

Exposing the Occult

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"Now the Spirit speaks expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of demons..." (1 Timothy 4:1)

Participation in "the occult" is on the rise. Sadly, this is indicative of the world's rebellion against God. Even worse, many Christians (or those who claim to be) sometimes get caught up in the occult before they realize what they are doing. The purpose of this study is to assist Christians in this regard—to point out some of the areas of occult activity and to review pertinent scriptures.

Occult Practices

Pinpointing a definition for the word "occult" proved to be an difficult task. Each dictionary consulted seemed to contain a different definition or combination of definitions which seemed inconclusive. One of the better definitions is...

"of the nature of, or pertaining to, certain reputed sciences, as magic, astrology, etc., involving the alleged knowledge or employment of secret or mysterious agencies."

There are as many ways of practicing the occult as there are minds of imaginative individuals. It would be impossible to list all of the different forms of occult practices. However, the table below lists some of the more popular forms of the occult today. The list is not, by any means, all-inclusive. Christians should take special care to not only avoid participating but also to look for opportunities to lead others out of the occult and into the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

Popular Occult Practices

Involvement in, belief in, or use of any of the following constitutes being involved in the occult:
(*this is just a representative list*)

acupuncture	mysticism
amulets	New Age
astral projection or travel	numerology
astrology	Ouija boards
auras	out of body experiences
biorhythms	palmistry
blood letting	psychic readings
channeling	psychics
charms	reflexology
clairvoyance	reincarnation
communication with the dead	rune stones
crystal balls	séances
crystal healing	seers
crystal gazing	snake charming
crystals	sorcery
divination of any sort	spells
divining or dowsing rods	spiritualism
Dungeons and Dragons	summoning demons/spirits
fortune telling	superstition
Goth or Goth movement	tarot cards
hexes	tea leaf reading
holistic health practices	telepathy
horoscopes	trances
hypnotism	transcendental meditation (TM)
I-Ching	UFO cults
incantations	vampirism

interpretation of omens
iridology
levitation
magic
mediums
mind control

visualization techniques
voodoo
water-witching
Wicca
witchcraft
yoga

The Bible And The Occult

Specific commands. God never intended for His people to be “left in the dark” concerning occult practices. In no less than six specific scripture passages, He specifically forbade His people from participation in occult activities (Leviticus 19:26; Leviticus 19:31; Deuteronomy 13:1-3; Deuteronomy 18:9-11; Jeremiah 27:9; Jeremiah 29:8).

Power. When one compares the power of the occult to that of our God of all creation, it is hard to imagine why one would wish to rely upon the occult. There are several biblical accounts in which occult power was no match for God’s power or for His people (Exodus 7:11-13, Exodus 8:18; Numbers 22:7-19; Numbers 23:23; Daniel 2:2-28; Daniel 5:7-17; Acts 8:9-13).

Characteristics. Participation in the occult is an act of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:19-21) and is a sin (1 Samuel 15:23). It is evil and wickedness (2 Chronicles 33:6; Acts 19:17-20; 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10). It is rebellion against God (Ezekiel 12:24-25; Ezekiel 21:21-24). It defiles (Leviticus 19:31).! The occult is deceiving (Matthew 24:24; Acts 13:8-10; 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10) and troubling (Acts 16:16-18). It ensnares (Ezekiel 13:20). There is no peace where the occult is concerned (2 Kings 23:24). The occult is used to cover evil deeds (Ezekiel 13:9-12; Ezekiel 22:28). Those involved in the occult are unfaithful to God (Hosea 4:12) and are rejecting the Word of the Lord (1 Samuel 15:23). In fact, those involved in the occult are of Satan, are an enemy of everything that is right, and pervert the right way of the Lord (Acts 13:8-10; 2 Thessalonians 2:9). The occult is detestable (Deuteronomy 18:10-12) and provokes the Lord to anger (2 Chronicles 33:6). Worst of all, those who continue to participate in the occult will not inherit the kingdom of God (Galatians 5:19-21)!

Penalties. As if the above scriptural information weren’t enough to convince a person that involvement in the occult is something to be avoided, the Bible gives plenty of penalties for it as a warning for us. The penalties include:

- loss of occult power (Ezekiel 13:20-23; Micah 5:12),
- shame and disgrace (Micah 3:7),
- calamity (Jeremiah 14:14-16),
- distress, hunger, gloom, and darkness (Isaiah 8:19-22),
- futility and delusion (Isaiah 19:3; Isaiah 44:25; 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12)
- national dispossession, captivity and enslavement (Deuteronomy 18:14; Isaiah 19:3; Ezekiel 21:21-24; Nahum 3:3-4)
- banishment, being cut off and wandering (Leviticus 20:6; 1 Samuel 15:23; Jeremiah 27:9-10; Zechariah 10:2)
- woe, punishment, condemnation, judgment and God’s wrath (Ezekiel 13:1-16, 20-23; Ezekiel 21:29; Malachi 3:5; Acts 13:8-11)
- death (Exodus 22:18; Leviticus 20:27; Deuteronomy 13:1-5; 1 Chronicles 10:13-14 with 1 Samuel 28:3-8; Isaiah 47:8; Jeremiah 14:14-15; Jeremiah 27:9-10; Ezekiel 21:29; Nahum 3:3-4).

Conclusion

Fortunately, all is not lost for those who are or have been involved in occult practices. Our God is One of hope. He is loving and forgiving. Escape from the occult *is* possible once one recognizes and renounces any and all involvement. Deliverance from every evil spirit that may have entered in is essential to be free from the deadly influences of the occult once and for all.

"For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. For it is a shame even

to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light." (Ephesians 5:8-14)

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