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I believe in the hearts of many Christians there is living a gigantic contradiction. If you find yourself wavering and beginning to subscribe to the idea that all roads lead to God then I pray this next 15 minutes will bring divine spiritual wisdom to your mind and your heart.

I have noticed in America today there are various spiritual teachings being thrown into a pot. It is a blended eastern and western spiritual stew. It makes for a colorful blend, but the stew has no real flavor. The result is a half hearted confused commitment to our Christian faith. How did we get here? I think we've recognized some of the historic religious wrongs and we're feeling our way around to find the right blend of religion and spirituality in today's culture. As well, the media is having a heyday with the topic of spirituality. That said, many of us are being blindly influenced by the eastern mysticism. On a very real level we're left with a lukewarm Christian faith without even realizing it. Are we deceiving ourselves and deceiving God unknowingly. I know these are strong words, but hear me out.

There are powerful women, like Oprah, who are leading the charge at walking the spiritual fence, arguably better than any other woman on the planet. I would venture to say that Christian women are a huge part of

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her loyal following. She has a powerful voice that proclaims everyone's spirituality is acceptable. Total commitment to a particular belief system is not only contrary to her image it would destroy her as we now know her. I for one pray for that day and I believe many will be shocked when it comes. Like the apostle Paul, her power and influence could be used for even greater things. For the moment, she is in fact a world leader of this New Spirituality movement, where the True Jesus has lost his rightful position as God. She is setting an example, representing a muddy Christian faith. People are confused and the muddy water is falsely beginning to look clear. Even Christians are getting sucked in, myself having been included. After all, what's not to admire about this brilliant woman? Few people have been so instrumental at affecting change and doing good for mankind. The other thing I love about her is her authenticity. I for one, am a huge advocate of wearing one's true thoughts, emotions and beliefs. That said, I want you to know I am not questioning Oprah's authenticity. Her loving nature draws me, seemingly at a soul level, as it does millions of other people around the world. I am however, questioning, "Has she become completely spiritually confused as to what it means to be a Christian?" More importantly, have you and have I? We need to recognize that as Christians we are called to love and to respect other people's beliefs without falsely representing agreement. We have to have the courage to STAND FIRMLY for our beliefs. Otherwise, how valuable can our beliefs be?

Let's take a look at where we are in America's spiritual climate today. In some ways not different from the beginning of the church. (scripture reference) Before the Apostle Paul was imprisoned, he was saying his

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goodbyes to the fellow believers in Corinth. He was letting them know it would be the last time he would be seeing them. It was a sad day for the believers who had been taught great spiritual teachings and they loved Paul. Even so, his final words tell us a lot about where his heart was and likely what the Holy Spirit was saying through Paul as a warning to these beloved people.

Here's what He said. After I leave here there will be people who will come and they will twist my words and confuse the teachings I have spent so long teaching you. And even some among yourselves will also twist the words that I have taught you and you will become deceived.

How different is it today? It's currently socially unpopular to take a stand for Christ's message, purely, simply and completely. We're more interested in fitting in. After all, we are called to love everyone right? But if, we're more interested in social popularity than with God, the truth is we're being *lukewarm*. *And lukewarm faith is unacceptable*. For many of us sincere ignorance comes into play as we walk this foggy terrain. Although we're feeling our way around to sort through what's true and what isn't, I believe it's a good thing. This increasing desire for "spirituality" is bringing to the forefront the desire for a stronger spiritual experience for Christians and others as well. It means God is working and that gets me excited. Mark my words, "The Spirit of the Most High God is going to shock many Christians, Muslims, Hindus and Buddhists into passionately following Him. He is preparing us now."

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As we seek a more fulfilling spiritual experience let's not miss the mark by being a half-hearted follower of Christ. We have to be honest with ourselves. We won't discover that deeper spiritual fulfillment if we have one foot on the boat and one foot on the shore. It's time to be concerned with how serious God takes our faithfulness to Him. Do you think He'll dismiss a weak faithfulness as we ALL FACE HIM at the end of this critical spiritual journey? That's a question you'll have to ask yourself. Personally, I believe we need to seek Divine Truth and personal conviction about how we represent ourselves as Christians. We need to ask ourselves, "Are we living boldly and completely for Jesus?"

The resolve for a lost humanity doesn't look good if those who believe don't step up to the plate. This is where as true believers our lukewarm faith has to be *unacceptable!* How can we be a light in the midst of darkness if we're walking in the dark ourselves?