

Seeing Through Ghosts and Spirits

A Brief Guide from the Bible

One God, One Glory Ministries

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Foreword

This booklet is intended to provide essential Bible-based training and tactics for dealing with the powers of darkness and their influence. If you are not a Christian believer, the first thing you must do is be saved. Believers must “walk in the Spirit.” Some people have more trouble with these issues than others. Most will benefit and some will find vital new understanding.

About the Author

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The Source of Spiritual Deception

As believers, we are blessed with a relationship with Jesus Christ because of His grace and sacrifice. Eph. 1:3-14 summarizes this. It is marked by godly love for the brethren that He instills in us (1 John 3:14) and “abiding” in Him.

But we still live in a world still in spiritual darkness (John 3); is filled with sin (1 John 5:19) and under the usurped control of Satan and his spiritual cohorts. (Eph. 6:12). We are faced with danger (he goes about as a “roaring lion” 1 Peter 5:8) and makes us targets of both opportunity and intention (Eph. 6:12-17), (1 Peter 4:12). Ignorance leaves us more vulnerable.

The source of deception is Satan. “for he is a liar, and the father of it,” Jesus said of him in John 8:44. The same passage indicates that whether the unsaved know it or not, whether they want to face it or not, they are in the family of the devil because they remain in sin and under his kingdom.

Our goal is to help people to disentangle from the devil (James 4:7, Eph. 6:11-12) and the rescue of the lost and ensnared (Mark 9:27, Jude 1:23). We need to learn some things about Satanic tricks for the purpose of spiritual warfare and gaining victory. 2 Cor. 10:4-5: *For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds; Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;*

1 John 4:4: Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

All Scripture references are KJV. It is recommended that you read all references in it.

Chapter One: The Bible on Ghosts

Hebrews 9:²⁷ ***And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:***

²⁸ So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

Luke 16: ²² And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; ²³ And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

²⁴ And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

²⁵ But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

²⁶ And beside all this, **between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.**

²⁷ Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: ²⁸ For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.

²⁹ Abraham saith unto him, *They have Moses and the prophets; let them bear them.* ³⁰ And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but *if one went unto them from the dead*, they will repent. ³¹ And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

The trip from life to heaven or hell is immediate, permanent, and final, based on faith in Christ or lack of it.

2 Samuel 12:²³ But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me. *David was aware that death is a one-way trip.*

Job 19: 25 For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:²⁶ And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: ²⁷ Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another, though my reins be consumed within me. *Job recognized physical death but showed faith in a resurrection through the work of a living Redeemer.*

2 Corinthians 12:² I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven.³ And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God

knoweth;)⁴ How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

Paul was stoned to death, but God in his case sent him back. Yet Paul does NOT talk of what he saw. This is in contrast to all the stories from people who supposedly "crossed over" and "came back." That is Biblically impossible. The experiences they had seem real, but they were not dead. Paul is an exception, not a rule.

2 Cor. 4:⁴ In whom the **god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not**, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.⁵ For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.

John 8:44 Ye are of your **father the devil**, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

The lost person is blinded by Satan and has no defense against demonic activity. Sin, which is both the condition into which we are born, and from the choices we make as soon as we are able, is like having Satan as our natural god.

The unbelieving in Christ (John 3:16-18) are headed for a place originally prepared for the devil and his fallen angels. Salvation through Christ places someone into God's family, Kingdom, and forgiveness *Colossians 1:13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:*. What determines where one goes at death is one's relationship to God through Christ, or its absence. (John 3:16-18)

Death is ONE WAY and PERMANENT. **Heb. 9:27** is emphatic, as Paul is using the example of death being ONCE and for all time as a comparison to Christ's once-for-all sacrifice for sin. There could be no firmer indication. Even if Bible said no more on the subject, this passage proves that **THERE ARE NO DISEMBODIED HUMAN SPRITS! THIS IS THE STARTING POINT OF UNDERSTANDING ABOUT "GHOSTS."** Spirits that are not holy angels are demons. God forbids attempts to communicate with the dead or spirits which are not God. Aside from being sin, it is dangerous. These beings are intelligent, ancient, immortal, and can move at the speed of thought. GOD is more powerful (I John 4:4) but we are not, of ourselves. (Luke 22:31).

They have abilities to make sounds, affect electromagnetic fields, electrical equipment, batteries and devices, cameras, and more. They appear to be able to make visual shapes, move objects, enter bodies, implant thoughts, and cause physical harm. They are evil, deceptive, cruel, depraved, violent, and can appear to be attractive if it suits their purpose. They imitate gods and accept the interactions of people as worship and subservience.

Ghosts are not people. They are demons imitating the dead. Their purpose is to deceive the human race about death, to prevent people from believing the Bible, and to terrorize us. There is NO benefit in attempting to communicate with spirits. There is no mystery; the Bible explains it all.

