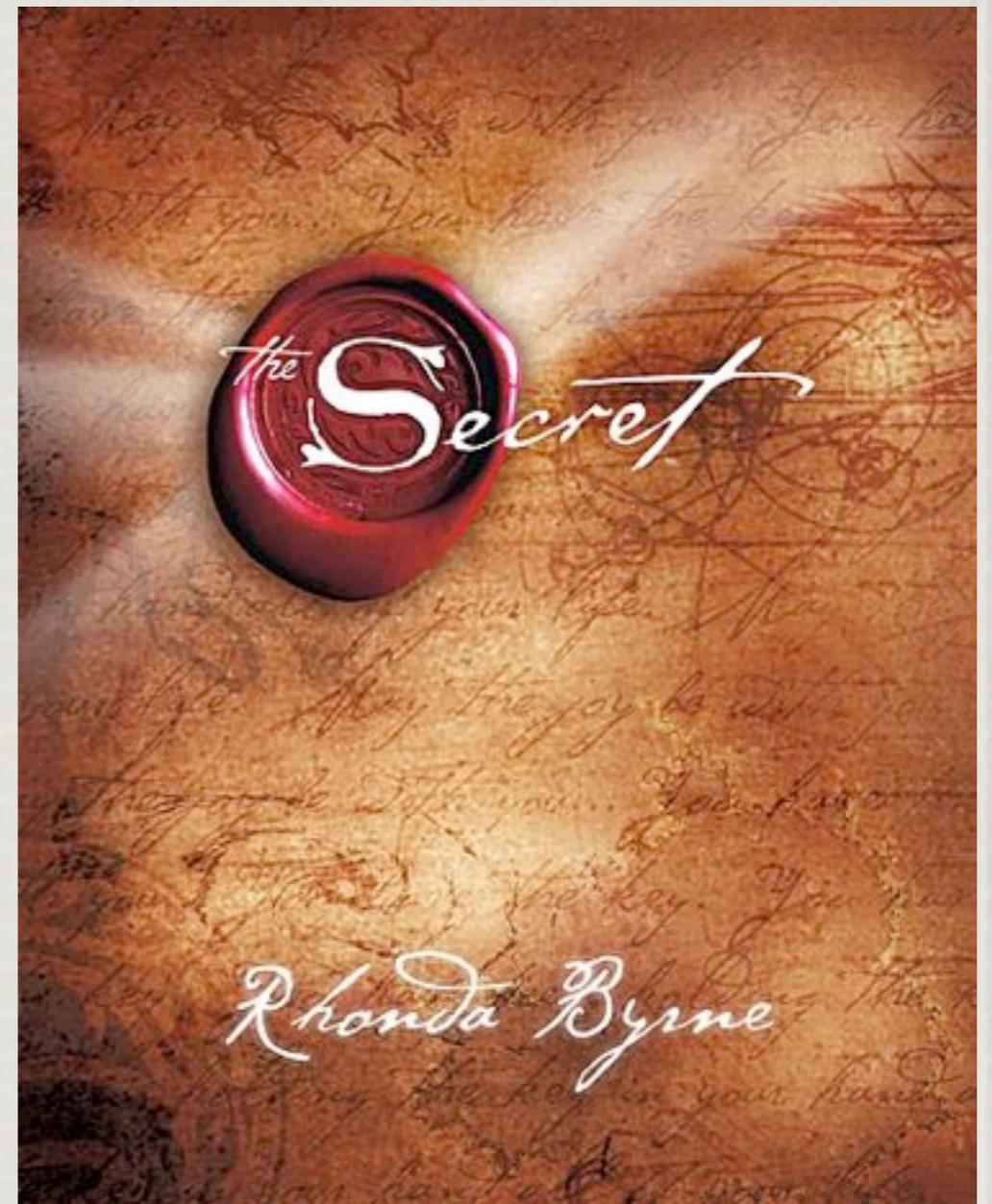
Biblical Response

- Mystical interpretation - read the Bible for its plain meaning (2 Timothy 2:15).
- Connection to the occult - do not engage in divination (Deuteronomy 18) or other aspects of the occult.
- Reincarnation - appointed to die once and then the judgment (Hebrews 9:27).

