

For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we see light.

Psalm 36:9

the LifeWord

with Michael Green



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Dear Friends:

THE KOOK FACTOR: Part 2

Balance is the quest and it is a God demanded goal. To work toward this goal, we must be diligent and we must keep our natural and spiritual eyes focused on God's Word and His Way. The signals, good and bad, are everywhere.

When things are out of balance, there are usually a few of these **"7 DANGER SIGNS"** that always seem to be around as **"The Kook Factor"** starts gaining steam.

1) **LACK OF DISCERNMENT:** The Word tells us to try the spirits, to understand the difference between that which is vile and that which is precious, realizing that, not all who shout, *"Lord, Lord"* are going to make it in! Radar needs to be engaged.

2) **FALSE SENSE OF NON JUDGEMENTALISM:** This is clearly the infiltration of the politically correct message of inclusion. *"We're all God's children; we are all right"*, which eventually leads to anything goes as long as it sounds right. *"Oh no, we can't judge anyone or anything!"* Not true! Jesus said, *"Judge the fruit"*.

3) **OVEREMPHASIS ON ONE TEACHING, GIFT OR MANIFESTATION:** I firmly believe in the gifts and blessings of the Holy Spirit but remember Paul's words regarding anything *"out of balance"*, even good things, can lead to confusion. Out of this comes the spiritual elitism stuff that looks down on the little poor ones who lack the power and revelation of your special club. Charismatics, especially, hate to be called on this one but, on the other end of the spectrum, some of the more stoic ones around us could use some of the excitement to balance them out.

4) **PREOCCUPATION WITH THE SPIRITUALISTIC:** The spookier, the better is the byword for some. I Timothy deals with those who are no longer satisfied with sound doctrine but are always looking for the latest trick. It's witchcraft.

5) **BUSYNESS BECOMES THE BALLYHOO:** Ballyhoo, *"boisterous patter, overblown promotion"*. We are people who need balance if we are to remain healthy. This means, you can't run from one chill bump to another, joining every parade or cause, neglecting your family, your bills and your job because you are following the *"power"*. This, *"I'm so busy"*, self importance thing, is a trap. Learn to say, *"No"* and get home at a decent hour. Your family will thank you.

6) **LEADERS WHO PROJECT THEMSELVES AS THE CLEARINGHOUSE OF THE POWER AND REVELATION:** Watch your wallets. These self titled Doctors, Apostles and Prophets, with pristine, entitlement mindsets (Remember Matt. 23) prey on the weak and foolish and make a few bucks in the process. Run, Forrest, Run!

7) **THE SAME ONES CANNOT BE QUESTIONED OR DISAGREED WITH WITHOUT PENALTY:** *"God told me"* is Christianese code for *"Don't question me"* or you will likely hear the *"Don't touch God's anointed"* line that always seems to rear its head at these times. You'll also notice, when you dare to disagree or question, a roar of opposition will rise up in a *"big time"* way against you. It will be often treated as disloyalty with the reverse spin accusing you as the unfaithful, unbelieving, ungrateful attacker. Start looking for Saul's javelin about this time.

The bottom line in all of this merits the right answer to some of these questions: Who gets the glory? Does our attention focus on Man or God? Is there faith or confusion? Is there balance or foolishness? Can it withstand the *"smell test"*? Does it *"walk like a duck"*?

Answer these questions correctly and God is glorified. In addition, you will get to experience the wonders of God's gifts thus avoiding the pitfalls of *"The Kook Factor"*. Let's live and worship in balance. God is glorified when this happens and His Kids get to walk in blessing. Too many hungry, well meaning folks have been damaged and derailed by the lack of discernment and understanding here.

We must learn from past mistakes as well as past victories.

No, Jesus was not weird and to those who would still continually run to everything that is just a shade off, only to keep coming out of it disappointed and disillusioned, please remember, don't blame God! And, if this continues to be a pattern, perhaps they need to be reminded to stay out of the woods; there are squirrels out there, as well as wolves.

Michael



"Building Christ Into Every Life"