They were created before man and have had all those millennia since to study us, to interact, and learn. They also retain the powers with which God made them, subject to His restraints. Their powers are far beyond ours, and include the abilities to materialize, take the form of people or animals, affect people physically, including physical damage and even *apparent* healing. Interacting with them is damaging to human beings.

We may conclude that spirits in “hauntings” imitate and appear as the dead. Some of the many roles seem to be appearing 1) as a dead beloved relative which creates strong emotional engagement with people and great doubt about God’s truth; and 2) as murder and suicide victims. I am convinced that demons attend many of these deaths, even causing some. If the victims or perpetrators had relationships with or attachment to spirits, those demons seem to take advantage from that. Their presence in or alongside murderers, or in the victims they drive to suicide (I am not saying all suicides) seems to persist in that spot. If they were causative or attendant in acts of violence and terror, they often manifest later as one of the participants. Many cases of serial killers bear this out. There are reasons other than a death in a place for spirit connections to that place.

A key factor is whether the deceased had a relationship with demonic spirits. People who live by and with evil and sin often are attended in life by one or more demonic spirits, which may linger and persist from the permissions granted by the deceased while living. Another is the strength and nature of human interaction with demonic spirits at a particular place. Ceremony, magic, and sacrifices bring strong and lasting attachments to those places. War, violence, torture and terror are among their favorite things to cause, and they seem to gain presence from them.

We never have any business seeking out “ghosts”.

Some people feel no need to understand this, but many need to in order to strengthen themselves, understand the truth, and aid people with the truth. A recent poll indicated that about sixty percent believe in ghosts, and about one-third say they have seen one. The widespread explanations are wrong and spiritually deadly. For those who are troubled or confused with spirit activity, the simple truths of the Bible can remove spiritual clouds that keep them from trusting Christ.

Chapter Two: Angels

They can appear as angels (Gen 32:1) And Jacob went on his way, and the angels of God met him. (Gen 32:2) And when Jacob saw them, he said, This is God's host: ...

They can appear as men (Gen 19:5) And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them.

(Mark 16:5) And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted.

They have supernatural powers Matt. 28:2-4: And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. 3: His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: 4: And for fear of him the keepers did shake and became as dead men.

(Exo 14:19) And the angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them:

They obey God (1 Chr. 21:27) And the LORD commanded the angel; and he put up his sword again into the sheath thereof

(Psa. 103:20) Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word .21: Bless ye the LORD, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure.

They are different than men (1 Cor 6:3) Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?

They have wondrous appearances Ezek. 10, Dan 10:6, Rev 10:1
(Mat 28:3 KJV) His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow:

Many think some of the lights and UFOs in the skies be traces of their passing or activities?

They are sexless/genderless (Mat 22:30) For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.

They are Created (Col 1:15) Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:16: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

Have knowledge greater than man's (But not equal to God's): (2 Sam 14:20) To fetch about this form of speech hath thy servant Joab done this thing: and my lord is wise, according to the wisdom of an angel of God, to know all things that are in the earth.

They are strong (2 Th 1:7) And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,

They ministered to the prophets: 2 Ki 1:3 But the angel of the LORD said to Elijah the Tishbite, Arise, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria, ...

1 Ki 19:5 And as he lay and slept under a juniper tree, behold, then an angel touched him, and said unto him, Arise and eat. 6 And he looked, and, behold, there was a cake baken on the coals, and a cruse of water at his head. And he did eat and drink, and laid him down again. 7: And the angel of the LORD came again the second time, and touched him, and said, Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee.

They ministered to Christ: (Mat 4:11) Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

They ministered to the apostles (Acts 8:26) And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert.

(Acts 12:7) And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands. 8: And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me. 9: And he went out, and followed him; and wist not that it was true which was done by the angel; but thought he saw a vision; 10: When they were past the first and the second ward, they came unto the iron gate that leadeth unto the city; which opened to them of his own accord: and they went out, and passed on through one street; and forthwith the angel departed from him 11 And when Peter was come to himself, he said, Now I know of a surety, that the Lord hath sent his angel, ...

(Acts 27:23) For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve.

They announced Christ's birth, attended his tomb, and his ascension (Luke 2:13) And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, ...

(Mark 16:5) And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted.

(Acts 1:10) And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; ...

They minister to us Heb 1:14) Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

They may be assigned to us (Mat 18:10) Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.

They will carry out judgements of God (2 Th 1:8) In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

AND throughout the book of Revelation, including casting Satan into the pit in Chapter 20

They watch us (1 Tim 5:21) I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality.

(Heb 12:1) Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

They attend at the death of saints (Luke 16:22) And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;

They are NOT the HOLY SPIRIT (John 16:13) Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come.

They are NOT to be worshipped (Col 2:18) Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,

Rev. 22:9 Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.