The Secret

The Secret

- It is promoted as an age old secret which has been 4000 years in the making.
- It is known only to a few people.



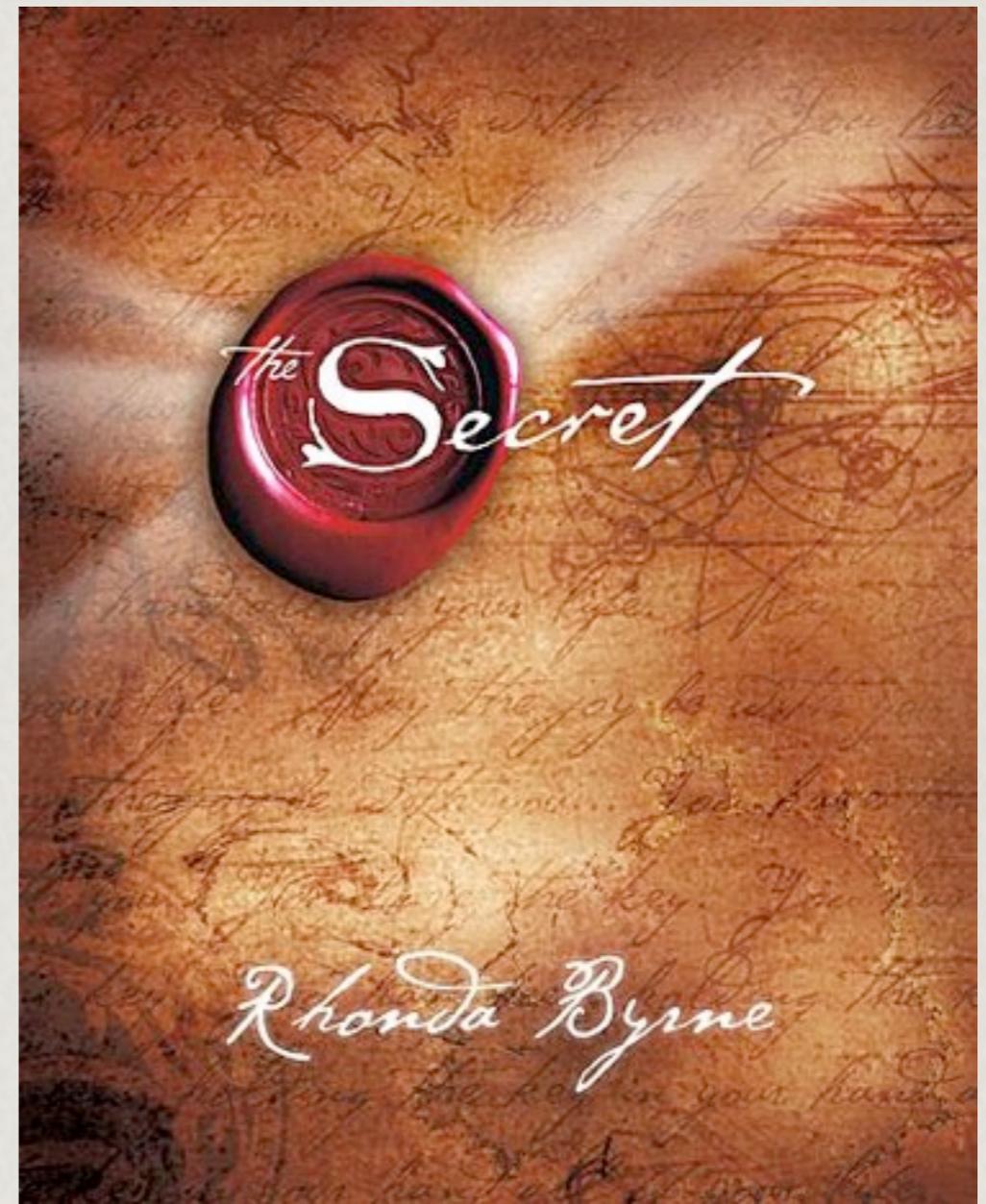
The Secret

- Rhonda Byrne came upon these ideas during a time of great upheaval in her family.
- Death of father, business in bankruptcy.



