

**The Occult - posted by jamccor (), on: 2007/9/24 14:41**

I have a question

In listening to a Ray Comfort audio on the occult, he mentions ways in which we can prevent the enemy from getting a foothold on us, He mentions peace signs or symbols as a bad thing, heavy metal records (which I have seen enough thread s on here about). Does everyone agree on this? Should these steps be taken to keep the bad spirits from having a foothold in my life?

**Re: The Occult - posted by Lotis (), on: 2007/9/24 15:55**

Personally, I would say yes. Though Jesus is more than able to keep us safe, we must be wise with the things we allow in our homes. Better safe than sorry I suppose.

**Re: The Occult, on: 2007/9/24 16:55**

Hi bro,

Quote:

-----Should these steps be taken to keep the bad spirits from having a foothold in my life?

There is, in the Old Testament extensive definition given to God's abhorrence of many activities which He does not tolerate and from which Christians must refrain. This is your starting point. I don't believe any of these are negotiable for those who want to see God.

In the New Testament, 'keep yourself' appears in different contexts but always there is responsibility placed on the believer to co-operate with God. The power is on His side to do what we cannot. But He does not over-rule our flesh *for* us. (Sorcery, witchcraft etc are sins of the flesh, Gal 5:20.) Words like 'mortify' are active verbs which we are expected to practise.

Acts 15:29

that you abstain from things offered to idols, from blood, from things strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell.

1 Timothy 5:22

Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, nor share in other people's sins; keep yourself pure.

1 John 5:21

Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.

Jude 1:21

keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

Lastly 1 Peter 1:3 - 8 gives the eternal context.

Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love.

I'm not sure how the Greek reads in this last verse, or other places which refer to the appearance of Jesus Christ, but I always have a sneaking thought that they may refer to Christ being shown to others by our lives, or, appearing in our flesh.

h, or as here, that He will pull away the corruptible, to reveal the incorruptible - the final proof of where we invested the treasure which our hearts were set to obtain.

**Re: - posted by HomeFree89 (), on: 2007/9/24 16:57**

Yeah, I agree with Lotis. Jesus is more than able to protect us, but should we open ourselves to demonic forces?

I think Ray tells the story on that tape of a girl that he met that had black out spells and after talking with her he realized that she was possessed by spirits. After casting several demons out she was still having black outs and she had even tried to jump of a balcony, but then he noticed a necklace that she was wearing. It had a fairy on it and he took it off and started hitting it with a hammer and as he did a demon screamed out of her each time.{edit} Remember, she was in a black out, but after the necklace broke she came out of it and if I remember right she later became a Christian. So, I think we need to be careful about what we wear or expose ourselves to.

However, I don't think we need to live in fear, but we need to exercise caution and be willing to get rid of anything the Lord tells us to.

Jordan

**Re: The Occult, on: 2007/9/25 3:59**

jamccor,

The danger lies in giving a thing more meaning or power than it would usually have otherwise.

North Americans have grown up equating the "peace sign" with anti-war demonstrations, "free love", pot-smokers, and hippies. But the power of the sign is not contained within the three lines contained in a circle - they are simply lines within a circle. The power lies within your mind that has been "conditioned" for decades to think "peace", "antiwar", "anti-establishment", "pot-smokers", and/or "hippies" whenever it crops into your view.

When you see a "skull & crossbones" you may think of pirates, swords, treasure, adventure, or maybe the F-14 Tomcats from the U.S.S. Nimitz... but you for sure recognize it as the universal symbol of death.

This is unconscious and involuntary. This is why idols were forbidden to the Israelites. The ancients were taught to think critically and practically about circumstances and events, not to react emotionally, and thus involuntarily, to signs and symbols. They were taught to fear the unseen and almighty God instead of inanimate pieces of matter.

Signs, symbols, and things have no consciousness of their own...