There are hierarchies and types of angels

Michael the *Archangel* (only one named as such –Jude 9); identified as a warrior with evil spirits-Daniel 10 and Rev 12:7; the herald of the calling away of the Church—II Thess. 4.

Seraphim, *beautiful and devoted to the praise and worship of God* Isa 6:2: Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. 3: And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. 4 And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke. ... (Isa 6:6) Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar:

Cherubim, relating to God's glory and guarding it (Psa. 80:1) To the chief Musician upon Shoshannimeduth, A Psalm of Asaph. Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a

flock; thou that dwellest between the cherubims, shine forth. (Gen 3:24) So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life

They evidently know when someone is saved. (Luke 15:10) Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.

Some of the words translated angels: (from Strong's)

Strong's G 4151 pneuma.... breath or spirit. When linked with all else we know, this says to me they are spirits sent from God

Strong's H 4397 malak, to dispatch as a deputy, messenger, or ambassador. To me this says they are agents of God.

Angelos (Strong's) G32) Matt. 28:2 "messenger" as the meaning of "angel"

An army to serve the Lord (Psa. 68:17) The chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands of angels (Strong's H430, "elohim", meaning spiritual beings): the Lord is among them, as in Sinai, in the holy place.

And SHARATH (Strong's H8334) (ministers) (Psa. 103:20) Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word. 21: Bless ye the LORD, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure.

elohyim or meelohim (Strong's H430) is in PS. 8:5. Thou has made him a little lower than the *angels*. Of course, we know this verse speaks of Christ's incarnation, not inferiority.

Chapter Three: Demons

The Bible tells us that God created angels. They are spiritual beings that can materialize, do supernatural acts, speak, and cause the appearance of visual and electrical effects (Ezekiel 28). Some rebelled with Satan. It is logical that fallen angels retain the powers with which they were created, remember all they have since seen, can cause the same sorts of effects, and that people may sometimes see them. Human observation throughout recorded history in all places bear this out.

Let's see some things that the Bible tells us about devils / demons did and are like. They:

- a. Know who Jesus is, *Luke 8:28*
- b. Are subject to Him *Luke 8:28*
- c. Can inhabit and control animals *Matt. 8:30-32*
- d. Can inhabit, possess, and control people *Mark 5:3-5*
- e. Mock God *Acts 16:17-18*
- f. Can give supernatural physical abilities to those they possess *Mark 5:4, Luke 8:29*
- g. May cause victims to go naked (Luke 8:27) and cut themselves *Mark 5:5*
- h. Can ensnare believers *I Tim. 3:6-8*
- i. Can communicate to and with people *Lev. 20:6* and more
- j. Are intelligent *I Tim. 4:1*
- k. Teach and instruct people *I Tim. 4:1*
- l. Deceive people *I Tim. 4:1*
- m. Imitate dead people *I Sam. 28:8-20*
- n. Have rank and hierarchies *Eph. 6:12, Col. 2:15*
- o. Can put thoughts into human minds *John 13:2*
- p. Can motivate evil action *John 13:2, Acts 5:3*
- q. Can enter into people *Luke 8:30, John 13:27*
- r. Can touch and attack people *Acts 19:15-17*

Consistent with what we see of them in the Bible, we can observe in the real world that they can:

1. Materialize as people, animals, images, shapes, and “ghosts”
2. Touch and attack people, move objects and people, cause sounds, and speak in audible voices
3. Give experiences, “automatic writings,” plant thoughts, visions and “prophecies”
4. Communicate through mediums, trances, meditative states, and “fortune tellers”
5. Move by teleportation, that is from place to place with the speed of thought
6. Change matter (as did the Egyptian magicians); do healings and apparent miracles

7. Cause illness, depression, even death (I Cor. 5:5)
8. Cloud minds (Matt 13:19, Heb. 4:1-2); tempt, cause strife and opposition to God
9. Cause adversity (example of Job); cause speaking in tongues; inflame sexuality

They are NOT omnipresent or omniscient, cannot possess believers, and are repulsed by the Holy Spirit. Nowhere can I find that a believer can be possessed, or their minds taken over by a demon. The flesh may sin; we may be tempted, tested, or attacked, but our spirits are now God's.

Christians should not seek these experiences or encounters. One might "run across" them during life or come across a person with concerns about them. *Spiritual discernment, walking in the Spirit, and the Word of God are the weapons of our warfare, and the saved need not fear. (I Cor. 10:4; I John 4:4 "...greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world")*. The lost have plenty to fear and need to repent toward Christ for safety. (Colossians 1:13).

Any discussion of this subject invariably brings up the question of the events recorded at Endor with Saul, the witch/medium, and the apparition of Samuel in 1 Sam. 28. Did God bring up Samuel, or was it a demonic imitation? If so, what about the prophecies? There is disagreement on whether this was Samuel. Some say no because it was forbidden; some say yes because it was a special judgment of God upon Saul and the medium.