The Secret

- The key element is what is called “The Law of Attraction.”
- Thoughts become things. Think good thoughts and you will reap good things.



The Secret

- Do you want something?
Focus on it.
- Do you want to lose weight?
Do the same thing.
- Do you want to get healthy?
Visualize health.

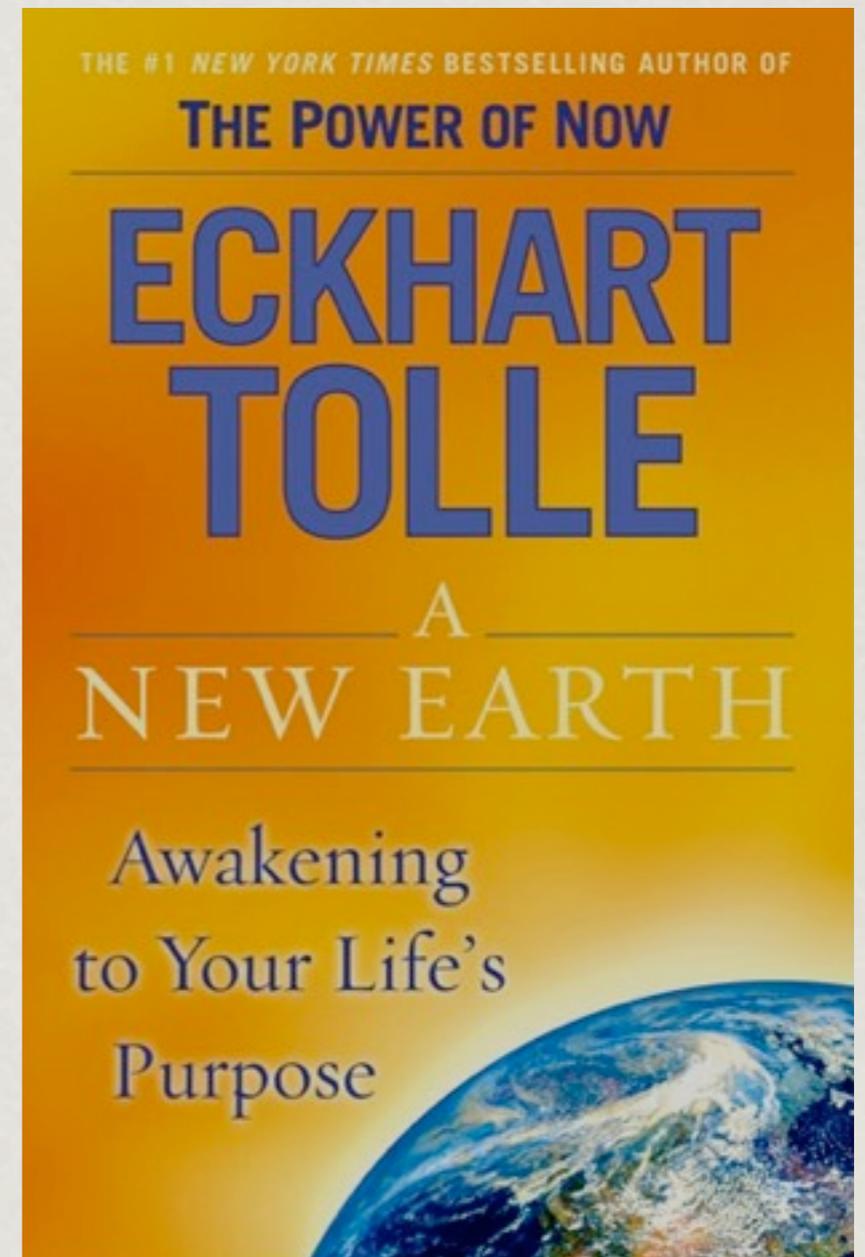
Biblical Response

- We should be content (Phil 4:11) rather than desire things and use the Law of Attraction.
- We should give liberally (2 Cor 9:6-8) rather than try to acquire through the Law of Attraction.

Eckhart Tolle

Eckhart Tolle

- Millions of copies of this book and Eckhart Tolle's earlier book.
- It has exploded because of his appearance on Oprah Winfrey's program.



