



COUNTERFEITS:

1. The Truth about Harry Potter

Now I am going to tell you right away that I am not going to be saying much about what is in the Harry Potter books or movies. Instead, I want to tell you about why Satan wants people to get into reading and learning about these things. I want to help you learn how to spot Satan's tricks and how to find real power for your own life.

Everything good that God has given to His people, Satan has made a counterfeit of, and he even counterfeits things that belong only to God. What is a 'counterfeit'? It is a copy that isn't real. It may look real but it isn't. You can get toy coins that look all bright and sparkly like gold. But they are just hollow and have gum or chocolate in them. Real gold is worth a lot, if you had a big, pure gold coin, you could buy a lot with it, but if you took one of these toy coins to the bank, they would just laugh at you.

There is one thing that we know, if there is a counterfeit—there must be a real thing somewhere. Nobody makes a counterfeit 3-dollar bill, because it wouldn't fool anybody. There are no real 3-dollar bills. So when Satan is busy fooling people with his counterfeits, we can know that there are real blessings that God has for us.

Satan's aim is to get us all mixed up, so we go after his lies and throw away God's truth. You see, he knows that we can't have his lies and God's truth together. Some of the things Satan promises people are things that are not possible for us to have at all. They are things that only God really has. They only belong to God.

Things like being able to create a living being or make a dead person come to life; living forever and never dying; being able to know the future before it happens. These things only belong to God. (See John 1:3; 1 Timothy 6:16; Isaiah 46: 9, 10)

Satan can't do these things, but he tries to trick us into thinking he can. In fantasy stories and witchcraft, people are told that if they have the right words to say, or actions to do, or ingredients to mix together, then they will be able to do these very things, make things alive that are not alive, make dead people talk to them, stay alive forever, and be able to either control what happens in the future, or be able to tell what is going to happen.

He tricks people into thinking such powers are real and if they just learn enough, or obey him or study ancient mysteries, they can learn to have these powers. Now the truth is that even Satan does NOT have these powers—nobody has them except God. So how does Satan get you to think he has them?

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Mainly, through lies. He just tells people they will not die, that they can live forever. People like to believe that lie. Remember, he told Mother Eve that lie didn't he? But we are not like Eve now, we see people die, we see dead bodies, so he has to tell us another lie. He tells us that our body isn't really us. He says we have a part inside called a 'soul' and that part is really us, and it never dies even if our body dies.

He has most everybody in the world believing that lie. But the Bible tells us in Genesis, that man became a living soul, it does not say we have a soul or we were given a soul. It also says that souls die. (See Ezekiel 18:4)

Another way he is tricking people, is to have his angels change how they look and imitate someone who is dead. Then he has them tell you things that you think only the dead person would know about, but Satan's angels know about these things too. So people are fooled into thinking that spirits of dead people live on and can talk to us. But the Bible tells us that the dead don't know anything. (Ecclesiastes 9:5) This is a counterfeit.

What about telling the future? Well Satan has a hard time here, because he doesn't know the future; but he has been around a long time. He saw your daddy and your great grand-daddy and so on. He knows what they were like and what they did; this helps him to know what you might also do.

There are other ways he tries to tell the future. He tells what he and his angels are planning to do. And so if God does not stop him, he can make his story about the future happen. If he says a certain plane will crash, he can go and crash it, unless God doesn't let him do it. If a fortune teller says to you that you will meet some wonderful person and fall in love, Satan can do a lot to make this happen.

Now if someone tells you they have power to do these things, or that you can learn to have power to do them, just walk away from them and have nothing more to do with them; because it is all a lie and a counterfeit.

But there is a real part. God has these powers. God tells us about the future in the Bible prophecies. God promises if we come to Jesus and give our hearts to Him, that He will save us, and someday we will live forever. God can create and make the dead come to life again and He will, when Jesus comes again. Don't let Satan trick you into throwing away what is real; to try and get what is not real. =^..^=



COUNTERFEITS:

2. The Winner and the Loser

This time we will talk some more about the lies and tricks that Satan is using to snare boys and girls (and big people too) and get them to turn away from Jesus, the One who loves them so much that He died to save them, to go chasing after the devil's rabbits. Even if they catch one, they will find out it will just turn around and bite them.

So many people get lured into different kinds of magic and witchcraft, thinking they are going to get some special power and have a better life through it. Many even go into it, thinking that if they get these special powers it promises them, that they can use them to help other people and not for anything bad.

Very few people go into magic and New Age and Wicca and so on, thinking that they are going to serve Satan and do his bidding. That is why so many young people, and older ones too, when they see the warnings on our Harry Potter Magic site, write to us all angry, and deny that they have anything to do with Satan.