"What profiteth the graven image that the maker thereof hath graven it; the molten image, and a teacher of lies, that the maker of his work trusteth therein, to make dumb idols? Woe unto him that saith to the wood, Awake; to the dumb stone, Arise, it shall teach! Behold, it is laid over with gold and silver, and there is no breath at all in the midst of it." (HAB 2:18-19)

...their power comes from your mind and will bowing to an impotent *thing*.

A cross can become an idol - as I learned during an Anglican service where we were called to kiss the feet of a wooden Christ on a wooden Cross. Those feet weren't His feet, or even human feet. They were dead wood, is all.

A salt shaker can become an idol - as I learned last week after accidentally spilling some and casting it over my left shoulder. A friend said, "Hey! Aren't you a Christian? Why are you so superstitious?" Very convicting words from an unbeliever, and so true.

That being said, I believe it prudent to avoid as many slogans, acronyms, signs and symbols within and without the church as one can. A Christian wearing a hoodie with a skull & crossbones on the front (or even just on the tag) is as unbecoming as a woman in a tanktop wearing a cross dangling from her bellybutton ring.

As for the ubiquitous crosses, t-shirts, armbands, bumper-stickers, and other displays of contemporary churchianity - they can hardly take the place of meditating upon scripture, communing with God in private, and relieving one another's burden.

rdens.

**Re: The Occult - posted by rowdy2 (), on: 2007/9/25 6:40**

GREETINGS TO ALL

There will always be a price to be paid for the defacing of the temple of God with graffiti or filling it with the worldly things . Christians minds are filled with things of the spirit and not of the flesh. What thing crafted with hands is not a idol to so meone somewhere. Things are for convenience sake only.

KJV Romans 8.

11. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

12. Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.

13. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

14. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

**Re: The Occult - posted by Tears\_of\_joy, on: 2007/9/25 10:05**

Hello jamccor,

Check this message by Keith Daniel:

(<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/singlefile.php?lid9367&commentViewItemComments>) Protection from the power of satan

**Re: The Occult - posted by narrowpath, on: 2007/9/25 13:02**

Did you notice that the peace sign is actually a cross upside down. I makes a mockery of the cross.

Philip

**Re: The Occult, on: 2007/9/26 9:35**

narrowpath asked

Quote:

-----Did you notice that the peace sign is actually a cross upside down. I makes a mockery of the cross.

I didn't know that's what was being meant by the peace sign! An upside-down cross is also the symbol for human sacrifice - which is the *absolute opposite* of Christ laying down His life for us.

**Re: The Occult, on: 2007/9/26 10:55**

Hi jamccor,

Your original question has been going round in my head. I've wanted to post the answer I know to be true, but it seemed complicated. So, what I want to write here will be as simple as I can make it, but it's not short. If I can catch my drift, I believe you have the key to spiritual safety.

I believe Paul's exposition of the effectiveness of Christ's death.

Romans 6 (NKJV)

5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be *in the likeness of His* resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with *Him*, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we sh

ould no longer be slaves of sin.

KJV: 5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness of his* resurrection: 6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

Modern versions refer to 'self' rather than 'old man'. (Note, it was 'our' 'old man' who Christ took into His death on behalf of humanity.)

The other thing to note in the KJV is the present tense. 'Our old man is crucified'. This is a statement which is eternally true, not merely historically true in our time frame as the 'was' of the NKJV appears to imply. This eternal aspect of Christ's death is to the fore again in John's words here:

Revelation 5:6 (KJV)

And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

John it was who noted John the Baptist's proclamation: 'Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.' (John 1:29)

We have always to remember that as we are in Christ, we are in eternity; that is, **now** we are in eternity, in that eternal truth of the Lamb just slain, which is the foundation of John's statement in his first epistle, chapter 1:7

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. (Note again there is a plural pronoun 'we' just as the old man was 'our's'.)

The reason I'm laying all this out, is it is foundational scripture for understanding *how* we are kept from the wicked one. What I posted earlier about our co-operation with God is also essential, although the *power* is all God's available to us on *His* terms.

So.... you asked...

Quote:

-----to keep the bad spirits from having a foothold in my life?