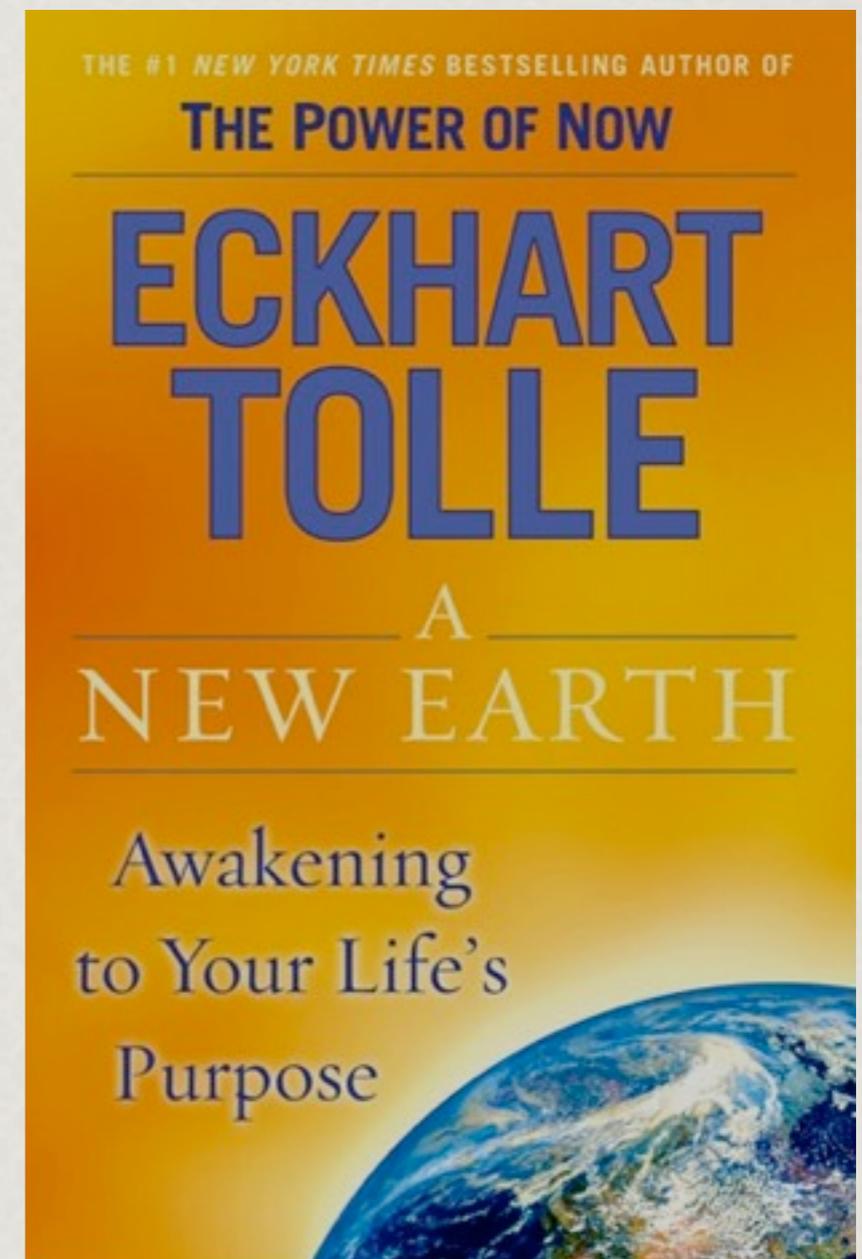
Eckhart Tolle

- He was born in Germany.
- Had a spiritual transformation at 29.
- Read works of mystics, Hindus, and Buddhists.