But sadly, saying so doesn't make it true, and when Satan can get people to serve him, he is especially happy when they don't even believe he exists. That way he can fool them easier and when he does some tricks for them, they are all excited thinking THEY have special powers or that God is doing it for them.

Satan can better use these people to fool others, even Christians, into doing things that are really just witchcraft under new names.

But there are some people, yes, even some children, who are quite happy to serve Satan, if they could just get some of those powers, like they read about in the Harry Potter books.

I received a very sad letter from a little boy who is all caught up with Harry Potter. His letter was full of bad words so I can't print it here for you to read, but what he said showed some of the tricks and lies that Satan tells to these poor people.

This boy said he had read all the books 3 times each. From what he said, he thought people who believe in Jesus are stupid. But what the poor fellow didn't know or forgets is, that Jesus is real—Harry Potter is just something that a woman made up, it isn't true at all. I believe that Satan helped her to make up these stories, as he wants to use them to catch and fool boys and girls who read them. But still, it is only a fairy tale.

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Now here is something interesting, people are saying it is good for children to read Harry Potter, because at least they learn to read. But this poor boy's letter showed that he did not know how to even write a proper sentence or spell even simple words. All his reading wasn't doing anything good for him; just putting him where he was hating Jesus and Satan could fool him.

Now this boy felt that he would get great power, if he could only get the right 'spell' and he meant witches spells. He even said he would sell his soul to get this power.

I want to talk for a moment about this idea that people have, that they can 'sell their soul' to Satan and he will give them great power, and they will live forever as a special evil servant of Satan. What a sad bunch of lies!

For one thing, we don't HAVE a soul—we ARE a soul. Soul just means what you are as a living thinking being. Even animals are called 'souls' in the Bible.

The second important thing to know is; you can't sell your soul, because you don't own it! Every living thing belongs to God. Even Satan's life belongs to God. God created all living things; they belong to Him.

Also, Jesus died to redeem you from Satan, so He owns you double—first because He made you—second because He bought you. So Satan can't buy from you what you don't own.

But—and this is a big BUT, there is a third way that God wants to own you, and that is He wants you to CHOOSE to be His. He won't force anyone to belong to Him if they don't want to. This is where Satan comes in with his tricks. He actually gets children even, to think they can sell their souls and they do some ritual for to do this. Then later when they find out how cruel Satan is, and they learn about Jesus and would like to belong to Him, Satan tells them they can't, because they sold their soul to him and now Jesus won't accept them.

Boys and girls, if you find anybody who has fallen for this trick, you just tell them that Satan is a liar! He can't buy a soul from you, because you don't have one, and God owns your life. He is just tricking you. Run to Jesus in prayer and tell Him you CHOOSE to be His and He will help you right out of Satan's claws.

What if you do get some sort of power from Satan by promising to serve him? Well, remember, these powers are not real. Satan himself does not have the powers he often promises to people stupid enough to listen to him.

He promises them they can live forever. Satan can't make anything alive or keep anything alive! In the end he will find out he can't even keep himself alive. All life belongs to God.

So what are some other powers—telling the future; this is not a power that people really can have; Satan's angels have to tell people what they want to know and they can tell some things because they are all over the place and know a lot about what is happening. They can also help make some things come true. But when the bad angels get tired of doing this for a person, he finds out, it was just a trick.

Levitating or flying; this is only possible when Satan's angels carry something and it looks like it is flying. If they get tired of carrying it—no more flying! In Heaven we will be able to fly for real!

Power to 'cast a spell' to hurt people; this is all done by Satan and his angels and not by people at all. It is interesting that in the mission fields in years gone by, when Christian missionaries were close to the Lord, even the devil-doctors would say that their spells could not hurt God's people. God's angels are stronger than the fallen angels.

Jesus defeated Satan; someday he will be destroyed; why get tricked into serving a LOOSER, when you can choose to belong to the WINNER? =^..^=



COUNTERFEITS:

3. The Truth about 'Magic'

'Magic'; the very word seems to mean fun and games and excitement to children of today. This week we want to take a closer look at what it means, and how Satan is using it to trick so many adults and children into chasing after something that is not at all real.

I don't think there is anybody who has not at sometime said or thought that they wish they could just snap their fingers or wave their hands and something would instantly happen. One of the reasons we wish this, is because people are naturally lazy, and would rather not work if they can get out of it. This is one of the things that Jesus changes in our hearts when we give them over to Him; He starts teaching us that work is really a blessing.

Notice in Genesis 3 that God said man would have to live by the sweat of his face. That is, he would have to work, and work hard to live. Was this just a punishment to man for having sinned? No, it was to be a blessing to him.