-----  
to which I wanted to reply with an opposite thought, which is that there are *two* ways we may have footholds in our lives.

One is, that after we have given our lives to the Christ, the more we press on in the Spirit, the more likely we are to find issues we have never had to deal with but which have always been there as part of us. These may be assumptions we have always made about the way life works, or things we have always done; ways we have always dealt with regularly occurring situations, ways of thinking which have never been challenged by the Spirit of God previously. The enemy immediately wants us to suspect we never knew God in the first place, but this is unlikely to be the case (although it may be), so (I think) it's important to resist the temptation to rake over our whole Christian past. Rather, the place to go is Christ's death and there to reaffirm our commitment to be identified with Him in it on our own behalf. This is where the release comes and new thoughts (etc) can begin to strike our understanding as the Spirit is free to reveal His truth to us. Paul refers to spiritual events like these, as the pulling down of strongholds. Sometimes there is more of a battle than I've described, but the principle is the same, and thus sin does not have dominion over us.

Young phrases those two verses from Romans 6 like this: 5 For, if we have become planted together to the likeness of his death, so also we shall be of the rising again; 6 this knowing, that our old man was crucified with *him*, that the body of the sin may be made useless, for our no longer serving the sin;

The reason I'm labouring this, is that while sin is spiritual, it is outworked by the lusts of the mind of the flesh, *by our bodies* and it is here that if there are other spirits involved, we will feel their effects by thoughts and physical inclinations which are counter to what the Holy Spirit is bringing to our spirit, soul and flesh.

In principle then, as we literally stop agreeing with things counter to the Holy Spirit, those inclinations will shrivel up and die.

The New Testament refers to this as 'mortify' or 'put to death'

Romans 8:13

For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

and again, as with *keeping ourselves*, it is we who do the 'mortify'ing with the Holy Spirit's *help*. This is an accurate description of the spiritual dynamic that releases us from our flesh, thus making it impossible for any other 'spirit' to gain a (new) foothold. But, we may find, in the process of addressing such footholds as seem to have been there all our lives, that there is already a spirit involved, whose mindset we seem to have appropriated but never noticed before. :-o I think this is why Paul returns us to the renewing of the spirit of our mind, several times in his letters. (Rom 12:2, Eph 4:23.) This begins with regeneration (Titus 3:5) and impacts everything thereafter (2 Cor 4:16).

The other way footholds arise, is by our opening ourselves to spiritual interference through actions we can find (within our limited understanding) no definite reason not to pursue. However, we later discover we were ignorant of a spiritual danger, and immediately stop doing that thing. In these situations, God is gracious to deliver us swiftly (in my experience), knowing we had no idea what we were getting into.

But, therefore, it is spiritually most unwise knowingly to do anything which opens up an entrance through sin, for other spirits, by choosing to ignore the clear guidance of scripture. Sins of the flesh are named in Gal 5:19, 20 and Romans 1:28 - 32 and other places in the New Testament, and are all associated with idolatry - opposite to worshiping God - and also are clearly laid out in the Old Testament in various places, some of them most explicitly if you read around the lead up to and fall-out from the golden calf in Exodus. These activities, all to be avoided, are the playground of devils (1 Cor 10:20, 21).

In other words, your *protection* from 'bad spirits' is as real as your claim to holiness and righteousness through Christ, who also is made to us wisdom and redemption (1 Cor 1:29 - 31), v 29 'That no flesh should glory in his presence.'

Isa 40:1 - 5

Heb 12:11 - 13

**Re: - posted by jamccor (), on: 2007/9/26 11:18**

Now I was a big heavy metal fan in the day. I still have many cd's, dvd and mp3's of many of those artists. Should I go as far as burning these? Will just having these around be bad?

GOD Bless

John

**Re: - posted by narrowpath, on: 2007/9/26 12:44**

Hello Jamcor,

When I got saved 22 years ago I could not stand having anything unclean around that connected me with the past. I burned a lot in my little coal oven I had then.

When my daughter got saved she quit listening to her favourite rock groups altogether.