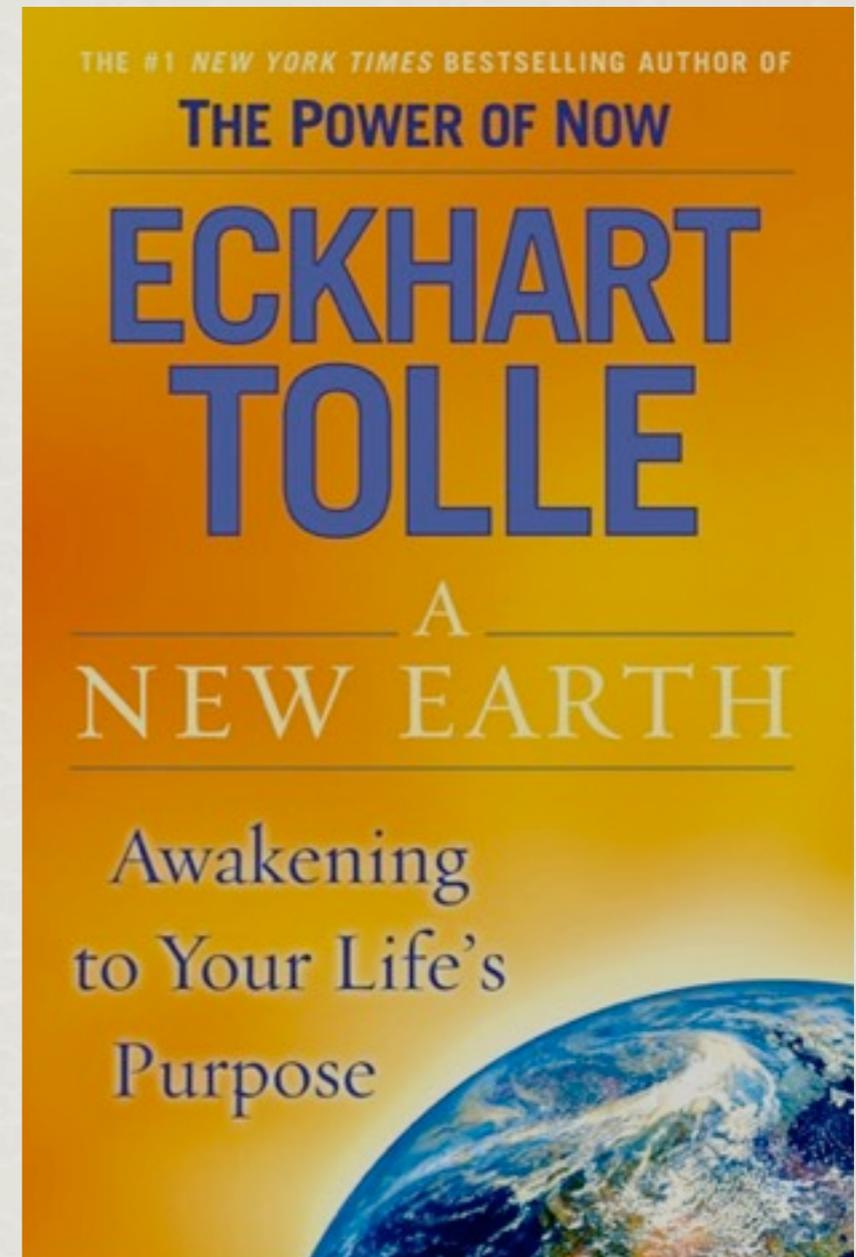
Eckhart Tolle

- The premise of the book is that all material things result from a universal, immaterial life force.
- He calls this the “One Life Force.”



Eckhart Tolle

- He says the vast majority of people are unconscious and unaware of the source of their being.
- Our ego and our pain-body are keeping us from true awareness.



Biblical Response

- The Bible teaches that God is personal and knowable, not the “One Life Force.”
- Humans are created in God’s spirit and have a sin nature.
- The problem is more than ego.

Biblical Response

- He also distorts the biblical concepts of sin and evil.
- Says the barrier to true Awareness is the collective pain body - not responsible.
- “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23)

Biblical Response

- He believes that we are not born spiritually dead but spiritually unconscious.
- You become good by finding the goodness that is in you.
- “The heart is more deceitful than all else” (Jeremiah 17:9)

Biblical Response

- He teaches that Jesus was an enlightened human.
- He joined Buddha and a few others in trying to communicate this message.
- “I am the way, and the truth, and the life” (John 14:6)

