



# THE OCCULT

## And Why to Avoid it!



In recent years there has been a big increase in the number of people delving into the occult. Lured by its mysterious powers, millions have become its casualties. Behind the astrologers, fortune-tellers, channellers and mediums there is a subtle power of evil. From the black mass of Satanism to the pseudo-Christian services of Spiritualism, all occult powers draw in one direction - away from the true peace and joy of the life given to Jesus Christ, and towards the counterfeit offered by Satan. The term occult means something which is hidden or secret. The Bible speaks strongly against any involvement with it, as shown by the Scriptures listed in this tract. Either we are with or against Jesus Christ (Luke 11:23), so we cannot sit on the fence, and "play" with the occult as we shall see.

### SOME FORMS OF THE OCCULT

#### ASTROLOGY

Astrology is the study of the influence of the heavenly bodies on human affairs. In this ancient theory, the position of the sun, moon, planets and stars at the time of our birth determines our character and the course of our life. Horoscopes and the signs of the Zodiac feature in many newspapers and magazines. Many people, even Christians, read them out of curiosity, and many are seriously hooked on what they predict. The people who take this guidance seriously become victims of occult deception, leading them into depression and suicide. Reading the Horoscope in a newspaper or magazine may seem harmless, but, like taking mild drugs, it could be the first step in getting hooked. Don't read them - it's dangerous! Why? Because you are turning your back on God, and playing with fire.

There are many reasons why Astrology is false:

1. Twins can have totally **different personalities and destinies**, even though they are born under the same star sign.
2. If you were to **compare the predictions** for the same day in different newspapers and magazines, you would find they are all different.
3. **The signs of the Zodiac** no longer coincide with the constellations of the same name, because of the shift of the earth's polar axis (which means Leo is now actually Virgo), and also, there is a thirteenth constellation, "Ophiuchus", which is never mentioned.
4. **The Sun** does not spend an equal amount of time in each constellation. It varies from six days in Scorpio, to forty-seven in Virgo!
5. **Astrology** was based on the theory that the earth was the centre of the universe.
6. **Several planets have been discovered** since the ancient theories were formulated, such as Uranus, Neptune and Pluto as late as 1930.

Astrology is completely unscientific and a total fraud. Some predictions come true simply because they were worded so cleverly that it would be almost impossible for them not to do so! God alone holds the key to our future.

#### OUIJA

Ouija was previously known as "the spirit of the glass", until certain manufacturers designed more sophisticated versions. This "game" was once described by the original manufacturers as "a medium of communication between this world and the next." Ouija is a medium or channel that evil spirits use to contact mankind, their purpose being to lead us away from God. In its simplest form the letters of the alphabet are arranged in a semicircle with the words "yes" and "no" at either end. A glass is turned upside down and each participant places one finger on the glass asking the spirit to move it. Quite often the players just think one of them is moving the glass. People treat Ouija as a game - but it's proved to be dangerous, and definitely NOT a game. There is abundant evidence of demon possession resulting from experiments with the Ouija board. The following is quoted from George W. Tarleton of his experiences dealing with victims of Ouija:

*"It was nearly midnight when the phone rang. 'We've a boy here in the hospital who has been in a trance state for three whole days. Can you help?' said the policeman. A few minutes later I was bombing up the road in a police car. The boy was lying on a bed in the casualty ward with his hands crossed and his eyes staring vacantly at the ceiling. I asked where the father was and was told he wouldn't come near his son because he had been so violent. This happened when they brought him to the hospital and tried to keep him there by force. 'He went berserk and clawed his brother to the ground and ran off into the night,' said the bewildered father. When the police caught up with him he claimed to be Jesus Christ and at other times Moses. I asked the man when it had all begun and he said, 'When my son and some of his friends in the Technical College were playing Ouija.' This was becoming a familiar story. I commanded the spirit of the glass to leave him in Jesus' Name. Within five minutes he had returned to normal, much to the amazement of all.*

*"Some boys in a North London school in which I was teaching told me of the time they set out to prove whether there really was a spirit behind the game. So they challenged it to prove its existence by breaking a certain boy's leg. The glass shattered and the boy in question, oblivious of this seance, fell down and broke his ankle! They never played it again."*

#### SPIRITISM

Spiritism, or Spiritualism is an ancient deception coming from man's desire to contact the spirits of the dead. This is done primarily through seances, where the medium becomes possessed by a "familiar spirit". This "familiar spirit" pretends to be the spirit of the departed loved one the participants are attempting to contact, but it is really an evil spirit which is familiar with the dead person's voice, personality and past life. Spiritists treat Jesus as simply a "master Psychic". They do not believe in judgement after death, or that it is sin that separates us from God. Whenever the Bible contradicts what the "familiar spirits" say, they will believe the spirits, rather than the Bible.