We had a young man coming to our house group who was heavily into metal. He struggled with a lot of psychological problems and condemnation. I suggested him several times to cut himself off from this stuff, but he struggled with my advice.

He did not want to get baptized for quite a long while.

Let me give you an illustration. If you were married, would you still keep a picture of former boy or girl friends on display? Would you not want to avoid offending your spouse?

Acts 19:18-20

18Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed their evil deeds. 19A 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. 20In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.

Hope this helps.

Philip

**Re: - posted by jamccor (), on: 2007/9/26 12:57**

Good Point Philip! I wouldn't want pictures from the past. I still find myself checking out webpages of what bands are up to nowadays. I was a huge KISS fan and still buy dvd's from them. I never even gave consideration to these habits of mine.

**Re: The Occult - posted by psalm1, on: 2007/9/26 15:45**

jamccor, Depends on what level of christianity you are satisfied with. There is the nominal variety which we see everywhere. God is an abstract. We find ourselves weak, carnal, and circumstantial in this pseudo christian state. Just go to church and pay your tithe is what they tell you. There are in between levels that seem better but are revealed for "2nd best" when heaven's light shines in.

Now the place where Jesus wants you is the "no holds barred" walk where you are totally given to Jesus. Radical followers of Jesus. These are the ones the world hates. Paul actually had marks in his body from preaching Jesus.

Read what Jesus said in "red letters" you will see how radical Jesus is.

What Jesus lays before all of us is NOT quaint salvation.

Read all that is said about dying.

Paul picked up his cross every day.

Jesus said unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood you cannot be my disciple.

That makes rock stars wimps and believers real men and women.

Without Jesus people are walking corpses just going through life's motions.

Become a true soldier of Jesus and go through his boot camp and now you're not only walking with Jesus but on an adventure!

So there is only one thing for you and me.....GO FOR IT!!!!

....David

**Re: - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2007/9/27 1:01**

Jamccor,

Where is your affection? Music teaches, inspires. Does your music inspire you to love the LORD more? Challenge you to love your neighbor? Be pure in heart, soul and mind?

Something to consider when you select your reading material and music...Better yet, ask the LORD to reveal to you what HE wants you to listen to...that would be far better than what any other human could teach you.

Blessings,  
ginnyrose

**Re: - posted by rookie (), on: 2007/9/27 4:25**

Here is a sermon from Charity Christian Fellowships Mose Stoltzfus, Discerning Spiritual Warfare...

<http://www.charityministries.org/audio/3286.mp3>

In Christ  
Jeff

Re: The Occult, on: 2007/9/27 12:49

jamccor asked

Quote:

-----Should I go as far as burning these?  
-----

Let me offer a perspective.

When I saw your question, I immediately thought of the Ephesians' bonfire, so, yes it might be the best way to show God you're serious.

The Ephesian story is interesting, because renouncing their pasts was the last, rather than the first thing they had to do. It was not a pre-condition of receiving the Holy Spirit, rather, *because* of the Holy Spirit in their lives, they increased their separations from their pasts in this way.

But, this is not a decision which anyone can make for you. You will have to sweat it out for yourself, or the victory won't be yours in the same measure. Laying hold on this challenge and seeing it through, is going to strengthen your Christian character, and benefit your spiritual health. I'd even go so far as to say this may be a cause of the anxieties you sometimes feel.

I would add, that the more excuses you find yourself making, the more you want to put off the dreadful day, the more you are able to judge just what a hold this seemingly innocent pursuit has come to have on you. Just remember that you haven't really decided anything you haven't actually carried out. You may have intentions, but they become decisions when you *do* them. Generally, we *do* what we *want*.

The underlying challenge in the Christian life, is to return again and again to being willing to make our choices in the light of God's mind. If He has an opinion, we want to agree with Him. The way He and the angels know how *much* we agree with Him, is by what we actually *do*. As I'm writing my own soul is very challenged, also, about things I do not 'do'...