Course in Miracles

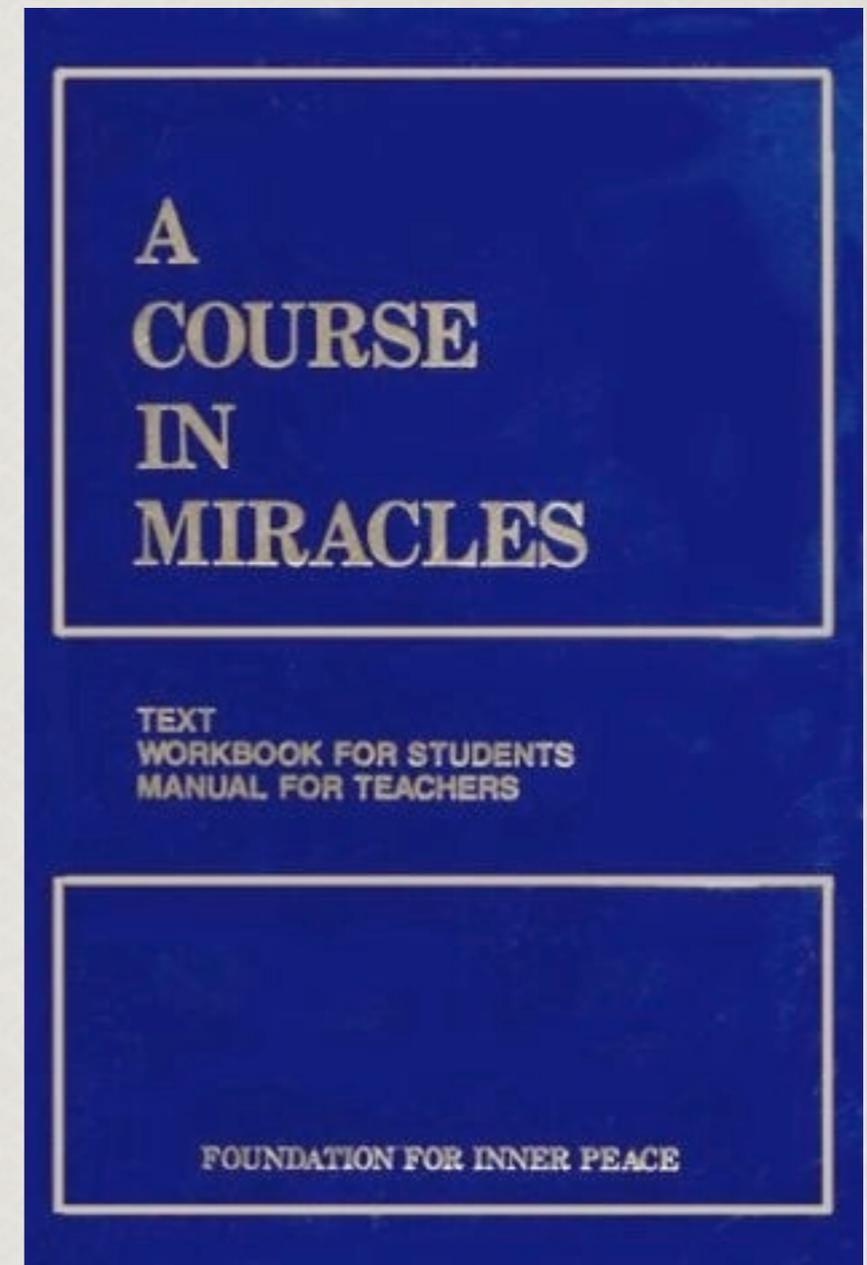
Course in Miracles

- Marianne Williamson says her book was dictated to her by a spirit known as the “Voice.”
- This inner voice was supposed to be Jesus.



