

# Norman Vincent Peale

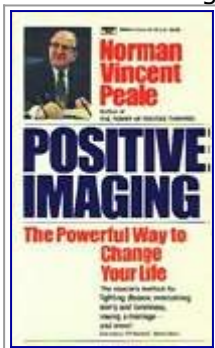
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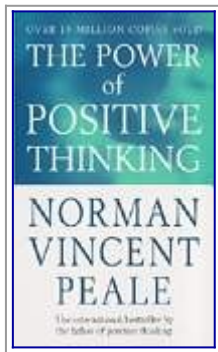
Norman Vincent Peale a liberal psychologizer, 33 degree freemason, shamanistic new age metaphysician, easy believism minister and **founder of the Foundation for PseudoChristian Living**. The widely-quoted Peale focused on "new age psychology and shamanistic visualization techniques. **A pioneer of the liberal approach to new age psychology, attempting to mix it with christianity, he taught that positive thinking could perform greater miracles than faith in the supernatural. Peale's theology had a great influence on Robert Schuller and some leaders in the Word of Faith movement. He was also endorsed by many american presidents, such as Ronald Reagan, Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford.**

## Titles Authored by Norman Vincent Peale:

- The Art of Living;
- A Guide to Confident Living;
- Life Beyond Death;
- The Positive Power of Jesus Christ;
- Positive Thinking for a Time Like This;
- The Power of the Plus Factor;
- This Incredible Century;
- Thought Conditioners;
- The Tough-Minded Optimist;
- You Can If You Think You Can;
- Positive Imaging;



- The Power of Positive Thinking;



Norman Peales legacy of psychologizing lives on through his magazine "guideposts", which is more less the Laodicean readers digest, full of cute little stories and events, that benefit nobody eternally. You won't find and hell fire and repentance preaching in these pages. What lukewarm garbage fit for the shredder machine, what a waste of paper.



## Norman Vincent Peale 33 degree Mason

Peale was a well-known clergyman whose upbeat religious philosophy and skill as a speaker made him one of America's most popular Protestant ministers. He was also the publisher of Guideposts magazine and a writer of many books including the best seller Power of Positive Thinking. A member of Midwood Lodge #1062, Brooklyn, he was Grand Chaplain for the Grand Lodge of New York. He received the 33rd in 1959 and the Gourgas Medal in 1973.

**Self Professed Freemason, Norman Vincent Peale, was praised by Billy Graham in a speech at a National Council of Churches luncheon on 12 June 1966, "I don't know anyone who has done more for the kingdom of God than Norman and Ruth Peale, or have meant any more in my life from the encouragement they have given me"** (Hayes Minnick, BFT Report #565, p. 28). Peale was also allowed to give the benediction at one of Grahams New York City rallies, (the names of 400 new "converts" was then sent to Peale's Marble Collegiate Church).

Rev. Norman Vincent Peale, 33°, who served as a psychologizer to many generations through his sermons, addresses, and writings, died at his home in Pawling, N.Y., on Dec. 24, 1993, but the words he expressed still eat away at the mind of the unwar and unsuspecting, like a cancer growth.

For more than 50 years he was senior pastor at the historic Marble Collegiate Church in New York City. His previous pastorates were in Berkeley, R.I., Brooklyn, and Syracuse, N.Y.

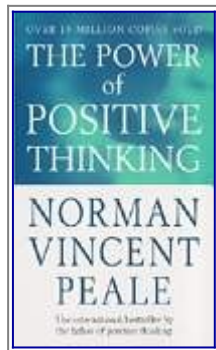
He was noted for many books and articles, but the most renowned was The Power of Positive





## Peale Taught New Age Psychology & Shamanism

**The Rev. Norman Vincent Peale authored "The Power of Positive Thinking" in 1952.**



**His 1952 book, "The Power of Positive Thinking," once ranked as one of the highest-selling spirituality books, after the Bible.**

By the time this Methodist minister's son died at his home in Pawling at the age of 95, **he had written 46 books** and influenced the lives of millions of people.

The Rev. Norman Vincent Peale seemed to follow his own advice: Reach for the moon and even if you fail, you'll still be among the stars.

Peale wrote in "Positive Thinking."

