

Losing the War...

Chapter 13

CAUTION...

The Psychic “Hotline” is called “HOT” for a Reason!

And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness,
but rather reprove them.

—Ephesians 5:10–11

During our many years of ministry concerning the occult and related issues, these authors have never ceased being amazed at how often those claiming to be “Christians” seem completely oblivious to the origin and truly demonic nature of spiritualism. In our book *Entertaining Spirits Unaware: The End-Time Occult Invasion*, we presented a strong biblical case which exposes the roots of fortune telling and the other “Nine Forbidden Practices” of the occult. Space here will not permit us to revisit all the Scriptures and facts which expose psychic powers, fortune telling and witchcraft as traps of the Devil. But we do want to address the newly acquired respectability the occult and its practitioners have garnered recently. If you want to end up on the losing end of Spiritual Warfare, all you need to do is get involved—

even innocently—with the occult.

After a daily deluge of occult-based entertainment, advertising the viability of the paranormal, is it any wonder that we have such mainstream acceptance of these satanic practices? However, just because there is a growing psychic frenzy around us, this dare not deter us from our responsibility to rebut the occult whenever possible. It is an important facet of Spiritual Warfare for the Christian to do so. Regardless of the apparent mass approval of spiritualism, Bible-believers must remain vigilant as we speak up concerning the occult. As we do, remember that we'll always be most effective when we calmly and carefully offer facts and biblical insight, even in the face of the relentless public relations campaign which is meant to desensitize an unwitting public concerning Satan's devices. It should also be obvious that anytime we step out to expose the darkness we must also be led by the Holy Spirit, covered in prayer and endeavoring to remain steadfast in other facets of Spiritual Warfare.

Who's That Talking?

One cannot watch television for long without noticing an array of programming that features the latest recognized psychic, or advertisements for pay-per-call services offering tarot card or other forms of fortune telling. John Edwards offers false hope through supposed communication from beyond the grave for an hour each day on the syndicated show "Crossing Over." Mainstream network, ABC, has elevated the overt occultism of David Blaine without questioning the spiritual nature of his powers. And now the "Animal Planet" cable channel has developed a weekly series featuring an alleged "pet psychic" who claims to be able to tell what your dog or cat is thinking! Please spare us!

But whether for canines or just us humans, the rise and visibility of those claiming to have access to the "other side" is certainly parallel with the end of days and predicted by the only reliable source for spiritual advice - the Bible. It occurs to us a tragic

circumstance that so many who would say they serve Christ would also seek advice from the Devil's own sources or at least would have no problem with such activities.

Setting our angst aside, relative to how a professing "Christian" might defend being entertained or perhaps even enlightened by the latest media-made fortune teller, the question remains, how do these occult "prophets" really operate? How can a psychic give correct "readings" about the present circumstances of others unbeknownst to them, let alone predict the future? The answers are threefold, but are nonetheless entwined together.

First, it is through the leading and influence of demonic spirits who feed the seer's mind with information about the "mark" Satan has lured into their counsel. Images, names, and other data the psychic gives about past or present events or personal relationships from the "victim's" life is intended to convince him or her that in fact, the psychic **does** have supernatural powers. This information that "comes" to the psychic's mind, sometimes in intimate detail, is a very powerful tool which has led many psychic seekers to trust in the occult darkness. When you think about it, how they do it should shock no one. The Devil **knows** history! Hell keeps good records pertaining to everything from individual lives to world events with but just one intention—the deception of the unwitting. Just as Christians are filled and led by the Holy Spirit of God, those without Christ are subject to the leading and eventual possession of demons. W. C. Fields wasn't the first to say, "There's a sucker born every minute." That's a line right from Satan's ugly repertoire.

This brings us to part two of our answer. Sometimes psychics rely on just pure speculation, especially about future events. Based on history, human nature, and his ability to garner elite information that may tip him off to possible future events, Satan places what seems to be prophetic information into the minds of fortune tellers and just makes a good guess. Usually, the predic-

tions are very general, with little detail. But because of only a mediocre success rate, and in order to keep up their image for the sake of income, these less than stellar occultists sometimes just *guess* correctly about the past, or present to hopefully make it *appear* that they know the future.

Part three of our answer is: demonically inspired events. For example, if one actually believes the predictions made while playing with the Ouija Board, then demons may, to varying extents, set about to make the predictions of the satanic game become a reality. The same is true of psychic and tarot readings and following one's astrology chart as well. If we give Satan room to influence our lives, he will try to seal the deal by orchestrating an event or circumstance which coincides with an occult prognostication we may have received. This is nothing more than a blatant attempt to manipulate our minds and gain our confidence and trust.