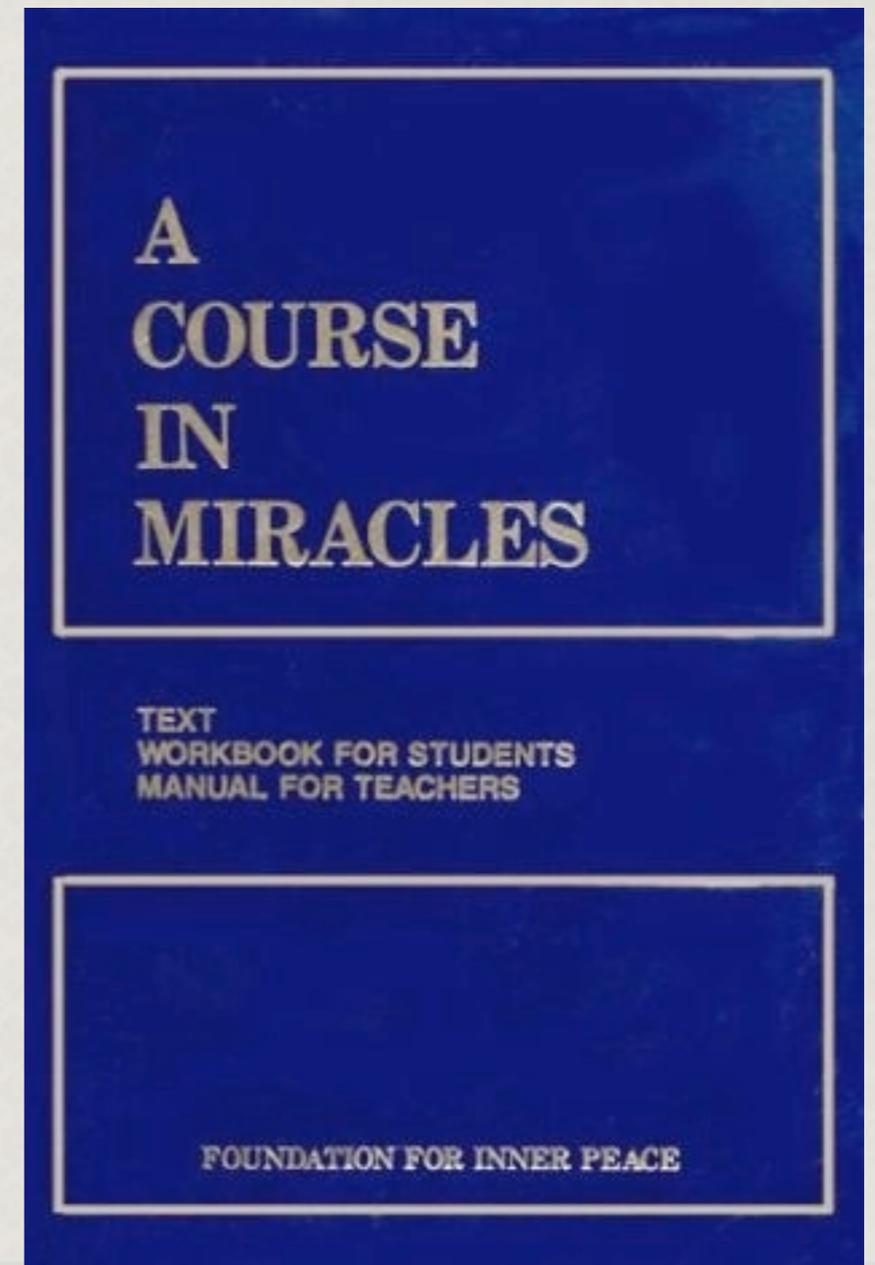
Course in Miracles

- “Course in Miracles” and her book “A Return to Love” sold millions because of her appearance on the Oprah Winfrey program.
- Another key person is Gerald Jampolsky.



Course in Miracles

- The book uses Christian terminology and thus has been taught in various Sunday School classes.
- More than 1000 study guides in churches.



Course in Miracles

- Only love is real.
- All that is negative is illusion.
- Sickness, hate, pain, fear, guilt, and sin do not really exist.

