

TRUTHS ABOUT THE SPIRIT WORLD

Text: 1 Samuel 28:3-20

The Holy Bible is not like any other book in the world. It is God-breathed and Holy Ghost inspired. Contained in the Bible are numerous accounts of supernatural occurrences that captivate the imagination and confound reason. Both science and pop culture are looking for proof of the multiverse or other dimensions. But all truth comes from God and what God has let us know in His Bible is, there is a spirit world. We live in a natural world bound by physical laws but there is another world that parallels it – the spiritual world which is not subject to physical laws.

There are many in the church that are uncomfortable with this subject to the point that they explain the passages away. The truth is there is both good and evil in the spirit world, light and darkness, truth and deception, righteousness and unrighteousness. When Aaron threw his rod down before Pharaoh, it became a serpent. Pharaoh's magicians threw their rods down and they became serpents too, showing that the kingdom of darkness has power as well. Aaron's rod swallowed up the serpents of the magicians teaching that even though there is evil power in the spirit world, God's power is superior!

During the earthly ministry of Jesus, the spirit world seemed to be wreaking havoc everywhere because people were plagued with unclean spirits and possessed by devils. Even after the resurrection and ascension of the Lord, the apostles continued to have encounters with the dark forces of the spirit world. **Acts 8:5-8** Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed *with them*: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed. And there was great joy in that city.

According to scripture, devils can cause dumbness, deafness, blindness, suicidal mania, insanity, personal injuries (like the maniac of Gadara who cut himself with stones) and they can impart supernatural strength. We are not dealing with ghosts of people who have passed away. When people die their soul goes immediately to heaven or hell, they don't stay here. The devils are disembodied spirits seeking to oppress or possess bodies so they can gratify their desires. They do this through deception. You must give them access to you through an open door. That's why contacting the spirit world illegitimately was forbidden by

God in **Deuteronomy 18:10-12** 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, Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. 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. In today's language He is outlawing occult practices – consulting mediums, attending seances, using Ouija boards, astrology, ghost hunting etc. The Bible reveals that even though the Canaanites had stone and metal idols, there were evil spirits behind those idols accepting their sacrifices as worship. **Psalms 106:37-38** Yea, they sacrificed their sons and their daughters unto devils, And shed innocent blood, *even* the blood of their sons and of their daughters, whom they sacrificed unto the idols of Canaan: and the land was polluted with blood. They can also gain access to a person through addictions to things like drugs or pornography because these things alter the mind.

The reasons people try to contact the spirit world:

- **Curiosity** – the desire to understand and explore the unknown or what lies beyond the natural world can be a significant driver
- **Entertainment** – for some, occult practices are a source of entertainment like playing with tarot cards, calling on psychics and soothsayers, holding seances or playing with a Ouija board
- **Control** – some people turn to occult practices because they want to know something about the future or gain power that is promised by their rituals to leverage control over their own lives or in the lives of others
- **Comfort** – some people are in pain because they have suffered loss of loved ones, and they can't deal with the grief. So, they go to see a medium who supposedly can contact their loved ones and communicate with them. Many of these people are con artists and charlatans but if they can contact the spirit world, they are not talking to people but devils! Lying and seducing spirits which the Holy Spirit warned Paul that in the latter days some would depart from the faith and be turned to them.

King Saul turned to a woman with a familiar spirit because his rebellion against the command of God caused the Spirit of God to leave him. God would not answer his enquiries, and he was afraid to face the Philistines. Side note, this was a different dispensation and we're not talking about the Holy Spirit leaving a saved individual. The Holy Spirit did not seal people in those days, and the Holy Spirit was upon him to help him rule as king. When he wouldn't destroy all the Amalekites like God told him to, the Lord terminated him as king and David was anointed. When the Spirit of God left Saul, he was completely in the dark, so he turned to the forbidden to find comfort and control. You might

be thinking “that’s all fake”...evidently king Saul didn’t think so. Saul disguised himself and visited the medium and asked her to contact Samuel for him because he had died. The ritual didn’t go normal because the woman screamed and was startled by what she saw. God allowed Samuel’s soul to come up from paradise (which was in the heart of the earth at that time). Saul asked the woman what she saw and she said, “I saw gods ascending out of the earth” and then she described an old man covered in a mantle and Saul knew it was Samuel. Samuel asked why Saul had disturbed him and he told him his condition and what he was up against. He also revealed that God had left him. Samuel revealed the future to Saul, that Israel would fall to the Philistines and Saul and his three sons would die. He got a message that he did not want.

The Bible says that when the Spirit of God departed from Saul that an evil spirit was sent to him by the Lord. Meaning that the Lord gave permission for this oppression. Possession is from within; oppression is from without. Saul was not possessed but the spirit oppressed him. It plagued his mind and stole his peace. It stirred up fear, anxiety, depression and envy torturing him. The only relief he could get was when David would play the harp. Let me be absolutely clear here – a born-again person cannot under any circumstances be possessed by a devil because they are sealed with the Holy Ghost of God. But they can be oppressed in their mind and emotions by thoughts of suicide, self-injury, tormented by night terrors, extreme fear and anxiety, and depression that is not chemically related. Lost people that go to these avenues are in the most dangerous place because devils can enter them and it is manifested by acts that go beyond depravity. When mothers drown their children in the bathtub without remorse - they have devils. When fathers can crush the skull of their children with a hammer without remorse – they have devils. When children can shoot their parents before school and still get on the bus like nothing happened – they have devils. I heard tell of a young man in his early twenties that recorded himself molesting an infant and was selling copies on the internet – that man has devils. What’s worse? That he would tape it or that someone would view it.

The remedy

The answer to these problems is the same today as they were 2,000 years ago....Jesus Christ! **Matthew 28:18** And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. **Ephesians 1:19-22** And what *is* the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set *him* at his own right hand in the heavenly *places*, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave him *to be* the head over all *things* to the church,

Ephesians 2:5-6 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

If you are saved and you have drifted into things you shouldn't have, and you are now oppressed....repent and submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ because all power and authority are given to him over everything in heaven and on earth. **James 4:7-8** Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse *your* hands, ye sinners; and purify *your* hearts, ye double minded.