When we look at another verse in the Bible we see more about this. "Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her..." Ezekiel 16:49. Sodom had what so many of us think we would like to have, lots of free time, and plenty to eat, and lots of luxuries.

But what happened to Sodom as a result of this life of laziness and pleasure? The people became so wicked and so bad, that God finally rained fire down and burned up the whole city! He had to do this, or the wickedness there would spread to the whole world and destroy it all.

So you see that work is a blessing, not a punishment. But like I said, everyone has times when they wish they could do magic and get whatever they wanted to happen instantly.

So what if you could really do this? Would it make you happy? We think it would; but just imagine this scene. Your Daddy comes home one day with a wonderful present for you. It is a building set that you can use to build the most wonderful toy houses and cars and things. You can't wait to sit down with it and build something.

But your Daddy asks you what you want from the instruction book. You take a look and decide you would like to try a car first. So your Daddy says, "Sit down over there and watch while I build the car." So he builds and you watch. When he is done he hands you the car.

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Well, that is sort of nice, but now you hope you can get a turn to build. But no, again he tells you to sit and watch, and he builds another thing and hands it to you. After a while you would start to feel very bad that you could not find out what it felt like to make a toy yourself.

This is what God knew about us, He knew that most of the fun in something is in the doing of it. He knew that there is great happiness in working hard to do something, and finally getting it all done, and seeing the result of our work. In fact the Bible in Proverbs, the very last verse, says the way to reward a hard working wife and mother, is to let her enjoy the work of her hands.

It also says that the people who get to go to heaven, will enjoy the work of their hands. (Isaiah 65:22) What? Work in heaven? For sure! Because God knows that honest work brings the greatest happiness to us.

So you see, Satan likes to give us the idea that what God gave to us as a blessing, is a curse, and he tells us if we could have magic and be able to make things appear or get done instantly, then we would be happier.

He gets people into trying magic spells, which really are ways of worshipping him, and then sometimes he has his angels make something happen for the person. For example, they may try a spell to make a table float to the ceiling. They do all the things the spell says, and sure enough, the table floats to the ceiling. The person thinks HE has found some wonderful secret and that HE has some power that other people don't have. This is the bait on the trap and now Satan lures him into more and more 'magic'. By the way, silly, useless things like this are mostly what magic does for you—remember; a table isn't much use on the ceiling!

But what I want you to know is this; and please, never forget it! Those 'spells' and secret words and secret potions and mysterious motions; or crystals and wands, magic symbols or things supposed to have some power in them; are just worthless! It is all a bunch of meaningless garbage.

There is only one way that any of these things work—Satan or his angels do the work and make the person think it was his power or special knowledge that made it happen. You can see what a trap this is if you think about it for a while. Satan can finally lead people to do the most horrible, cruel things, because the person is so sure that if he only does it—he will then have a special power and he wants that power so badly that he will even kill for to get it.

Yes, boys and girls, we have even had people write to us in emails, without giving their names and tell us they have committed murder. They are not even sorry about it—they are proud of it. These people can become so tricked by Satan's lies that they think that even Satan himself, has to obey them. That is what the head of the 'Church of Satan'; Anton LeVey believed. Satan sure must laugh about that one!

There is an old folk tale from Russia that also shows the foolishness of seeking for Magic thinking it will make us happy. There was a little girl in a village in Russia, and her job was to cook porridge in a great big pot for the people to eat.

The story goes that she kept wishing she knew of some magic that would make the pot do the cooking all by itself. One day she found a spell and used it. Sure enough, the pot began to make porridge. The people were thrilled; they had all they wanted to eat. People came from other places and ate porridge too, but the pot kept cooking more and more, until finally so much porridge poured from the pot that the whole village was buried and perished.

A silly story indeed, but it shows how silly the idea of magic is. If you only had to snap your fingers to get what you want, or to do your work, it would get very boring and nothing would really mean anything to you anymore.

No, boys and girls, God's ways are always happiest for us. The only real 'Magic' worth learning in this world, is the magic of skill and hard work, so that when the task is finished, you can have that happy joy that comes from a job well done. =^..^=



COUNTERFEITS:

4. Believers or Unbelievers

There are several mistakes people make about miracles, or supernatural events. One is the most common; these folks just say they don't believe any miracles or supernatural things ever happen. They think it is all a trick. These are also the folks that tend to say books like Harry Potter are 'Just Pretend' and so perfectly all right to read.

Now these people are easiest for Satan to fool, because all he needs is to do something or tell them something that they think nobody else knows about, and right away they are convinced.

The sad thing about these people is that when they are convinced, they go right into believing whatever the 'occult' teacher or psychic counselor told them. They do not question it, or go to the Bible and see what the warnings are. This is because when they didn't believe in anything, they didn't believe in God or the Bible either. Now they end up believing whatever Satan feels like telling them; Very sad indeed!

