

The Witch Cult

By

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“For they are spirits of demons, working signs ...” (Rev. 16:14).

In nothing else has Satan been so successful as in convincing people that he does not exist. To this day the whole world sneers at the Puritans of New England over the Salem witch trials. Only ignorant and bigoted fanatics could possibly believe that witches actually existed, and only the radically evil could have them put to death when proven guilty and unrepentant (See Lev. 20:6-7; Rev. 21:8). Thus Satan succeeded in deceiving men and creating the attitude that allowed him freedom to come and go at will.

With frightening speed the world is turning to the cult of witchcraft. Satanic rites are performed in churches, famous people attend séances and belong to their cults, their activities are portrayed in movies and on television, and the press is eager to advertise them.

ARE WITCHES REAL? Yet silly people still ask, “But do you believe there really are witches today?” The answer is **YES**. God obviously “believes in” witches. “When thou art come into the land which the Lord thy God gives thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you any one ...that uses divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer” (Deut. 18:9-11).

The inspired Paul wrote: “Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these: fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, sorcery (Witchcraft) ... of which I forewarn you, even as I did forewarn you, that they who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God” (Galatians 5:19-21).

Recent news releases reveal that there are highly organized witch cults in England and in the U.S.A, with the blessing of so-called clergymen. Germany has more witches, wizards, and necromancers than full time Christian workers. There are over 400 witch dens in the U.S.A. Universities now approve the study of “parapsychology”, a sophisticated name for witchcraft. Yes, witches are for real.

THE SPIRIT WORLD. Satan has a fantastic kingdom. Jesus spoke of him as being the Prince of this world, and John warned that the “whole world lies in the evil one” (1 John 5:19). Paul wrote: “For we have to struggle, not with blood and flesh, but with angelic Rulers, the angelic Authorities, the potentates of the dark present, the spirit forces of evil in the heavenly sphere” (Eph. 6:12, *Moffatt’s translation*).

The New Testament everywhere testifies to the reality of demons, also called “spirits” and “unclean spirits”. They are the devil’s angels and are so numerous as to make satanic

work powerful and worldwide (Matt. 25:41, 2 Peter 2:4, Mark 5:2, 8ff.). Christ often cast demons out of men. The apostles confronted them. “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 preached. And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so. And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?” (Acts 19:13-15). Jews, who claimed to be children of God, were flagrantly violating God’s strict injunction against exorcism. They used the name of Jesus, but did not receive Him as Christ and Lord. Times have not changed. Today the witches quote scripture and speak of Jesus, but they reject Him as Lord and refuse to keep His commandments.

For the sophisticated, who scoff at the Bible, Satan now uses scientific terms: Psychism and Parapsychology. Psychism may be defined as men are reaching out into the world of spirits to gain information and advantage. It includes clairvoyance (gaining knowledge by means other than the five senses), foretelling the future, telepathy, ESP, PSI, and other psychic phenomena. It includes spiritism, the attempt to get in touch with the dead. The late Bishop James Pike was an example of one turning from the truth of Christ to spiritism in attempting to contact the dead.

While men cannot contact the dead, they can contact the spirit world. To deny such would be to deny the Bible and the experience of millions of people. A classic example is that of King Saul who consulted a “familiar spirit, the witch of Endor. The account, in the 28th chapter of First Samuel, describes how Saul disguised himself, because he knew that God had forbidden his action. The séance was held at night, suggestive of Satan’s kingdom of darkness. A careful study of the text will show that Saul was never in touch with Samuel, for Samuel was dead. He requested of the witch, “Bring me up Samuel.” The apparition which appeared to the witch was described to Saul as an old man ... covered with a mantle”, and Saul “perceived that it was Samuel.” Thus Satan fooled both the witch and Saul. Saul died for this sin of consulting a witch.

The evil spirits could predict the downfall of King Saul, just as Jeanne Dixon and other modern witches can predict such things as the assassination of President Kennedy. They do **NOT** have access to the plans of God and certainly cannot control events as God does, but they do have knowledge of the minds of men who are servants of Satan, and are rightly called “familiar spirits.”

It is amazing how men can be so deceived as to believe in ESP and other psychic phenomena and yet deny that there can be contact with evil spirits. While there is nothing in Scripture to indicate mind-transference (the relating of two minds without any means of contact), there is plenty in Scripture to show that these minds can be related through the devil’s servants, the demons.

