

HIS CHURCH LONDON

# FREEDOM

THE OCCULT

LECTURE 7

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## OCCULT

### **John 10:10 (NIV)**

10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

The enemy uses our occult involvement to steal, kill and destroy! Even if our participation was ignorant.

### **WHAT IS THE OCCULT?**

- The name OCCULT means THAT WHICH IS HIDDEN
- The occult is any practice that leverages supernatural power or knowledge apart from Jesus Christ.
- Satan is the master deceiver and the occult is his domain.
- The deception comes in because of the REAL experience. God does not deny the reality of the occult; He just says its wrong!
- Christian spiritual life and the occult are founded upon completely different principles. This happens because in Christianity, spiritual knowledge comes by communion with God, whereas in occultism, spiritual powers are achieved by avoiding God.
- We all desire the supernatural, it is part of our makeup - the enemy uses this desire to distort truth.

### **Ecclesiastes 3:11 (NIV)**

He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

- Even curiosity of the occult is detestable to God.
- Some common expressions of the occult include astrology, witchcraft, horoscopes, black magic, fortune-telling and clairvoyance.



## WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT THE OCCULT?

The Word of God clearly bans the occult from the life of his people.

### Deuteronomy 18:9-14 (NIV)

#### OCCULT PRACTICES

9 When you enter the land the Lord your God is giving you, do not learn to imitate the detestable ways of the nations there. 10 Let no one be found among you who sacrifices their son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, 11 or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. 12 Anyone who does these things is detestable to the Lord; because of these same detestable practices the Lord your God will drive out those nations before you. 13 You must be blameless before the Lord your God. 14 The nations you will dispossess listen to those who practice sorcery or divination. But as for you, the Lord your God has not permitted you to do so.

Moses mentions eight detestable activities:

1. Sacrifices their son or daughter in the fire
2. Who practices divination or sorcery
3. Interprets omens
4. Engages in witchcraft
5. Casts spells
6. A medium
7. Spiritism
8. Who consults the dead

These are not clearly distinct activities; they overlap and are sometimes used interchangeably. What they have in common is that they all involve efforts to obtain knowledge which is ordinarily hidden, and the means of attaining it is through dealings with the spirit world or with mysterious supernatural forces.



The New Testament holds evidence that the heavenly rejection of the occult remains and, if anything, we should be even more aware of it.

## **Acts 19:17-20 (NIV)**

17 When this became known to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, they were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honour. 18 Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed what they had done. 19 A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas. 20 In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.

## **WHY IS THE OCCULT WRONG?**

### **Deuteronomy 29:18-19 (NIV)**

18 Make sure there is no man or woman, clan or tribe among you today whose heart turns away from the Lord our God to go and worship the gods of those nations; make sure there is no root among you that produces such bitter poison.

19 When such a person hears the words of this oath and they invoke a blessing on themselves, thinking, "I will be safe, even though I persist in going my own way," they will bring disaster on the watered land as well as the dry.

- The occult is wrong because it is the worship of other Gods – idolatry
- It is a root among us that produces bitter poison – death
- Idolatry opens the doors to hidden powers of darkness
- The occult seeks to manipulate these spiritual forces – the devil will always dominate, oppress, control and manipulate. The Holy Spirit will always liberate, set free & release.



- Entering into the occult is a bowing down before other gods. It is an unholy alliance and opens the door to the counterfeit supernatural
- The occult is greedy for power to dominate
- Essentially, it is Jesus versus the occult; you cannot have both. Besides the illustration in Acts, Galatians 5:20 lists sorcery as one of the works of the flesh.

## THE COUNTERFEIT DEMONIC GIFTS

Satan is real and he's dangerous. The Bible warns that "... Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light" Thus, we should stay away from the occult!

### **2 Corinthians 11:14-15 (NIV)**

14 And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. 15 It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.

- People often think, if it's the supernatural then it must be god, no!
- The enemy's power counterfeits the Holy Spirit
- The occult powers focus on the mind, whereas God's gifts come through the Spirit and the ministry of the spirit

### **1 Corinthians 12:8-11 (NIV)**

8 To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, 10 to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues,[a] and to still another the interpretation of tongues.[b] 11 All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.



## THE HOLY SPIRIT

Word of Wisdom  
Word of Knowledge  
Discerning of Spirits  
Gift of Faith  
Gifts of Healing  
Gifts of Effecting Miracles  
Gifts of Prophecy  
Gifts of Tongues  
Gifts of Interpretation of Tongues

## THE DEMONIC

ESP, Clairvoyance  
Precognition  
Mental Telepathy  
Superstition  
Psychic / Medium Healings  
Supernatural Manifestations  
Divination  
Demonic Utterance  
Divination

## CONSEQUENCES OF OCCULT INVOLVEMENT

Deuteronomy 28; Blessings & Curses

- **Spiritual Blockage**
- Supernatural control that keeps you from confessing faith in Jesus
- An attitude of rebellion against authority
- A spiritual blockage preventing someone from receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit
- Inability to read the bible, pray or worship
  
- **Physical Symptoms**
- Symptoms of paralysis, epilepsy, nervous disorders
- Children born with deformities, deaf-mute etc.
- Nervous disorders, learning problems, agitation, inability to function in a social structure



- **Emotional Instability**
  - Violent tempers
  - Hatred and cursing
  - Nervous disturbance
  - Unsocial behaviour
  - Depression
  - Abnormal sexual behaviour in children
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- **Fear**
  - Insecurity
  - Torment
  - Bad dreams / Nights Terrors
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- **Severe Psychological Problems**
  - Confusion in thought patterns
  - Learning problems
  - Mental illness
  - Blasphemous thoughts
  - Thoughts of lust and perversion



## GETTING FREE

- Fully understand why the occult is wrong / detestable to God
- You have free will - make the choice for yourself to choose freedom
- Recognise your occult involvement (list attached for guidance)
- Repent of your involvement (including the generations)
- Renounce occult involvement
- Rebuke the enemy
- Sever the occult root
- Throw away all occult paraphernalia

An occult checklist is attached. Simply pray the following into each item you or your family have been involved in.

## PRAY INTO EACH ITEM

### AN EXAMPLE - ASTROLOGY

- Lord I acknowledge my involvement in *astrology* is detestable to you
- I repent of participating in *astrology*
- I renounce *astrology*
- I close the door to *astrology*
- I cut myself free from *astrology* in Jesus name
- I commit to throwing away all my paraphernalia related to *astrology*
- Please restore what was stolen as a result of *astrology* in my life