Now another group believes that all miracles and supernatural things don't come from God or the devil; but they are sure that it is just some law of science that hasn't been discovered yet. They don't believe in either God or the devil, and laugh at people who do believe. They think they are 'very scientific' and they often get involved in learning 'magic' or 'new age' stuff because they think it is the way to explore 'unknown science.'

These people are the ones that tell you, that man only uses just a tiny part of his brain (maybe that is all *they* do use) and all these 'miracle powers' are really just abilities in our brains that we can learn to use. They think we have a lot of abilities in there from the animals we evolved from.

Most of them think our 'mind' or 'soul' cannot die, and so they are open to being fooled by Satan's angels into talking with famous 'dead people' who are just evil angels in disguise. They will believe whatever these tricky demons tell them. Some, who don't talk to 'dead people', talk to 'aliens' from outer space, which are Satan's angels also.

These folks are also the ones that think the universe is full of 'powers' that we can learn to tap into, by linking our brain somehow to them. These people are spiritualists, but will get very mad at you if you tell

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them that. They are so sure it is just some kind of *science* they are involved in. Satan can fool them very easily, and really, science is the god they worship.

Now I want to mention another little group; this group was very common back when the missionaries first went into the heathen lands. These people believe in devils!! They KNOW there is such a thing as devils, and they live their whole lives in fear of offending the demons.

They often believe that every stone and tree and animal has a demon spirit in it and so they practice all kinds of things to try and make sure the demons don't get mad at them. Often they have to make costly sacrifices, and offer what little food they may have to the devil-gods. They also believe that dead people's spirits walk the earth.

These people are ruled over by witch-doctors or devil-devil people, who often get rich by keeping the poor people so afraid to offend them. These people worship all these spirit-gods, and live a sad life of fear. When our missionaries first told them that God up in Heaven loved them and could protect them from devils, it seemed too good to be true. Many believed and were able to break free of the devils and live in the love of Jesus.

There is another little group in our world, who know the truth about Lucifer, and yet they worship him willingly, because they are fooled into believing that he will win the fight against God; and he will make them rich and famous. Often he does make them rich and famous; but Satan can't give anybody life—and when they are dead, being rich and famous is no use at all! Some of these people help to make books and movies about things like Harry Potter, because by doing this, they know it helps their master Satan, to fool more people.

Now many Christians fall into a different trap. They say they believe in God; but they don't believe in Satan and his angels. When they do this they don't really believe God or the Bible, because they are calling God and Jesus a liar. Satan and his angels are talked about in God's Word and Jesus talked about Satan when He was on earth.

If these people see a miracle or something supernatural, they just right away think it comes from God. No matter how weird it is, or even if it doesn't agree at all with the Bible, they are sure it comes from God. Many Catholics and some people in all other churches as well, are like this. Most of these people also believe the 'soul' lives on after the body dies, and so Satan can have an easy time fooling them. Satan fools these people with weeping statues; pictures that bleed; appearances of the Virgin Mary, and all kind of things.

I want to especially tell you that there are other, more sneaky ways that he is fooling Christians today, even many Adventists! It is through 'feelings and emotions'. People believe that if they are in a church or a church group, and they are talking about Jesus, and singing about Jesus, that Satan cannot fool them. So they think that whatever happens to them must come from God and the Holy Spirit!

It is happening often that people who get together to 'pray for the Holy Spirit', end up having some strange feeling or action come to them. Some get a wonderful excited, happy feeling and go dancing about or clapping or shouting. Others feel something like a shock or a blow and they fall down helpless to the floor, usually backwards.

On the floor they may roll around or cry or make noises or just be paralyzed. Some people in groups like this start laughing and they can't stop; or they make noises like animals, pigs, lions, dogs or chickens. Some stagger around as if they were drunk.

Boys and girls, Satan is not afraid anymore to go to church! We are told that in the last days, and the last days are here now, that he will pretend to be 'converted' and appear as an 'angel of light'. Many

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ministers claiming to work for God are really just working for Satan, some of them know it, but most of them don't know it, and really think it is God guiding them!

There are many danger signs that you can watch for. If a person or a group does not like to spend time reading or learning from the Bible, but would just rather talk, or sit around 'meditating' or praying in groups for the 'spirit'; If they ever make fun of the Bible, saying it is boring; especially the King James Version, or the writings of Ellen White; if they like to talk a lot about 'feelings' and loving everybody and do a lot of hugging and kissing; if instead of Bible and Spirit of Prophecy they use sentimental stories or jokes; if they want to use music that has a strong Rock and Roll beat, or makes you feel like clapping and swaying; if they make fun of 'old fashioned hymns' or they don't want to be around older folks in the church; if they think that young people should only have their own meetings or groups, and not have any older people to guide them; if they act or talk as if they do not have to worry about sin or obeying God, but "just do our own thing"; these are all danger signals!!