Quote:

----- Will just having these around be bad?  
-----

Well, now you know God is making an issue of this with you, 'just having these things around' might be *worse*.

It's a critical factor in the definition of sin, that once you know what is right, it is sin not to do it. This is the work of the Holy Spirit in your life and it is to be embraced, but I know it is very tough to give up a piece of your heart which has been so comfortable in its satisfactions. You may even wonder what you will listen to instead, it may leave such an emptiness in your emotional world. God knows this, but until you make the room\space for Him, He cannot fill it with His comfort and healing.

I do believe anyone who chose heavy metal for recreation, has been opened to spiritually wounding words and influences. You will feel a great deal better when all these have been attended to by the Lord.

In fact, you may have covered up some quite important things with this angry music, so you didn't need to retain them in your consciousness at the time. This is very common (with any sort of music) but which deeper issues God hopes to help you recover from.

I don't say this as a word from the Lord, I'm just making an observation about how teenagers deal with 'stuff' and how God knew all about it back then, and in eternal terms has made provision for it to be resolved that you may have peace. It may not be about getting harder, but about admitting your softnesses, which were not admissible in yesteryear, but now in Christ, He seeks to restore to His likeness.

As you grapple with all this, God may seem distant, but He is not disapproving. He is on your side, to *give* you the victory in Christ.

**Re: - posted by jamccor (), on: 2007/9/27 13:24**

As I lay my sins before GOD, I want to make mention also of my fascination with ghosts. Just today I was looking for ghost videos on the internet. Now I know the truth and I believe in spiritual warfare. Why would I play with fire? Sometimes I cannot explain away the things I do.

Sometimes hearing from people who go through or have went through these things quickens me to stop doing these things.

**Re: to jamccor about heavy metal music - posted by Syl (), on: 2007/9/27 13:52**

:-) I was born again on Nov 4 2007 and before that I used to love hard rock and some heavy metal. About 2 months before I got saved I had told my kids that I loved the Scorpions, an 80's band so much that I saw my self on a walker as an old lady banging my head. The instant I surrendered my life to Jesus He took away all desire to listen to any of those lyrics. The Lord knew how much I loved music and that I still do, but I will not listen to what I used to listen to it because when I realized what my Lord had gone through on the cross for me the desire to please Him became stronger than my selfish desires to please my itching ears. Now with me, I was instantly delivered from it, but for some people it is a slower process. Read Romans 12:1&2 it says to present yourself as a living sacrifice and to not be conformed to this world, but to be transformed by the renewing of your mind. If you read your bible every day and follow these verses you will see that the Lord will be there helping you.

Quote:

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jamccor wrote:

Now I was a big heavy metal fan in the day. I still have many cd's, dvd and mp3's of many of those artists. Should I go as far as burning these? Will just having these around be bad?

GOD Bless

John

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**Re: The Occult, on: 2007/9/27 15:32**

jamccor said

Quote:

-----I want to make mention also of my fascination with ghosts.

-----

Brother,

Thank you for continuing to open yourself to the Lord in this way. I pray we all who sense your desire for rightness with God in your experience, will be prayerful and patient as you come to understand God's answers to these things.

About ghosts, have you ever done a Bible study on the subject?

**Re: - posted by jamccor (), on: 2007/9/27 15:34**

dorcas

I have not done a bible study on ghosts.

**Re: The Occult, on: 2007/9/27 16:18**

Brother,

I believe a Bible study would help you to divide between the real and the unreal.

Entertainment productions about ghosts may contain the appearance of truths, but these are presented in a fictional setting laced with deceptions and lies.

All our souls need a deeply rooted stability in God Himself, His living word and the reality of the creation He has designed, (within which we find ourselves). As you become secure in this *true* truth, it will provide a contrast with the other fictitious presentations.

The spiritual side of such a fascination should become clearer, as you look at scripture. The most important thing you can



an hold on to while you Bible study, is to do as little as possible to continue feeding this interest. That in itself will be tough, but I think you know it's necessary.

How to move forward from there can be addressed as you hear from the Lord more specifically, from His word.