God owes no explanation if He did bring up Samuel for real as an act of judgment upon Saul and the medium. God does not sin, and the believing dead in paradise were certainly under His control. Such an act, as judgment upon Saul and the witch, was within His power, prerogative, and holiness. The witch was shocked, and Saul did die. Restrictions on us from intruding into the spiritual world do not limit God, and such an assignment for Samuel, in paradise, is no more remarkable than the resurrection of the widow's son or the translation of Enoch.

I hesitate to conclude for sure, as do most. I can see an inferential conclusion for either case. There is room for the admission of uncertainty and a charitable tolerance of either deduction. What DOES matter is that God is the Righteous Judge of the living and the dead, and we respect His supremacy.

Chapter Four: The Nature of Demonic and Supernatural Manifestations Today

Demons can manifest themselves outside of physical bodies. The Bible records many instances of angels manifesting as visible and/or physical entities, as well as speaking through animals. (Baalim's donkey, for example).

We know from the Bible that God created angels, all holy in the beginning. It would be inconsistent to believe that fallen angels who went with Lucifer somehow became different in their capacities from those who remained holy. If therefore such capabilities exist for angels, they must logically also exist in fallen angels.

We know that all spirits are subject to God, so it seems obvious that God restrains the activities of Satan and his cohorts. (2 Thessalonians 2:7) For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.) We can also conclude that since angels are holy and loyal to God, willingly subject to His power and will, they will always behave like He wishes. Demons fight against His constraints opportunistically and continuously

It was evidently common belief that spirits could be visible, or the disciples would not have first thought Jesus was a spirit when he approached them on the water. The apparition that Saul saw at witch's cave was expected by him and her both, which is a different issue than whether it really was Samuel or not. And there were many spirits seen, coming up from the earth, by the witch. The sorcerers of Pharaoh also created supernatural manifestations as a routine thing.

Every type of their activity may not be specifically mentioned in the Bible. What we are told is sufficient to apply it to what we see in the spiritual realm. How should we view evidence in the world around us about spiritual manifestations of types not specifically mentioned in the Bible?

Scholarship, logic, and Christian discernment apply to all explanations of everything in the world. One can view things through the lens of Scripture, use the discernment of the Holy Spirit, and the "spirit of a sound mind" and infer, calculate, and conclude explanations that fit Biblical truth, are consistent with what it DOES say while concluding how to view the world and the things in it.

In much the same way that we can examine geological evidence in the light of Scripture and understand its consistency with the Genesis account of creation, we can see evaluate demonic evil.

We are left with the question; can demons manifest themselves other than through physically possessing people? I think they can. Angels have that ability and there is simply too much evidence. For a good synopsis of the things that the Devil and demons can and can't do, I suggest reading "Satan's Devices" by Robert Morey, Harvest House Publishers, 1993, ISBN 0-89081-881-9 and ISBN 1-56507-142-5, especially Chapter 6.

Supernatural phenomena are recorded in every culture, every continent, and in every time in history. One may reasonably conclude their reality without violating Scripture. Indeed, Satan's position as "squatter-in-chief" in this world, for this age, which was confirmed by implication through the account of his effort to tempt Christ. When we correlate the phenomena with Bible passages such as "signs and wonders" in the last days, their existence that is not only compatible with the Bible but can be "triangulated" from its combined revelations about the subject. We can use these methods to learn how we, as Christian believers, should view or explain the observed phenomena.

Many people have questions about the spirit world and the supernatural. We should not shirk the responsibility to "always have an answer for the hope which lies within us" for the sincere seeker. And we are not left without answers aplenty if we look.

If people can be shown from a Biblical point of view that "ghosts" are not people; that "aliens" and other apparent beings cannot be anything other than unholy spirits attempting to deceive, that may help them trust Christ. Rather than ask people to overlook the obvious, we can let the Bible explain it, showing them its precise accuracy about all things spiritual.

Lost and saved alike may doubt the reality of supernatural manifestations. Some people may never experience a tornado or flood, but they are real. It is wise to be prepared for when they occur. The saved have already believed in the most supernatural things in the universe: the supernatural inspiration and preservation of the Word of God; His existence ("as seeing Him who is invisible"); the miracle of Christ's incarnation, resurrection, and ascension, and salvation.

It flies in the face of reality to deny that some supernatural manifestations are real, not hoaxes or hallucinations. We need to discern it. For people caught in Satan's traps, it is a serious problem.

The liberating power of Christ and the efficacy of His blood are the real solutions for such problems. Such battles require the armor of God and faith. That SHOULD be the Christian's "normal"!

