

UNDERSTANDING THE OCCULT

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Acts 19:13-20 KJV

13 Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth. 14 And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so. 15 And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye? 16 And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. 17 And this was known to all the Jews and Greeks also dwelling at Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. 18 And many that believed came, and confessed, and showed their deeds. 19 Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. 20 So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.

Introduction:

The words occultism and witchcraft are to demonology what a canopy is to people – a shelter for many separate identities.

Definitions (Concise Oxford Dictionary)

Occult: “Kept secret, esoteric, recondite, mysterious beyond the range of ordinary knowledge; involving the supernatural, mystical, magical, whence occultism, occultist.”

Witchcraft: Sorcery, use of magic.

Magic: The supposed art of influencing courses of events by occult control of nature or of spirits. Egypt was full of magicians in the days of Moses.

Sorcery: Use of magic arts, wizardry, enchanting.

Astrology: Art of judging reputed occult influence of stars, planets, etc. on human affairs.

Divination: Divining insight into or discovery of the unknown future by supernatural means.

Necromancy: Art of predicting by means of communicating with the dead; magic, enchantment.

Idolatry: Worshipping idols (images or deities used as objects of worship; false gods)

Spiritism (spiritualism): Belief that departed spirits communicate with and show themselves to men, especially through mediums, or at séances by means of spirit rapping, handwriting, etc.

Séance: Meeting for exhibition or investigation of spiritualistic phenomena.

God's attitude to these and all similar activities is unequivocal:

Leviticus: 19: 26 *Ye shall not eat anything with the blood: neither shall ye use enchantment, nor observe times. 31 Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God. KJV*

Leviticus 20:6 *And the soul that turneth after such as have familiar spirits, and after wizards, to go a whoring after them, I will even set my face against that soul, and will cut him off from among his people KJV*

Deuteronomy: 18:9-14: *9 When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. 10 There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, 11 Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. 12 For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee. 13 Thou shalt be perfect with the LORD thy God. 14 For these nations, which thou shalt possess, hearkened unto observers of times, and unto diviners: but as for thee, the LORD thy God hath not suffered thee so to do. KJV*

Deuteronomy 17:2-5. *2 If there be found among you, within any of thy gates which the LORD thy God giveth thee, man or woman, that hath wrought wickedness in the sight of the LORD thy God, in transgressing his covenant, 3 And hath gone and served other gods, and worshipped them, either the sun, or moon, or any of the host of heaven, which I have not commanded; 4 And it be told thee, and thou hast heard of it, and inquired diligently, and, behold, it be true, and the thing certain, that such abomination is wrought in Israel: 5 Then shalt thou bring forth that man or that woman, which have*

committed that wicked thing, unto thy gates, even that man or that woman, and shalt stone them with stones, till they die. KJV

1Corinthians 10: 14, 20, 21. *14 Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry. 20 But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils. 21 Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils. KJV*

Since the events of Genesis chapter three, Satan has continued to deceive and oppress God's people. He works in disguise, never showing his true colours.

AREAS OF INVOLVEMENT IN OCCULTISM AND WITCHCRAFT FROM WHICH BELIEVERS NEED RELEASE AND SUBSEQUENT RENEWAL

Astrology

a. Horoscopes

A horoscope is a written astrological prediction about a person's life, charted from the position of the stars at the time of birth and based on the supposed influence of stars over the affairs of mankind.

Some mothers may have horoscopes prepared for their children without their knowledge. If this is discovered later, after the child comes to Christ, it should be broken through the prayer of faith and by the power of the blood of Jesus Christ.

b. Weekly star sign predictions.

Some people mistake the weekly astrological column for a horoscope. Ancient astrologers divided the year into twelve equal portions, corresponding to the position of the sun, moon and stars. They are Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, Leo, Virgo, Libra, Scorpio, Sagittarius, Capricorn, Aquarius, and Pisces. Each has an identifying sign, and is matched with a gemstone and flower. Christians who wear jewelry with any of these identifications should destroy them, and be cleansed from all evil influence.

c. Chinese astrology

Every child born to Chinese parents receives its birth sign from one of the following in a twelve year cycle: ox, rat, pig, dog, rooster, monkey, ram, horse, snake, dragon, rabbit and tiger. It is believed that people inherit the characteristics of the sign of their year of birth, and should marry a person born in one of several designated compatible years, for the best results. People who become involved in Chinese astrology become bound by its classification of personalities.