**Margaret and Kate Fox**, the founders of modern spiritism

both "died of alcoholism, but not before both had openly renounced their spiritualist cult " (Os Guinness, *The Dust of Death*). In 1888 Margaret Fox said in front of her sister, "I am here tonight, as one of the founders of Spiritualism, to denounce it as absolute falsehood ... the most wicked blasphemy the world has ever known." (Raphael Glasson, *The Challenging Counterfeit*).

## WITCHCRAFT AND SATANISM

Witches' covens are becoming more and more numerous, but they are always very hidden and secretive. They are sometimes presided over by a Warlock (male witch), and meet regularly for their satanic ceremonies and rituals (including Halloween, which Christians should have no involvement in). There is no distinction between white and black witches, they are all ultimately working for Satan. Satan allows white witches to do apparent good because it makes people think they are "okay". Satan is vehemently opposed to God and His chosen people. Witches' covens are known to actively pray against Christian communities and pastors, among other things. **Satanism** is a deliberate perversion of Christianity. Satanists are generally encouraged to do everything God has told us not to do. With barbaric and degrading rituals and sacrifices, Satan and the evil spirits and demons he rules over, are openly invited to possess the lives of worshippers and to perform evil acts in the lives of others. They even have their own "bible", *The Satanic Bible*, written by Anton S. LaVey, who founded the First Church of Satan in California in 1966 and designated himself as *High Priest of Satan*. Although they worship Satan, Satanists generally do not think of him as a person, as he is portrayed in the Bible, but as an "abstract principle of evil".



The list of activities which can lead to involvement in the occult is endless. It includes

**Pseudo-Religions** such as Alchemy, Cabbalism, Freemasonry, Martial Arts, Rosicrucianism, Scientology, Sufism, Theosophy, Transcendental Meditation, Voodoo and Yoga. (Many of the founders of contemporary cults, Joseph Smith Jr., Emmanuel Swedenborg, William Branham and others dabbled in, or were influenced by the occult and received much of their doctrine and ability to perform "signs and wonders" from "angels of light").

**Divination:** all forms of aura reading, crystal gazing, fortune-telling, I Ching, palmistry, tarot, water divining, etc.

**Psychic practices** such as astral projection, automatic writing, clairvoyance, dream analysis, ESP, hypnosis, levitation, psychometry, telekinesis, ventriloquism and talking to dead saints.

**Superstitions** such as chain letters, charms, fetishes, magic potions and ointments, and talismans.

Below are some Scriptures which speak specifically about involvement in the occult:

**"Give no regard to mediums and familiar spirits; do not seek after them, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God."** (Leviticus 19:31, NKJV)

**"If anyone goes for advice to people who consult the spirits of the dead, I will turn against him and will no longer consider him one of my people."** (Leviticus 20:6, GNB)

**"Let no one be found among you who sacrifices his son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. Anyone who**

**does these things is detestable to the LORD "** (Deuteronomy 18:10-12, NIV)

**"And when they say to you, 'Consult the mediums and the spiritists who whisper and mutter,' should not a people consult their God? Should they consult the dead on behalf of the living?"** (Isaiah 8:19, NASV)

**"And many of those who practiced magic brought their books together and began burning them in the sight of all ... "** (Acts 19:19, NASV)

**"For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against persons without bodies - the evil rulers of the unseen world, those mighty satanic beings and great evil princes of darkness who rule this world; and against huge numbers of wicked spirits in the spirit world."** (Ephesians 6:12, Living Bible)

Like a radio, our spirit is tuned in to different signals. We do not have the choice whether or not we will tune in, but only what we will tune in to. Delving into occultism is tuning in to dangerous and deceptive influences from the realm of Satan. Often the first switch on is because of natural curiosity, fostered by partaking in the wrong activities and forms of entertainment. Even games such as Dungeons and Dragons may excite an interest in the occult, which once aroused will be difficult to control. God's plan is for us to tune into the dynamic, exciting, wholesome and fulfilling realm of His Holy Spirit through an active faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

If you are looking for release from occult powers you must follow the following steps:

**REPENT:** Admit to God that what you have been doing is wrong. Ask Him to forgive you.

**RENOUCE** all the works of Satan in your life. Tell God (and Satan) that you have finished with every evil activity.

**DESTROY** all books, charms, ornaments and pictures etc., to do with the occult.

**RECEIVE** Jesus as your Lord and Saviour. Jesus is the name that demons hate and fear. With Him there is perfect freedom and complete safety from every evil influence.

**"In honour of the name of Jesus all beings in heaven, on earth, and in the world below will fall on their knees, and all will openly proclaim that Jesus Christ is LORD (YHWH), to the glory of God the Father."** (Philippians 2:10, 11, GNB)

**"Have nothing to do with the things of darkness, but rather expose them."** (Ephesians 5:11)

**"Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me"**

(John 14:6)



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