Another danger signal is a person that tells you they have a special 'gift' from the Holy Spirit, and you should come to them for counsel. Or they may want to lay hands on you, so you can have the gift too. If you are invited to go to a meeting and you have heard there are strange things happening, people falling down, or even "healings" taking place; do not go there, as you are walking into Satan's ground, and you can be fooled and harmed by him if you do. If you go to a meeting or group and you didn't know before that strange things were happening, but the people start talking about them, or doing them, or telling you how to get some 'wonderful feelings or power' from the Holy Spirit; or any of the danger signals are there, get up and leave quickly, warn the others they better leave too, but get out, even if they won't come with you, or even if they laugh at you.

Satan is coming to church, boys and girls, and you don't want to be fooled by him! He is counterfeiting the real blessings that Jesus wants His children to have.

There is only one group of people that are going to stay faithful to Jesus and go to heaven with Him; they will be those who give all their heart to Jesus and choose to obey Him. They will read and study the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy until they know it well, and obey it, even if they have to do it alone! They will not just hang around in groups, but will study on their own. They will put away all wrong entertainment out of their lives. They will pray for the power of Jesus and the Holy Spirit in their lives, not to give them funny feelings or make them do strange things, or so they can boast about being 'someone special', but to overcome sin and serve the Lord.

These people will have real guidance and power in their lives, but they will not be boastful or pretend to have some 'special gift' that other people can't have; Oh, No, they will be humble and quiet, and will talk more about God and the Bible than they talk about themselves or other people. They will not act silly or go after parties or entertainment. Also they will not excuse sin! They will learn to 'walk with God' as Enoch did long ago. You too CAN CHOOSE to be like this if you will seek to know Jesus and obey Him.
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COUNTERFEITS:

5. The Tricky Lie

What is the false idea that leads God's children to go after worldly or pagan teachings and ideas? Perhaps if we take a good look at it, we can get the very root of the tree and cut it down.

I am going to tell you exactly what it is. Are you ready?—It is the idea that there are some good things, some special good things, out in these false religions that would be a great help to us to know about. It really says that there are good things in Satan's realm that God has not given to us, and the only way we can learn them is to go study heathen teachings and learn about what other religions believe.

We actually feel, when we think this way, that God's Word to us in the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy, is not complete. There are other real valuable things that we have to go after, and then when we learn them, we can bring them back and put them with our religion to make it even better.

Notice two verses with me, before we continue our story: "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:" Revelation 22:18

Most people think it is OK to add something to their religion, that is not mentioned in the inspired writings, but what does God say? He says "No! Don't do it!" He even says that those who do it will receive the PLAGUES. And that means they will be lost with the wicked!

"Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen,..." Jeremiah 10:2

We hear so many people today teaching that we need to study other religions, even non-Christian religions, so we can better help them to see truth. Some also feel that each religion has some good things that we can gather up and add to our religion to make it even better. They will tell you that God didn't give ALL His truth to just one group.

Didn't He? He most certainly did! He did it with Israel and he did it also with the Advent Movement. Both times he wanted them to share it with the world, but He was very clear that we are not to go searching for what we think are missing pieces, and try to add them in. There are NO missing pieces, boys and girls, NONE at all!

Does that mean that no other religion has ANY truth? They all have SOME truth—Satan has to mix some truth with his lies or nobody would believe it. BUT—and this is very important—there is no TRUTH that God has not already given us!

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There is certainly some good food in the dumpster at the back of my building, but I don't have to wade through the garbage for the sake of a bit of food, when I have a cupboard full of pure, clean food to eat!

You see, poison mixed with food is much more dangerous than poison by itself, labeled 'POISON'. It is the mix of truth and lies that Satan always uses to catch everybody, and sad to say, he does catch most people. I think we need to remember that. Most people are going to be fooled by Satan and end up lost! Jesus says so. And one of the reasons this is happening is that people are not content to stick with what God gives them and tells them about salvation—they want to add their own ideas onto it—to make it 'better'.

This warning that God had John write in the end of the book of Revelation was a very important one. Even at that very time, people were coming into the early Christian church, bringing the idea that they needed to 'make it better' by adding ideas from other religions. In the 100s and 200s A.D. many Pagan scholars and priests came into the Christian faith.