Some things that can indicate the presence of demonic activity (ghosts, aliens, U.F.O.s)

1. Cold “spots” ...areas of much colder temperature, especially appearing suddenly, or moving about.
2. A feeling of dread, hair on the back of your neck or arms raising, sudden fear or terror as you move toward a spot or room
3. A sudden awareness of an area that feels like extreme evil or “darkness”
4. Feelings of something lying on your chest, feelings of difficulty breathing with other phenomena
5. A darker mass than the surrounding area, seeming shaped and moving or animated
6. A feeling of not being alone, or of being watched
7. Lights, orbs, colors, shapes in photos that may have not been present to the naked eye
8. Suddenly appearing mists or lights that are visible to the eye, cameras, or both
9. Moving shapes, mists, translucent masses, orbs and oddly shaped or moving light
10. Film that is totally exposed but no images when taking pictures
11. Battery powered devices draining rapidly or going dead
12. Sounds such as rapping, knocking, breaking glass, footsteps
13. Balloon or oval shape faces or lights (have been reported as both ghosts and aliens)
14. Around UFO phenomena, cars dying, electrical and battery powered devices going dead
15. Pet behavior showing sudden fear, or as reacting to a strange but invisible presence
16. Faint voices, sounds
17. Full body apparitions that are there but then gone
18. Physical feelings of being touched, scratched, or burning sensations. (Actual injuries and marks have occurred.)
19. A sense of “hot”, angry, or evil energy emanating from a room, place, or spot

Disclaimer: Some of these events can have natural explanations. People can imagine things and have odd feelings without anything supernatural going on. One should not expect the same experiences just because others had them.

There is an entire vocabulary created by the “ghost hunting” and paranormal practitioners, with a set of beliefs and explanations that rival religious dogma. “Residuals,” dead people not being able to “cross over,” ghosts versus demons, etc. are just a few. But Bible truth is quite different.

“Psychic mediums” absorb “impressions” from a place or person. They don’t seem to realize that they are being given information by a demonic spirit, usually a “familiar” spirit to them, which they may have acquired as a child, after a catastrophic trauma, or after an occult activity or event.

What they consider a mystery and seek to “investigate” is completely explained by the Word of God. The problem is that they usually are not studying the Bible. Christians can also be deceived.

I have heard more than one person say about an illness or chronic pain that they were “willing to try anything” when they sought occultic physical care, not understanding the occultic demonic underpinnings of the processes involved. We are to seek ALL supernatural help from God alone, not from invisible sources who are not Him. Wisdom and knowledge are also His.

Demons attach themselves to people and create a relationship by repeated or continued connections. They increase control, damage, and problems for their victims as time goes by, sometimes slowly, like a cancer, sometimes immediately. Their long and short-term goals are deception, disruption, defilement, discouragement, despair and finally destruction.

The subtle conditioning of modern media is particularly desensitizing to children. Much of it is instruction in witchcraft.

The antidote is the Bible, bringing the Gospel and the truth about spirit beings.

Chapter Five: The Forbidden Practices of Deuteronomy 18

(Deut. 18:9) When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the **abominations (8441)** of those nations.

(Deut. 18:10) 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, (7081)** or an **observer (6049) of times (6471)**, or an **enchanter (5172)**, or a **witch (3784)**,

(Deut. 18:11) Or a **charmer (2266, 2267)**, or a consulter with **familiar (7965) spirits (178)**, or a **wizard (3049)**, or a **necromancer. (1875 + 4191)**

(Deut. 18:12) For all that do things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee. 13. Thou shalt be perfect with the LORD thy God. 14. For these nations, which thou shalt possess, hearkened unto observers of times, and unto diviners: but as for thee, the LORD thy God hath not suffered thee so to do.

Abominations 8441 Toebah, disgusting, abhorrent, as in idolatry

Divinations 7081 QECEM, from 7080 QACAM, a lot, also divination, including for a fee; oracle, reward of divination; divine sentence, witchcraft

Observer 6049 AWNAN, to cover, covertly cloud over, practice magic, be an enchanter, observer of times, soothsayer

Times 6071 PAAMAH, a stroke, hundred gold, once, order, rank, step, wheel. *My conclusion is when you put these two together, you have described the practice of fortune telling by means like runes, scrying, tarot cards, I Ching, stones, astrology, etc.*

Enchanter, 5172, NACHASH, to hiss or whisper a magic spell, to prognosticate (*Can you hear the sound again or the same serpent as was in the Garden?*)

Witch 3784 KASHAPH, to whisper a spell, to enchant or practice magic, sorcerer

Charmer 2266, 2267 KHAWBER....to enlist connection with spirits for spells or magic

Familiar 7965 Shalown, Shalom, well, happy, friendly, such as you be at peace with (*the kind of relationship you have with your most cherished and well-greeted friends*)

Spirit(s) 178 OWB to Prattle, or mumble a father's name, as in a water skin.... or bottle. *Imagine a water bottle, representing a person, emptied of his own personality, and in whom the name of his father is being mumbled over and over. This is a frightening image, of being emptied of one's self and personality, and merely being an "echo chamber" for the message of the spiritual being in whose control he is. This is the essence of trances, channeling, and automatic writings, to merely echo the messages of a devilish "father."*

Wizard 3049 YIDDONIY...a knowing one who conjures up spirits.