"Change your mental habits to belief instead of disbelief. Learn to expect, not to doubt. In so doing you bring everything into the realm of possibility,"

**With its mixture of psychology, new age shamanism and upbeat outlook, "Positive Thinking" — among the first self-help books — crystalized Peale's preaching. It reached millions of readers worldwide.**

Peale's sermons and his books that emphasized people's ability to succeed and their faith in God, **rather than focusing on their sins and guilt**, changed the way other clergy ministered their congregations.

**Peale first became suspect when he consistently began endorsing New Age/Occultic writers. The following are several examples. In Dr. Bernie Siegel's book, Love, Medicine, and Miracles, Peale writes, "In these pages is found a precious secret, that of health and**

**well being" (inside cover). In the book Siegel describes how he got his message and insights through guided meditation and an inner spirit guide (p. 18-20).**

Siegel also promotes meditation, hypnosis, and guided visualization with eastern/Occultic presuppositions based on "cosmic-at-oneness and enlightenment," Yoga and Kundalini, and Silva Mind Control (pgs. 147-152).

Siegel also teaches that through continuous "spiritual consciousness" death no longer exists and that he has "received many messages from those who have died," (p. 220). Siegel concludes with instructions on how to meditate and visualize cosmic-at-oneness energy healing you. He also lists a whole spate of New Age writers and books for suggested reading (pp. 227-239).

**Peale also endorses the writer Eric Butterworth who is one of the chief leaders and writers for Unity School of Christianity.** Butterworth, in his writings, clearly teaches New Age/Occultic world views. Peale writes of Eric Butterworth "Thought-motivating and spiritually rewarding," (Life is for Loving, noted on cover of How to Break the Ten Commandments, Eric Butterworth).

Found on the cover of the book **The Game of Life by metaphysician Florence Shinn**, is Peale's endorsement,

"By studying and practicing the principles laid down in this book, one may find prosperity, solve problems, have better health, achieve good personal relations - in a word win the game of life. The Game of Life is filled with wisdom and creative insights. That its teachings will work I know to be a fact, for I've long used them myself."

What are these teachings? "Jesus Christ knew in reality, there is no evil There is an old legend that Adam and Eve ate of `Maya the Tree of Illusion' Therefore evil is a false law man has made for himself... has been hypnotized by the race belief (of sin, sickness, and death) which is carnal or mortal thought," (p. 30.)

" Jesus Christ brought the good news (the gospel) that there was a higher law than the law of Karma. The world thought is that of sin, sickness and death. He saw their absolute unreality. We know now from a scientific standpoint, that death could be overcome by stamping the subconscious mind with the conviction of eternal youth and eternal life. Working under the direction of the superconscious, (the Christ or God within man) the `resurrection of the body' would be accomplished," (pp. 46-47).

On Page 83 the author teaches the law of reincarnation. Are these isolated incidents? No, the pattern continues.

Peale endorses the book **The Jesus Letters by Jane Palzere and Anna Brown. He writes**

"What a wonderful gift to all of us from you is your book. You will bless many by this truly inspired book,"

How is it inspired? According to the advertisement,

"a book communicated through a process known as inspirational writing (automatic writing). Self identified as Jesus."

Some quotes are given from the book,

"God does not see evil. He sees only souls at different levels of awareness. It matters little if these writings come from the Jesus of Nazareth or Jesus of Jane, they are all the same consciousness and that consciousness is God. I am part of God, and Jane and Anna are part of that same God."

When one examines many of the self-help, New Age, Occult books, **references and quotes from Norman Vincent Peale frequently occur. For instance, in The Magic Power of Your Mind by Natter Germain, Peale is referenced four times in harmony with the books stated purpose:**

"[It] shows how you can harness ESP, hypnotism, telepathy, clairvoyance and auto-suggestion to achieve health, wealth and happiness beyond your dreams."

In **Steve Richard's book Levitation**, he suggests using the technique of "suggestions articulation" found in Power of Positive Thinking to induce meditation which can be used to transcend gravity. (p. 63).

