

Woo-woos?

The expert on all things spiritual is God, and he revealed all I need to know in the Scriptures.

John A. Braun

Perhaps you've never heard of the term woo-woo. I've seen it more than once recently. The most recent use of the term was for a prominent spiritual counselor who believes that scientific evidence can prove that the whole universe is a quantum mirage. One of his critics called him Dr. Woo-Woo. That's his term for all who use junk science to support their beliefs.

I've also recently seen the term used by atheists and applied to people who claim that God exists. For the atheists, no scientific proof exists for any god. People who believe in God are woo-woos because they believe in something that cannot be proved by human observation and measurement. Atheists also assert that in the past people made God an explanation for things that they could not explain or prove. But now, so the argument goes, science has provided explanations for everything based on the natural forces that have always been at work in the universe.

One can see the truth of the logic of their assertion if not the ultimate conclusion. Modern medicine provides treatments that were not possible only a few decades earlier. Other fields have applied scientific inquiry to discover new techniques or develop new technology that today we take for granted and expect. It is important to be curious about our world and to investigate it with a clear head and relentless logic.

Sadly, there are woo-woos out there. Left to itself, the human mind will create and believe some strange ideas. I think we might all admit to scratching our heads when we listen to some of the ideas we hear. I shake my head when I hear ideas about God and spiritual issues from people who either have an overactive imagination or no basis for their ideas except their opinions or the opinions of others. Woo-woo.

The abyss of natural human ignorance is clearly evident in the area of spiritual matters. God can't be measured. He exists outside the physical world and cannot be observed like atoms, electrons, or the stars. In addition, God sometimes has acted contrary to the laws of nature that he put in place for the benefit of all creation. His thoughts and ways are vastly beyond ours.

But God hasn't left me or anyone else in the dark about what is essential to know. More than that, he has sent the Holy Spirit to scatter our ignorance and lift us from the abyss of our darkness. The expert on all things spiritual is God, and he revealed all I need to know in the Scriptures. Anytime we stretch our thoughts beyond what God reveals in the Scriptures, we enter a danger zone. God expects me to explore and experiment with things I can perceive and understand. Every child learns by trial and

error, observation, and experiment experiences. In fact, every human throughout life learns that way. But wherever we cannot see, touch, taste, smell, or hear, the book remains closed. That is except for the book of God's revelation—Scripture. As Lutherans we are among those who claim that our spiritual information must come from and be based on Scripture alone. To some, I suppose that makes us woo-woos.

But I'll take God's word when he speaks in his Scripture. Most importantly, God wants me and all the world—including the atheists—to know that he has stepped into the world of time, space, and natural forces because he loved all humanity. He gave his Son Jesus so that whoever believes will have eternal life. There's no proof for that except God's Word. It's enough!

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