Necromancer 1875 DARASH, to follow, seek, worship, tread, or frequent, with **4191 MUWTH**, to die, or causatively, to kill, (x) crying, worthy of death, destroyer, (x) slay, (x) surely *This is the image of one who regularly seeks the fellowship of the "dead", but which are actually the denizens of Hell, spirits which are spiritually dead, and spiritual murderers.*

For the Canaanites, for people before the Flood, and for Egypt after, these practices were the cultural and religious norm. Deut.12:2-4. The practices have never gone away. They are still wrong.

Chapter Six: Spiritual History Inventory for Evaluating Vulnerability to Demonic Influence

If you have troubles in these areas and you don't know why, never sought anything occult, and want to stop it, this may help you figure out why and how. If you DID seek out the occult, and are ready to repent, this may help you do so. Any of these things can weaken one spiritually or cause bondage. The ones involving choice or solicitation to interact with the "spirit world" or the occult must be repented of, renounced and forsaken IN FAVOR OF CHRIST.

The list (certainly not comprehensive in scope) is useful for anyone, even Christians who have problems. It may help you understand what you are hearing or what to ask when you are talking with someone. Or you might survey your life, understanding now the meaning of things that were unclear before. You don't have to be under demonic attack to learn what things have occult uses and to avoid them. Or that media, books, novels, movies, and fantasies containing the occult are rooted in reality and should have no appeal to a Christian.

I have concluded that demonic influence, "hauntings" and the like, if real, occur in *people* for many reasons including some on the list. They may occur in *places* because of what has occurred there in the past. Great sin or evil can be attended and aided by demons. Occult practices in the place, or the persons who were there, seem to contribute to a sort of "permission" for these beings to linger there. If we had any way to know, we would likely find that the persons with whom it began had something from the list in their lives.

These things alone do not mean that one is under demonic influence. But they can be gateways for trouble with demons or "ghosts" that may take advantage of the "permissions" granted to them, even ignorantly, especially with the overt things. If you *seek* the occult, the effects can turn horrifying and/or be out of your control. This can lead to sin, alienation, depression, even thoughts of suicide, if one grants a foothold. Demons masquerade, deceive, and may even provide pleasure to start out, but the end of consorting with them is death, morally, spiritually, or physically; or at the least, disinterest, dullness, or hostility, toward things of God.

The cure is repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, with a conscious renouncing of past involvement. It is a change of allegiance. A person needs to make a clear choice for Christ, asking His forgiveness and help. The saved are not part of the occult anymore! (Christians under *attack* or who have unwittingly been in contact with these things need to confess sin, make things right that they know are wrong, and seek God's close fellowship and protection.)

IT IS A PREREQUISITE FOR GETTING HELP OR GIVING HELP THAT THE SUBJECT MAKES the DECISION TO BE SAVED AND GET RIGHT WITH GOD. He/she needs to express their WILL to respond to God, and to reject all claims the devil may have on them in favor of Christ. Review and *make* or *obtain* commitment to salvation, and to Col. 1:13-14; Eph. 2:13, James 4:7 and verses regarding redemption through the blood of Christ. He bought us OUT of the power of the devil.

The belief in the heart, as the belief in Christ to be saved, is something God sees. It need only be genuine in His eyes, whether faint, bold, timid or confident. (Rom. 10:9) The only solution to the oppression of the devils is to be saved and placed into the “fellowship with the light’ (I John 1:6-7).

The individual must make that decision to “draw nigh to God’ James 1:7 and resist the devil James 1:8.

Have you ever been involved in or do any of these things apply to you?

1. Abused as a child, especially sexually?
2. Committed or taken part in acts of cruelty, torture, or violence toward people or animals?
3. Been sexually assaulted? Committed sexual assault?
4. Experienced an “alien abduction?” Out of body experiences? Sought a “spirit guide?”
5. Been in a trance, whether from music, drugs, meditation, or hypnotism?
6. Had your fortune told? Palm readings, a horoscope done, had a reading from I Ching, runes, crystals, stones, or Tarot cards, scrying or similar things? Used a OUIJA board? Done “Dowsing?” Scrying?
7. Had Reiki massage, holistic scans using “energy fields” or Eastern/Indian/Hindu techniques?
8. Used drugs and had a “trip”? Are you “into” Goth, vampire or zombie culture, or fantasy games?
9. Involved with metal/heavy rock, meditative music, or drum circles?
10. Seen a medium, spiritualist, attended a séance, channeled spirits or been present at such an experience?
11. Pray to an idol, offered sacrifice to an idol? Prayed to ancestors? Prayed to “Saints”?
12. Try to talk with the “dead” or spirits? Seen or talked with ghosts as a child?
13. Lived a sexualized, immoral, or pornographic lifestyle?
14. Used “magick”, cast a spell, used voodoo, or attended a coven or Wiccan meeting?
15. Read the “Book of the Dead” or any other similar book of occult, magic, or Egyptology?