Some of them were not like the people at Ephesus, who burned their books of magic and paganism, and followed God's truth only. Oh, no! They were looked up to in their heathen religions as learned men, and they were not happy to throw all that away and just follow the teaching of the Bible. They did not want to sit down and learn like a mere beginner! They felt they were smarter than God, and they could make Christianity even better than Jesus had made it, by adding their own ideas to it. And so they did.

They added and added and changed and changed. They even rewrote the Bible, mixing in their heathen ideas. (This changed Bible is the one that ALL the modern popular versions like NIV and others are from!) And what grew out of their mixtures? The great system of religion we know as the Papacy, which the Bible shows us is a vicious BEAST!

Years ago I made this same mistake. I had not really studied the things of God as deeply as I should have. I thought I knew it all, and the Bible or Spirit of Prophecy didn't have anything new and wonderful to teach me. Now this was my first mistake! I now know that you can study the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy all your life, with the help of the Holy Spirit, and you will NEVER, NEVER run out of new and wonderful things to learn!

Then I easily made the second mistake, I thought pagan religions had ideas and information that God had not given to His people, and I needed to go and gather them up and mix them in with my religion. Now, boys and girls, I want to tell you that it is often on the subject of HEALTH that Adventists get the idea they need to study worldly things to learn more, and have an even better health message than God gave to us. I want to tell you, this is not true. Our health message AS IT WAS GIVEN to us is complete, and wonderful. Our problem is that it has been so mixed with worldly medicine now, that most of us don't know the real message any more.

So it is often through things like Yoga and New Age and Oriental medicine and Martial Arts that Adventists get lured into mixing with and studying Pagan religions. You see, boys and girls, all these things ARE really pagan, spiritist religions! You can't learn them without learning spiritualism.

Satan is so happy when one of God's children wanders in and sits down at his feet to learn from him! Oh yes indeed! And he moves in to give you wonderful feelings and experiences so that you are truly sure that, yes, there is really something good here that I need to learn and bring back to Adventism; something that God didn't give me.

Some things SOUND so good, and you see people who claim to be really blessed by them. You see them do amazing things that you feel you want to do too. And when you start learning it, you feel that you are OH, so much smarter than those other dummies in the church that say, "Don't mess with that, it is from the devil!"

You laugh at them, and all the time the devil is having the biggest laugh! And he is binding his ropes around you and leading you further and further away from God, all the time telling you that soon, if you just keep studying and practicing, you will do wonderful things and have perfect health. But God is the only LIFE-GIVER! And as you move away from Him you lose life bit by bit.

You see there is something very important we all need to learn if we would understand God's ways; It does not matter what a person says—he may claim the most wonderful set of beliefs and rules for himself and urge you to have them too. But man's word has NO POWER in it! God's Word has POWER! When God says; 'Thou shalt', or 'Thou shalt not', there is the very power in those words to allow you to obey, if you take hold of them and say, 'I will do it!' Man's words have NO such power.

Someday I will tell you more about my journey into darkness looking for light; but right here I want to say, when by the wonderful kindness of Jesus, I did escape and return to His Word; I found there everything that I had thought I could find in spiritualism, and didn't. I found the most complete and wonderful truth ever given to mankind. Boys and girls, there is nothing in this whole wide world that is good, that God has not already given to us in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy.

Never let Satan fool you into thinking there is something wonderful in spiritualist books and religions that you don't have far better with God. Never forget Satan is a cheat and a liar, and his only real goal is to get you destroyed forever! =^..^=



COUNTERFEITS:

6. 'Angels of Light'

Do you think that you would be able to identify a person who is working for Satan and has evil angels controlling or helping him? I am sure you think you would, perhaps you say that they would be weird people, sneaking around in the dark and doing strange things. Maybe some are, but I have to tell you today, that most are not!

Remember that the Bible tells us that Satan is now coming as an 'angel of light' and his angels too. What is an 'angel of light' to you? Perhaps you are in trouble, or having a hard time and someone comes along and is so nice to you, and they help you with your problems, and soon you are feeling so happy about that person. You say, "My, you have been a real angel to help me like this!"

Counterfeits: The Series

Now maybe this person is a good friend, who honestly helps you, and maybe they are a real Christian, who loves Jesus with all their heart and shows His love to others all the time. But Maybe; this is one of those 'angels of light' that are really 'angels of darkness!'

I want you to learn a secret that most people don't know about; the same devil that can cause people that he controls to do very bad things, can cause them to be real good, nice and sweet also! Oh, yes, he does it all the time. One of the ways he tricks people into marrying his agents is by making this man or lady so nice that the Christian person is totally fooled. They think, "Oh this man/lady is such a good person, I know they don't believe in my religion, but with such a good person, I am sure it is OK anyway."

