Kabbalah is basically an esoteric tradition that involves studying the ten "sefirot" of the "tree of life." These are considered divine attributes or emanations of energy by which the infinite Creator, known as "ein sof," reveals himself.

While Kabbalah has pantheistic elements, it is more frequently described as panentheistic. Pantheism is the belief that God is one basic stuff that exists in everything in the Universe and manifests in various forms. But unlike pantheism, Kabbalah holds that God also transcends the Universe.

This religious practice is strikingly similar to Islamic mysticism, known as "Sufism." Although they differ in structure, the two are united in the pursuit for direct and intimate, experiential knowledge of the divine, as opposed to a literal and "legalistic observance" of their religious texts. These two traditions also share parallel concepts such as hierarchical levels of being, or the Great Chain of Being.

Historically, Sufism is believed by scholars to be older than the current system of Kabbalah, emerging in the eight century A.D. Jewish mysticism, on the other hand, although present in the time of Christ, is said to have received its modern development and influence in Al-Andalus, Spain, and in Provence, Southern France, in the Middle Ages.

However, it wasn't long before so-called Christian scholars began to adapt these mystical teachings of Scripture to influence Christian thinking, presenting it as an ancient tradition confirming Bible truths.

Known as "Christian Kabbalah," this new esoteric movement became more widespread in the late fifteenth century in Florence, Italy. It used concepts like the sefirot to prove Bible doctrines, such as the Trinity and Jesus as the Messiah, but also to support the "divinity of Mary."

Some who initiated and furthered the movement claimed its focus was not only to aid believers seeking a deeper mystical understanding of their Holy Book, but to function as a missionary tool to convert Jews as well.

Christian Kabbalah is said to have died by the eighteenth century, mixing with occultism in parts of Europe, and that attempts to revive it in recent decades have utterly failed. The truth is quite the opposite. Many people are totally unaware of how much Jewish mysticism continues to influence Christian thought to this very day.

The prominent Christian missionary organization, "Jews for Jesus," laments that the Los Angeles-based Kabbalah Centre has not done enough to promote the ultimate conclusion of the non-Jewish scholar of Kabbalistic wisdom, Giovanni Pico della Mirandola, after years of exploring its mysterious secrets.

And what was his ultimate conclusion? "There is no knowledge that proves the divinity of the Messiah better than Kabbalah." Contrary to these assertions, Scripture teaches that, "Faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the Word of God."

Spread throughout the pages of Scripture is the constant reminder that God, and He alone, is to be worshipped. The command is found specifically in the First of the Ten Commandments.

The Prophet Isaiah states, "I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other." But when He brings the firstborn into the world, He says, "Let all God's angels worship Him."