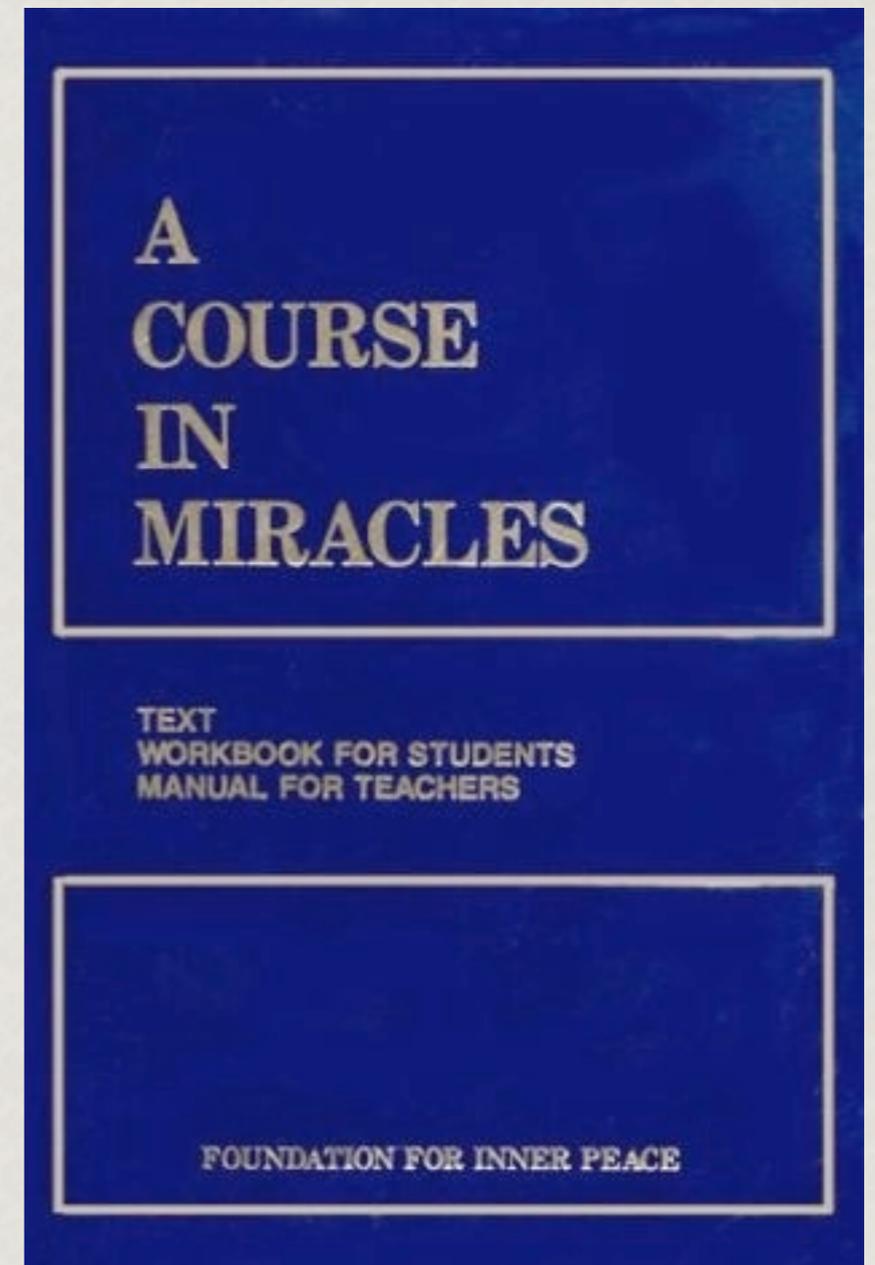
A
COURSE
IN
MIRACLES

TEXT
WORKBOOK FOR STUDENTS
MANUAL FOR TEACHERS

FOUNDATION FOR INNER PEACE

Course in Miracles

- Evil does not exist but is an illusion that must be overcome by right thinking.
- The goal is to change how one thinks and to change one's belief system.



Course in Miracles

- There is no need to feel guilt because there is no sin.
- Separation from God is only an illusion but not due to sin because there is no sin.

**A
COURSE
IN
MIRACLES**

TEXT
WORKBOOK FOR STUDENTS
MANUAL FOR TEACHERS

FOUNDATION FOR INNER PEACE

Biblical Response

- She teaches that Jesus is just an enlightened person.
- “Jesus and other enlightened masters are our evolutionary elder brothers.”
- Jesus said, “I and the Father are one” (John 10:30).

Biblical Response

- She teaches that we must spiritually evolve like Jesus.
- “Jesus became what all of you must be.”
- “He who believes in the Son has eternal life” (John 3:36)

Resources