NON-BIBLICAL METHODS OF MEDITATION FOR INNER PEACE

1. Transcendental meditation

Indian gurus, swamis, holy men, and their proselytes have always been eager to exchange their philosophies for money. The teachings on TM originated from Hinduism and Buddhism. One of the high priest of the trade, who popularized TM is the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi. The chief architect of this is the devil himself.

2. Yoga: This word means “to yoke” in Sanskrit (an ancient language of India). It involves a system of physical exercise designed to control the internal organs and metabolism of the body. Yoga is a Hindu system philosophy with at least six schools of thought. The supposed aim is to reach a state of superconsciousness through eight stages of physical and mental preparation. It is claimed that miraculous powers such as levitation (floating in the air) and invincibility may be reached when in the higher levels. Therefore, yoga is associated with the worship of eastern deities. Anyone who has been involved in yoga needs to be freed from this evil yoke.

Common Features of Meditation

a) The lotus position

This is the human equivalent of the large flower of the Indian water plant.

b) Mantras.

Meditation normally commences with the droning sound of incantation. Names of Hindu demonic deities and words of worship are then added.

The biblical word for this exercise is idolatry.

Christians who have been involved in any form of TM before being saved need to be freed from all demonic deception. Satan loves to see Christians operating under the power of his spirit, rather than the Holy Spirit.

PRACTICES OF OCCULTISM AND WITCHCRAFT KNOWN AS THE 'BLACK ARTS'.

1. Fortune telling.

Christians are forbidden to use any form of prognostication. Our lives are in God's hands, and He expects us to trust Him with the future. When people go through fortune tellers, there will be spirits of deception, superstitions, and fear or dread of predictions. These spirits need to be evicted, and cleansing received. Be warned about allowing people to prophesy over you for spiritual guidance! Instead, be guided by God's Word and the Holy Spirit. Some of these prophets may be saying things that are from themselves or from demons rather from the Holy Spirit (Ezekiel 13:3).

2. Séances.

Demonic delusion reigns supreme when mediums try to consult the spirits of the dead. God's word says that in death the spirit returns to its maker (Eccl. 12:7). The voice the clairvoyant claims to hear, or which expresses itself through his or her lips, is demonic spirit who has had intimate dealings with the deceased during their lifetime. The witch of Endor was greatly shocked when her deception failed, and God allowed Samuel to return in person and speak his message of judgment to King Saul (1Samuel 28).

3. Ouija boards

When direction is from this demonic 'game' or from the use of tumblers and letters, direct communication is set up with spirits. A Christian who has played with Ouija boards needs release from the powers who control the messages.

OTHER MEANS OF SEEKING KNOWLEDGE OF FUTURE EVENTS

1) Parts of the human body.

These are used as a basis for divination. Palmistry is based on the lines of the hand. Phrenology is based on the shape of the head. Iridology is based on the iris of the eye. The prostitution of these body parts for the purpose of fortune-telling is contrary to the Word of God.

2) Tea leaves or coffee grounds are sometimes used for predictive purposes.

3) Numerology. Practitioners give a number to each letter of a name in accordance with a mysterious formula. After some calculations, the numerologist comes up with a final number which is used to select the appropriate information from a standard personality chart.

SPIRIT BASED MANIPULATIVE METHODS OF MENTAL CONTROL OVER PEOPLE AND SITUATIONS

- 1) **ESP (extra Sensory Perception).** This involves mind control. Also known as psychotechnologies. A Christian should never use mind bending techniques, because they can open the door to demonic domination.
- 2) **Hypnotism.** Christians should not allow their minds to be taken over by another person or power for medical or entertainment purposes.