16. Buy, wear, or possess an amulet, charm, or crystals? Possess an idol or “grotto”?
 17. Ever practiced “visualization?” Yoga, Transcendental Meditation, or similar?
 18. Attended, participated, or affirmed belief in Hindu, Buddhist, Tao, Shinto, native religions, Tai Chi, voodoo, spiritism?
 19. Taken to any such religious ceremonies, blessed, or dedicated in them by your parents?
 20. Is your spouse or anyone else doing any of these things in your home?
 21. Victimized by spirits as a child in a home where they were active in parent’s lives?
-

These things are not a formula and are not asserted in every case to be the source of demonic troubles. But they can be a doorway, pathway, or permission that demons exploit. They can weaken a person, making them more vulnerable. Some of them are so overt that connection to demonic spirits is virtually assured. But repentance toward God and faith in Christ are always possible.

DISCLAIMER: This is opinion from experience and study, not a substitute for spiritual counsel or medical advice. WORKERS: Have a partner with you when you counsel.

Chapter Seven: Satan's Kingdom

How do you join? A. You are born into it because of sin. *How do you get under his control?* A. By staying lost in sin and not receiving Christ as Savior. *Who are the unseen members?* A. Satan and devils.

When angels act or manifest themselves, it is always under and within the scope of God's permission, and their behavior honors God and His character. They never misbehave, seek to impress humans, or commit mischief or evil. Their highest purpose is to praise God and honor Him.

They are powerful in their own right and, when commissioned by God, as powerful as He wills them to be. Yet warfare and conflict in the spiritual world is implied by the allusion to the angel dispatched to help Daniel being withstood by a strong demon.

Demons, on the other hand, share the character, motives, and desires of Satan. They can be expected to behave in all conceivable ways that are evil, opportunistic, and deceptive with people. There is no such thing as "playing fair" with Satan or his spiritual cohorts.

Let's look at some of the things we can see and infer that Satan and his gang of demons do.

It is clear that people see things that look like people, mists, apparitions, lights, shapes, and more, and always have. These tales are universal in history and present time. There is an abundance of current interest in hunting "ghosts" and measuring their manifestations with modern technology. These efforts are widely successful, as evidence is abundant, with the recording of sounds, images, and physical effects. It would be illogical to assert that these things are not real.

Such activities often go beyond research and into seeking contact, which violates God's prohibitions on seeking contact with the "dead." The Lord knows who the "dead" really are, that ALL efforts to communicate with them are really efforts to contact demons and prohibits it totally (Deut. 18). Doing it falls into Satan's plans to be worshipped, to deceive, and to usurp God's position. He no doubt relishes it when people stupidly and/or ignorantly reach out to his hierarchy of hellions. Whether you think you are praying to the "saints", the gods of voodoo, the spirits of shamanism, or great Uncle Ebenezer, the reality is that if your communication is answered, it is a DEMON doing so. When the people on TV talk to the spirits, trying to get them to act or speak, they are in dangerous territory, albeit perhaps unknowingly. But their simple surveillance yields some very compelling evidence, such as moving shapes, shadows, objects moving from unseen

forces, lights, orbs, and even humans being touched. These appear to be measurable and visible manifestations of spirit activity. But they are not “dead people.”

I think that demons gain permission to attach themselves to a place or person in several ways. Let’s call it their “intake” of spiritual power. A critical one is the invitation of people to consort.

Demons, like Satan, have no bodies and no visibility to humans normally. Based on my reviews of hundreds of diverse accounts, they crave to show themselves or their powers and to use or even possess humans. I think that the people involved give them permission through their invitations and pleadings to the spirits. These efforts can be direct, indirect, informed, ignorant, ritualistic, or even naïve. But there is danger in these activities, even when casual or recreational.

Many “hauntings” are spirits to which people, while alive, gave permission to advance. To illustrate, we can find many accounts of “hauntings” of houses or places. Phenomena may surround a person or be associated with a place.

Often, these stories involve children, especially younger teenagers. Demons seem to prey on the weakest among us, particularly children. Satan’s greatest desire is to take people as far away as possible from any likelihood of trusting God. He wants to wound spirits, sear consciences, and seduce developing teens so effectively that they resist God for life.