To accomplish his desired control over us, the Devil will use virtually any item to which humans ascribe significance. Whether it be an implement from occult tradition or a foothold caused by human idolatry, Satan's plan is first deception and then control. Lest you think that Satan cannot accomplish his ends by using other people, occult items, or personal idolatry, you need to be mindful of his status as "the god of this world" (II Corinthians 4:4). Make no mistake—he is well able to manipulate nature and circumstances for his purposes. It is right in Satan's wheelhouse to orchestrate the actions of demonically possessed people to make it *appear* as if the person on the other end of the telephone at the psychic hotline really *did* predict the future correctly. If we humans begin exploring his camp to find answers for questions or solutions for our problems, we are in dangerous and forbidden territory. Can we expect to think that God will just automatically nullify the effects of any willful disobedience on our part? The answer is a resounding **NO!** God warns us repeatedly to reject and flee from the world of darkness, yet we turn to ev-

everything from astrology to Zen seeking answers and peace. This kind of occult manipulation, which has incredible and sometimes monumentally negative results for those who trust in it, is rife with horrific consequences. Just as in Daniel's time, the Devil's crowd continues today. Occultists, purporting to know the future fortune or present trials of others, rattle off very impressive prophetic words that carry dramatic influence with those who have opened themselves to accept such demonic insight. These events sometimes represent very real spiritual experiences and often fall on ears ready and willing to accept *ANYTHING* that comes along alleging to have the power to mend broken lives or fill up one's spiritual void. In fact, the modern New Age and occult movements have exploded because of the natural spiritual yearning within so many hearts who long to have one thing—verifiable spiritual experiences. The sad fact is that countless millions desire spiritual enlightenment, but remain resistant to the power of God. Many people continue to spend time, effort, and money chasing answers from sources that have already proven not to be trustworthy a great deal of the time. Still, for countless millions, the demonic bridge has been built and now the compulsion to enter Satan's forbidden sector of the spirit world seems overwhelming and nearly impossible to overcome. But praise God, **Jesus did come to disarm the powers of darkness and bind the strong man** (I John 3:8; Matthew 12:28–29)! And now we, His followers, have been given the grand task to infiltrate enemy lines and implement His purpose and will! Amen!

Hooked on the Supernatural

All around us, people have developed a huge dependency on the occult as a means to find direction and leading for their lives. The world of psychics has found mainstream favor in our day because so many famous people, primarily from Hollywood, have opened the door to the spirit realm for themselves and then promoted it to the world at large. The result is that at this very mo-

ment more people are trusting in demonic power—without ever realizing it—than ever before. There are truly captives all around us, in bondage to fortune telling and soothsaying, whom we as believers should view as a fertile field to reach and minister to in Jesus’ name.

Countless thousands trusted in what the Psychic Friends Network told them (at \$3.95 a minute) throughout most of the nineteen-nineties. Precious few gave it a thought when Dionne Warwick’s occult phone service went bankrupt not long ago. It seems to us that if the “seers” employed there *really* knew the future, they would have seen the demise of the business coming! Yet, millions more are on Satan’s waiting list just hankering to hear whom they were in a “past life” or find out what will happen next in this one.

Satan’s Grand Counterfeit

All of this activity, whether packaged as “New Age,” psychic powers, astrology, numerology, tarot cards, etc. is really but one thing—old-fashioned occultism. This is nothing but Satan’s grand attempt to feign the Lord’s very real supernatural works. The occult is Satan doing what he truly does best—counterfeiting God’s actions and God’s Word. Certainly by knowing the history of his potential victim’s lives (Satan surely does keep track), and by understanding human nature and past human history, the Devil continually amazes the unsuspecting who walk into his territory looking for insight and direction. The fact is, most of his victims haven’t a clue that once they cross the unseen barrier into his jurisdiction, they are then actually fodder on the demonic play field. Satan’s desired end-result of any such “prophecy” or information that humans receive via the occult is but one thing. The Devil wants people to believe that they *can* know the future, that finding it out is in *their* control, and that there are powers in the spirit world that *they* can manipulate. In reality, it is actually the opposite taking place. *He* is in control and *they* are being manip-

ulated. Satan then has his claws in them and continues to bait them until the lying spirits of confusion, fear, and even death work their trade to perfection. Just as Paul warned the Ephesian church to not give the Devil a foothold (Ephesians 4:27), we remind the reader that no matter how enticing or innocent the psychic, New Age, occult world may appear, it is strictly off limits for the believer. Moreover, it is our responsibility to go beyond simple avoidance of the enemy. It is our obligation to take him on (James 4:7; I Peter 5:8)! He is the ultimate “control freak” and we must actively, vehemently oppose him! If we accept this challenge, we’re guaranteed one powerful outcome. When we walk in obedience to God’s Word, the natural result is that captives are set free for the glory of God! And again, isn’t that what it’s all about?

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