Oh yes indeed! And hundreds of young Christian people are fooled by this and choose for close friends, or even marry people who are of other religions, or that don't even believe in God; just because Satan was making that person be Oh so nice to them! Then, after Satan gets them married, he has lots of fun, because by disobeying God's commandment in the Bible, that we are not to marry unbelievers, he has caused us to sin against God.

This removes some of God's protection from us and allows evil to come in and meddle in our lives. AND he then gets this person that he controls to be as bad and as mean as before the marriage they were nice! The Lord Jesus had Ellen White write to us the warning, that if we marry those who do not believe the message we believe, we will have a home where the shadows are never lifted! Yes, and Satan's angels are lurking in those shadows. Instead of our home being a little heaven to go to Heaven in, it will be a little hell on earth!

I want you to take a special look at these words from the Desire of Ages. If some of the words are too big for you, ask someone to help you understand it. It is so very important that all of us understand it.

"When the soul surrenders itself to Christ, a new power takes possession of the new heart. A change is wrought which man can never accomplish for himself. It is a supernatural work, bringing a supernatural element into human nature. The soul that is yielded to Christ becomes His own fortress, which He holds in a revolted world, and He intends that no authority shall be known in it but His own. A soul thus kept in possession by the heavenly agencies is impregnable to the assaults of Satan.

"But unless we do yield ourselves to the control of Christ, we shall be dominated by the wicked one. We must inevitably be under the control of the one or the other of the two great powers that are contending for the supremacy of the world. It is not necessary for us deliberately to choose the service of the kingdom of darkness in order to come under its dominion. We have only to neglect to ally ourselves with the kingdom of light. If we do not co-operate with the heavenly agencies, Satan will take possession of the heart, and will make it his abiding place. The only defense against evil is the indwelling of Christ in the heart through faith in His righteousness. Unless we become vitally connected with God, we can never resist the unhallowed effects of self-love, self-indulgence, and temptation to sin. We may leave off many bad habits, for the time we may part company with Satan; but without a vital connection with God, through the surrender of ourselves to Him moment by moment, we shall be overcome. Without a personal acquaintance with Christ, and a continual communion, we are at the mercy of the enemy, and shall do his bidding in the end." Desire of Ages, Pg. 324

The first part tells what wonderful things that Jesus will do for you when you give all your heart to Him. The second part warns us that if we don't give ALL our heart to Jesus, Satan still has power over us, and sooner or later, we will be captured by him and dirtied and destroyed.

Counterfeits: The Series

This also warns us that if our friends are the kind of people who may go to church or claim to be Christians, but still like to do worldly things and have worldly entertainment as often as they can; they are still people controlled by Satan and he can work through them to tempt us and do us harm.

You see, most of us have been taught to think that all of us are really good people at heart. But do you know a secret? This is a lie—and it comes from spiritualism! The Bible says nothing like this at all. The Bible says: "...there is none good but one, that is, God." Mark 10:18

What does the Bible warn us about our 'good hearts'? "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" Jeremiah 17:9. So if you think people, including yourself, are 'basically good hearted', then you are fooled already, by one of Satan's lies.

Notice that it does not just say 'deceitful', which means it lies to us, but that it is deceitful 'above all things'! In other words, your heart and my heart are the biggest liars around!

God is telling us that our hearts, that is our inside mind and feelings, are so tricky that we even fool ourselves! We need to pray and ask Jesus to show us the truth about our 'heart' so we can ask Him to come in and change those tricky, wicked hearts.

Until a person has done this and Jesus is truly in charge of that person's tricky heart, he can still be used by Satan to do his nasty work! =^..^=



COUNTERFEITS:

7. Tricky Familiar Spirits

Remember we talked about being able to identify a person who is working for Satan and has evil angels controlling or helping him? We learned that unless a person has TOTALLY given ALL their heart over to Jesus, and the Holy Spirit is living in their heart and they are seeking to do God's will and obey Him always, that Satan can work through them even if they don't realize it.

Ellen White tells us in the Spirit of Prophecy writings that many careless words that we may blurt out, silly talk or foolish joking are used by Satan to cause people to turn away from wanting to follow Jesus all the way. Each of us needs to pray that God will be with our mouths and guard us against unwise talking. (Exodus 4:12)

Today I want to tell you about a very strange thing that Satan does. You know that some people who work for Satan and serve him, have evil angels that tell them secrets so they can tell others. The Bible

Counterfeits: The Series

calls these angels 'familiar spirits'. These people are called psychics or fortunetellers. In the Bible they were called 'soothsayers'.

Satan does this to people sometimes just to make them think they have special powers or are smarter than others. They may hear a voice in their mind telling them, or they may see a quick picture flash into their mind's eye, that shows them something they did not know about. Then when they tell a person what they saw, they think the 'psychic' has special powers.