THE TECHNIQUE. But why are some people sensitive to this “spiritual hosts of wickedness” while others have no contact with them at all? “But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons” (1 Timothy 4:1).

As originally created man was to pay heed only to God. Adam sinned by heeding Satan's lie rather than God's truth. The same is true of the spiritual "mediums" and all who fall prey to spiritism. They actually seek some contact with the unseen spirits. They condition themselves to become sensitive to impressions from the spirit-world. This is the reason for the weird lighting, the incantations and the hypnotic sensation induced in séances and spiritual meetings. They must break down the natural resistance to the spirit world and completely surrender to the demons.

A WARNING. Many Christians fall prey to the devil's influence under the guidance of so-called spiritual leaders. There are two groups who are particular vulnerable: (1) those seeking deeper spiritual experience, and (2) those seeking manifestations of the Holy Spirit. Emotion-charged and excitement-packed religious sessions often cause them to abandon themselves to outside influences. They are told to "let go" and to give over their wills to the Spirit.

When man relinquishes his God-given mental powers, Satan quickly takes advantage, steps in and gives fantastic experiences. He is able to counterfeit much of God's power - miracles, revivals, healings and prophecies. "For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles" (Rev.16:14).

I have attended sessions where the leader gave instructions to make physical contact by holding hands for the transference of Holy Spirit power. With lights subdued, we were told to put our minds "out of gear" to give the "spirit" free reign. On one, such occasion it was announced that there was a "binding" influence in the room, restricting any manifestations. I knew what that binding influence was, for I was praying that Christ would not allow any false impressions. It was Christ who spoke of "binding" Satan, so this leader was unwittingly admitting that Christ was present to prevent any masquerade of the Holy Spirit by Satan.

The Holy Spirit is given, not by subdued light, hypnotic incantations and physical sensations, but freely to every believer upon his obedience to the Gospel (Acts 2:38). The Christian is exhorted to be of sound mind and to exercise control of his thoughts. We are to be surrendered at all times to God's will, but this is done by the exercise of will, not by abandoning it. "If any man wills to do His will he shall know of the teaching, whether it is of God" (John 7:17). When we say "Not my will, but Thine be done," we must be in control of the will and use it to the fullest to surrender to God's command.

Paul warns of "the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders" (2 Thess. 2:9). We should not be deceived by the fact that men can work miracles, for Satan has such power. "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light." (2 Cor. 11:13-14). There are only two sources of spiritual power: God and the devil. God's power is infinite, limited only by Himself. The devil's power is limited by God, but is strong enough to deceive men who "received not the love of the truth" (2 Thess. 2:10-12).

God has given His word. We are to live “by every word that proceeded out of the mouth of God” (Matt 4:4), and not by the divinations of sorcerers, fortune tellers, witches, astrologers and the like.

The “deeper life” of Christian experience is found in delving deeper into the truth of Christ and more earnestly obeying His commandments. Neither does one need to turn to spiritism for physical healing. It is certain that God’s power is manifested in Christian healing (James 5:14-15). Healing, along with all God’s gifts, is given for His glory and for the perfection of the saints, that we may be conformed to His glory and that the world may be made aware of the glory of the Creator and Redeemer. The person who, outside of Christ and for his own advantage, seeks spiritual powers can only do so with the help of Satan, and whether he knows it or not he is making himself available to the power of evil spirits.

Spiritism is a swindle, a deception of the gravest kind. It is Satan’s masterpiece of deception. It is the old witchcraft, perpetrated by the children of the devil to convince man of the original lie, “Thou shall NOT surely die”. Witchcraft strongly insists that there is no death, defying the scripture, “The soul that sins, it shall die” (Ezekiel 18:4). The ultimate aim of the witch cult is to have the world in the hands of men NOT obedient to God, but subject to Satan, whom Christ called the prince of the world. We are commanded as Christians to “resist the devil”, and this includes all his servant-mediums, false prophets, healers, and witches of every kind.

Christians who want an “experience” can have such by denying self, renouncing the world, putting on the whole armor of God and following in the steps of Christ. It is done not by surrendering the will but by using it to do God’s will.

“He that does the will of God abides forever” (1 John 2:17).

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