DEMONIC FORMS

Some Christians have innocently allowed a demonic invasion of their homes and personalities by their selection of art or artifacts which the evil one has initiated or influenced. These forms include the following:

- 1) **Abstract, psychedelic, or surrealistic art.** These are overt or covert demonic art expressions. These often feature snakes, dragons, witches and unicorns.
- 2) **Music with a heavy beat,** or when flashing coloured lights pulsate in time with the music. Rock and roll and punk rock music have been proved to possess a psychological power to stir up anti-social conduct including illicit sex and violence. Some heavy rock groups have been known to engage in satanic worship.
- 3) **Sensuous classical music** is able to induce fantasy experiences in devotees, and anything which restricts the Holy Spirit's ministry to believers grieves Him.
- 4) **Forms of sensuous dancing.** Belly dancing can open a door for demonic control over a person.

OTHER DEMONIC ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE OCCULT

- 1) **Pendulum diagnosis.** This traditional test for pregnancy involves suspending a wedding ring (or band) over a pregnant woman by a hair of her head, or by a piece of cotton. The clockwise or anti-clockwise swing of the ring is supposed to indicate the sex of the expected child. It is a witchcraft practice and no matter how innocently it may have been, it gives satan an opportunity to oppress both the mother and the child.

- 2) **Color therapy.** This is a form of pendulum diagnosis therapy used to find the distinctive color of a person's aura, then use a copper coil and strands of cotton to heal. Christians should shun this practice because it is demonic.
- 3) **Charms and amulets.** These are items worn around the neck, waist or arm or sewn to clothing. These open the door to demonic influence.
- 4) **Curses placed on families.** Perpetuated by witches or practitioners of black arts. Through the power of the blood of Jesus, these curses should be broken.
- 5) **Superstitions and premonitions.**
- 6) **Parlour games of a demonic nature.** The games are addictive, emotionally harmful, and expose the players to demonic domination.. E.g. dungeons and dragons; Cults and prax; Sorcerer's Apprentice, etc.
- 7) **Demonic symbols.** Include: frogs, owls, snakes, dragons, unicorns, etc.
- 8) **Artifacts and Souvenir articles representing forms of spirit worship.**
- 9) **Demonic jewelry.** E.g. the unicorn horn, the pentagram 9a witchcraft tsign which represents Lucifer as the bright and morning star), the horned star (symbol of Satanic churches), and hexagram (used in satanic ceremonial rites).
- 10) **Demonic activities.** E.g. levitation, astral travel.
- 11) **Automatic writing.** A demon-controlled experience whereby a person may write or type extensive materials without any mental effort or conscious thought. The results are overtly anti-Christ.
- 12) **Demonic philosophies.** E.g. some psychologies.
- 13) **Martial arts.** These are forms of self-defense , inextricably linked with Buddhism

The Weapons of Our Warfare

- 1) **Being rooted and established in Christ (Col. 2:6-10 KJV)**

Col. 2:6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: 7 Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. 8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. 9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. 10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

2) The Blood of Jesus (Rev. 12:9-11 KJV)

Rev. 12: 9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. 10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. 11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

3) The Whole Armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-18 KJV; 2Cor. 10:3-6 KJV).

Ephesians 6: 10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. 11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; 15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: 18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

2Cor 10: 3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: 4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; 6 And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

- The girdle of truth
- The Breastplate of righteousness
- The Gospel of Peace
- The shield of faith
- The helmet of salvation
- The sword of the Spirit
- Prayer

Conclusions

1. Any form of involvement in the activities related to the kingdom of darkness is contrary to the express command of God. It invites domination by evil spirits and God's judgment.
2. Christians need deliverance and cleansing from any form of innocent or deliberate involvement at any stage in their lives. Any cursed possession needs to be burnt or destroyed, and homes cleansed.
3. Christians need a revival of the fear of God so that the Body of Christ is cleansed from idolatry regarding anything that does not glorify God and His Son Jesus Christ.

1Cor. 10: 14 Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry. 21 Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils (KJV)