Peale is listed in the bibliography of **Helping Yourself with Self-Hypnosis by Caprio and Berger**, along with a whole spate of New Age and Occultic authors. Peale also wrote the introduction and endorsement of The Stress Strategists by "national psychic and professional numerologist" **Kathy Bury. Ms. Bury stated on the telephone that she did Dr. Peale's numerology chart (similar conceptually to astrology) at his request.**

This is not merely guilt by association. **Dr. Peale himself credits his theology of positive thinking to Ernest Holmes, founder of New Age/Occultic Church of Religious Science (Ernest Holmes, The First Religious Scientist, James Reid, p. 14). In fact, Peale borrowed the phrase "positive thinking" from Charles Fillmore, founder of the New Age Unity School of Christianity (Positive Imaging, p. 77). Charles Braden documents Peale's involvement into his New Age synthesis in his book Spirits in Rebellion: The Rise and Development of New Thought.**

Braden, in his research wrote, "I once wrote him (Peale) saying that I had read his books and articles and in doing so had had the feeling that I was reading New Thought. Had he indeed heard their leaders, read their books, and consciously or unconsciously been influenced by them?" (p. 388).

Peale's answer came by way of **a personal call to Braden.** Peale stated that

*"he had read them all and had found invaluable elements in them," (Ibid).*

Peale referred Braden to The Tough-Minded Optimist for his background. In chapter two of that book, **Peale expressed dissatisfaction with both his liberal seminary education and with fundamentalism. He began to read "spiritual literature" from Unity, Religious Science, Science of Mind, Christian Science, and from various other "metaphysical teachers" (Spirits in Rebellion, p. 389).**

Peale made a most significant admission when he related that he almost resigned from his pastorate when his teachings came under heavy criticism from fellow clergymen. He indicated that **his father, also a Methodist minister, persuaded him to continue by saying,**

"You have evolved a new Christian emphasis out of a composite of Science of Mind, metaphysics, Christian Science, medical and psychological practice, Baptist Evangelism, Methodist witnessing, and solid Dutch Reformed Calvinism," (Ibid, p.3 91).

**Dr. Peale's father was correct about the New Age identification, but apparently did not understand Reformed theology or orthodoxy very well. When one reads Norman Vincent Peale, it is obvious that he never tells anyone that they must come to repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ before they can become a child of God, born again and indwelt by His Spirit. Instead the assumption is that everyone is already a child of God and can access the Power through using certain principles and techniques. The first words we find in Power of Positive Thinking is "Believe in yourself! Have faith in your abilities!" (p. 1; emphasis mine).**

**Peale consistently operates with New Age doctrine and practices, emphasizing the creative power of thought and that consciousness is true reality and aligning your consciousness by meditation or affirmation, will automatically bring what you desire.**

He states,

**"A meditation in which you visualize a white mist filled with myriads of little points of energy. Scientists say this is life substance, the life force. visualize this mist high above you, around you, at your feet then breathe in the white mist, and visualize it proceeding upward into your brain making it alive with new power. I have been practicing this type of meditation for several days. It induces a sense of vital energy, an awareness of God's presence. Who is God? Some theological being? He is so much greater than theology. God is vitality. God is life. God is energy. As you breathe God in, as you visualize His energy, you will be reenergized!"** (No More Stress or Tension, Plus: The Magazine of Positive Thinking, May, 1986, pp. 22-23)

When asked in a recent letter about some of Dr. Peale's endorsements of specific New Age writers, and the Mormon prophet, the response was written by Peale's secretary, Mrs. Evelyn Yegella. She stated that she could find no reference nor endorsement to The Game of Life and The Jesus Letters. She also stated that "Perhaps he (Peale) is too generous with his praise" and that he "does not endorse the New Age Movement" (letter from the Foundation For Christian Living, October 31, 1988). **Yet in a recent interview with Beth Ann Krier of the Los Angeles Times, Peale said,**

**"I don't know much about that New Age business. I have received critical letters that I belong to the New Age. I've got to look into it and see what it is. But anything that develops legitimate, positive thinking principles, I'm for it."**

Instead, the apostle Paul says that first we must "present ourselves as a living and holy sacrifice to God... not being conformed to the world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind that you may prove what is the will of God, that which is good, acceptable and perfect," (Romans 12:1-2), and "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me," (Philippians 4:13).

Frankly, we find Peale appalling.

above quotes and research quoted from: [www.watchman.org/rektop/peale.htm](http://www.watchman.org/rektop/peale.htm)

## **Legacy of new age psychology preaching**

"Dr. Peale left a rich legacy for psychology preaching," the Rev. David Hondorp, pastor of the Hopewell Reformed Church in Hopewell Junction, said only days after Peale died in his sleep on Christmas Eve in 1993. "He set a style for preaching that will continue on through others."