I think there are pathways through which people seek, permit, or attract demons and give them place or power. These permissions can be powerful enough that the spirits continue to hold that ground and power and manifest themselves, craving to deceive or frighten new people in that same house or place. In other words, something happened to or with great Uncle Ebenezer in his lifetime that gave power and permission to one or more demons to stay there and do things as time passes. People who enter those areas may facilitate demonic manifestations, but sometimes no encouragement is needed. They are likely fixated there, victimizing people when they visit.

Things that cause demons to gain ground include great sin, cruelty, torture; horrible deaths of the lost as in war, crime, or trauma; the occult gateways that people use; actions of more powerful demons; and places of great spiritual warfare or ritual.

The Bible tells us that Satan is the “prince of the powers of the air” and also speaks of “rulers of darkness in high places.” We also see examples of “lesser order” demons in the Bible,

such as the ones that entered the herd of swine. We can know from this that they can take over animal bodies as well as possess humans. In our age of the indwelling Holy Spirit in believer, I do NOT believe it possible for a demon to fully possess or inhabit a believer in Christ, but that has to do with the believer's union with Christ, not a limitation on demonic capabilities.

We may deduce that demons are capable of imitating dead people, and of lingering in places and manifesting themselves. They are there, for whatever spiritual reason allows them to be, and I think they show themselves to visitors or inhabitants of houses and places in response to their presence. I think that the nature of the visitor, the purpose of the visit, the familiarity of the persons to the spirits, and the persons' actions toward the spirits all have a variable effect on whether the "ghosts" are noticed and to what degree. Demons hate Christians and like to deceive, frighten, terrorize and impress people. Sometimes, especially in secluded spots, they are just there.

They appear to children, sometimes as "imaginary playmates", which can be real to children with child minds. They appear as characters with various names, from "Slenderman" to mysterious creatures. Our country is saturated with their activities, yet many won't accept Bible truth about it.

Those who hunt ghosts sometimes conclude that the "ghosts" in a place are "gentle" or "harmless". Never true! Demons will play roles to further the belief that ghosts are dead people. This idea about death, like all the Devil's subtle deceptions, diminishes people's ability to believe the truth of God, understand the need to repent and be saved, and that Heaven and Hell are real.

This creates a real opportunity for evangelism if you are prepared to discuss the issue from Bible truth about it. The more meaningful thing is to seek within ourselves to have the motive that Christ put forth as right: let us not rejoice that God gives us victory over demons, but rather that our names are written in Heaven. Are we prepared to help the spiritually needy in this way? The evil is around us, but we can escape its power through Christ, and we can help others do the same.

If you have seen yourself in any of these experiences, ask for God's help now.

(Note: "great Uncle Ebenezer" is a totally fictional name to represent the people whom demons imitate as ghosts).

Luke 10:20: Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.

Chapter Eight: The Choice

What is it within man that makes us so cooperative with the devil? It is sin. Jesus warned that it is that which comes from WITHIN that corrupts us.

2 Cor. 4:4 tells us that the God of this world has blinded the eyes of them that believe not. Jesus said to the Pharisees, “you are of your father the devil”! Something in us wants to displace God and make Him our servant, instead of letting the Lord be God and us his servants. It’s the same rebellion which entered the heart of Lucifer in heaven, causing him to rebel and become Satan. No wonder that we are so comfortable with sin! Yet the witness of creation and of conscience pricks our hearts and reminds us that there’s something wrong, and we have no excuse. (Rom. 1-3.)

Satan wants us to make our own redemption; to be our own god, to create a god in OUR image instead of accepting Him as He is. But Jesus Christ is the only way to God.

The essence of the occult is to share that rebellion that made Lucifer into Satan; angels into demons; Adam and Eve into sinners; and which enters our hearts as soon as we can make the choice for ourselves! The essence of idolatry is to call to this false god instead of the real one. The essence of spiritism is to pray to some or creature which is not God. This honors imposters, and not Him.

It is no mystery that the prince of the powers of the air and his evil minions are so prevalent or that people are so drawn to them. The ungodly heart is curious about and at ease with them. People want to experience the thrill of a spiritual connection, but all too late find out that this is an imposter god, who has committed spiritual identity theft, who intercepts the prayers of the wicked who call out to him instead of to the holy God of Heaven. It is only when we realize that God is the loving Heavenly Father through Jesus Christ and receive His forgiveness that we are transformed and translated into the kingdom of his dear Son. Now we have a new relationship with the holy God of Heaven! Through our cleansed condition in Jesus Christ now we may say, “Abba, Father”.

God has given us power over the evil one and the power to choose, which may be the most important power God gives us. John 1 tells us “but as many as received him, to them gave He the power to become the children of God.” God honors that choice. The devil exploits human choice about spiritual things. The path is shown in Scripture:

James 4:7-8: Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

John 1:12: But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

The good news is that Jesus Christ is as close as your prayer to Him.