Ordained a Methodist minister in 1924, Peale was known as the "Minister to Millions." He changed denominations to become pastor of Marble Collegiate, a Dutch Reformed church, in New York City in 1932, retiring in 1984. In the 1930s, he was one of the first ministers to broadcast on the radio. His show aired for 54 years on NBC.

**In 1940, Peale and his wife, Ruth Stafford Peale, started the Foundation for Christian Living, now known as the Peale Center for Christian Living, in Pawling. Five years later, the Peales started Guideposts, a religious magazine with a circulation of about 4.5 million, in Carmel, Putnam County.** Each week, about 5,000 prayer requests are received through the center, Guideposts or on the Web site. In 1998, 283,000 requests were received.

**Peale received the presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, in 1984, and in 1991 he received the Eleanor Roosevelt Val-Kill Medal,** awarded to individuals who have made a significant contribution to society.

## Norman Vincent Peale Fraternizes With Mormons

**Norman Vincent Peale is a universalist, that is, he believes that everyone is going to heaven if they believe in a god,** and have some redeeming value, which is just about everyone. This is evidenced by several situations documented in Peale's life.

**On March 28, 1980, Dr. Peale was the featured speaker at an 85th birthday dinner honoring Mormon prophet speaker Spencer W. Kimball. The official Mormon newspaper reported that Brigham Young University bestowed an honorary degree on Dr. Peale** (Church News, February 9, 1980, p. 11).

Included on the same page was a transcription of a radio address Peale made on **April 27, 1975, when Dr. Peale "received a blessing" from Prophet Kimball.** In this radio address Peale said that he had been struggling with a difficulty for several weeks. While speaking in Salt Lake City he was invited "to be received by the President of the Church." **After lauding the "righteous" Mormon church, Peale said, "I met with these men of God... these three dedicated Christian leaders (Mormon first presidency) I felt he [Kimball] was so spiritual." Peale then related how the three leaders laid hands on him and prayed. Peale stated "Sir, He is here, I feel His presence,"**

*(is it any wonder Peale had fraternized with Mormons considering his high standing in Freemasonry, of which the mormon cult is full of in their traditions and practises, - webmasters comments)*

### Quotes From Norman Vincent Peale:

- In a 1984 newspaper interview, **norman vincent peale called the virgin birth "some theological idea" of no importance to salvation.**  
*From a transcript of the Phil Donahue show, October 23, 1984*
- On the Phil Donahue show in October 1984, **he denied the necessity of being 'born again'...**
- Norman Vincent Peale told a questioner, "I have my own personal relationship with God, you've got yours... **I know of a Shinto temple in Japan where I found eternal peace one day in my soul.**"
- **".. your unconscious mind ..[has a] power that turns wishes into realities when the wishes are strong enough."**  
*Norman Vincent Peale - Positive Imaging (Fawcett Crest, 1982) pg. 77*
- **"There is a powerful and mysterious force in human nature.. a kind of mental engineering... a powerful new-old idea...The concept is a form of mental activity called imaging. It consists of vividly picturing, in your conscious mind, a desired goal or objective, and holding that image until it sinks into your subconscious mind, where it releases great untapped energies... When the imaging concept is applied steadily and systematically, it solves problems, strengthens personalities, improves health, and greatly enhances the chances for success in any kind of endeavor. The idea of imaging has been around a long time, and it has been implicit in all the speaking and writing I have done in the past."**  
*Norman Vincent Peale - Positive Imaging (Fawcett Crest, 1982) Introduction pg.1*
- **"Prayer power is a manifestation of energy. Just as there exist scientific techniques for the release of atomic energy, so are there scientific procedures for the release of spiritual energy through the mechanism of prayer. Exciting demonstrations of this energizing force are evident...**  
It is important to realize that you are dealing with the most tremendous power in the world when you pray... New and fresh spiritual techniques are being constantly discovered... experiment with prayer power..."  
*Norman Vincent Peale - The Power of Positive Thinking (Fawcett Crest, 1983) pg. 52-53*
- Norman Vincent Peale calls "positive thinking carried one step further" *Norman Vincent Peale - Positive Imaging (Revell 1982) pg. 1*
- **"Part of the happiness of life consists not in fighting battles, but in avoiding them. A masterly retreat is in itself a victory."** *Norman Vincent Peale*



- "God is energy. As you breathe God in, as you visualize His energy, you will be reenergized!  
*PLUS: The Magazine of Positive Thinking, 37:4, May 1986, Part II, 23.*
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