We have to watch out for Satan will try and get a Christian to make close friends or fall in love with one of his people. He will often give that person words to speak that causes the Christian to think this person knows a lot about the Bible and is really interested in the truth.

They may show an interest in the Sabbath and admit it is the right day to keep. They may say things out of the prophecies and talk about the last day events, and do it in such a way as to make you think they know all about them.

You see Satan knows just what kind of talk will cause an Adventist to feel comfortable and start thinking, "I am sure this person will soon become an Adventist Christian and it is OK for me to be friends with them". Then as the friendship grows, bit-by-bit, the Christian is led into doing things or taking part in things that he or she knows is not right. Just 'little things' at first, like eating foods they know the Lord does not want us to eat, or watching or listening to worldly music or movies.

Often it will be something that cuts into the hours of the Holy Sabbath. Your friend announces they want to take you somewhere on the hours of the Sabbath, and you start thinking you should refuse to go. But then you feel afraid that this person might not be your friend any more. Already Satan is weaving his hypnotic net around you and you feel you must be with this 'friend'.

Maybe you do say you don't want to go with them or have them come to visit on Sabbath, but the person says, "Well that is the only time I can come. Don't you want to be my friend?" And you make a 'compromise', something you feel is maybe a bit wrong but mostly OK. Then you start thinking of reasons why it is really OK. (Satan helps you think up these reasons!) Finally you think, "Well, I will do it just this once, but then I will get a chance and explain to them about the Sabbath and I won't do it again."

But once you 'compromise', you do it more and more until you are doing things for this person that you would never have done if they had asked you to at first. If you do try and tell them you want to stop, they often turn around and say, "Well, if it was all that bad, why did you come with me the first time?" You can't answer that and you feel ashamed.

By now Satan has caused you to care more about what this 'friend' wants and thinks than about what Jesus wants and thinks. One thing these decoy 'friends' always do is flatter you and say things that make you feel they really admire you and think you are very special. Sometimes they even say they like you because of your religion, of course you feel so reassured when they say things like that!

Also Satan weaves a sort of hypnotic spell around you and makes you more and more dependent on this person's companionship and without noticing it, you drift farther away from Jesus and the Bible. If a Christian friend or relative tries to warn you of your danger at this point, you will feel angry and tell them to mind their own business.

Once Satan gets you compromising on even a 'little' thing, he really has you, as God's angels have to back off a bit and can't fully protect anyone who is disobeying God, especially when they know better.

I want to tell you a strange happening I know about. A Christian lady met a man who was not a Christian. But as she talked to him he seemed to be really interested in prophetic history and also in health. This

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lady was having a hard life and this man seemed to be interested in helping her financially as well as interested in health and prophecy too.

It was so interesting to her to talk with him. Then he offered to show her reflexology and do treatments on her feet to help her health condition. They seemed to help and then more and more spiritualistic practices came into their relationship.

Now the interesting thing is that later on, when she had become much more involved with this man than she ever should have been, and she had compromised on just about everything, she asked him one day where and when he had learned the reflexology. He just looked at her and shrugged his shoulders as if he had no idea what she was talking about. He had NOT ever studied and learned it! Obviously it was something that the evil angels that controlled this man just gave to him at the time. You would have thought he was an expert!

I know of another case where a person who was clearly insane, began talking about the last days prophetic events as if he were a long-time student of Bible prophecy. Clearly it was the fallen angels speaking through this person.

I want you young people to know that Satan KNOWS prophecy; he KNOWS the Bible cover to cover; he KNOWS all kinds of health tricks and the true health stuff too. Don't ever allow yourself to compromise even the teensiest bit of truth to stay friends with someone, thinking you can later teach them, and it will be OK.

IF someone really wants to learn Bible or health truth, then get someone to help you, and set up a plan and study with him or her, or arrange a group meeting they can attend. If they quickly lose interest or say something like, "Oh, I would really be happier if you would just teach me yourself." Tell them no, you can't do this. If they are really interested in the knowledge they will agree to study with others. If not, they are interested in YOU; don't be flattered, Satan is moving in on you! Turn around and get out of the situation fast and don't even talk to them alone again.

If you are a young lady, don't study alone with a man; if you are a young man, don't study alone with a lady. Never forget that Satan can feed these people just what he knows you want to hear. Don't take even one step in compromise and you will avoid being trapped by Satan and ending up in much misery.

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COUNTERFEITS:

8. Devils go to Church

What if we find spiritualist-type things being done in our churches, and even our ministers are involved? Is it OK then? After all, would they not use the 'good' parts of the practice and not the bad parts? Friends, if you find this stuff in the church, then warn others and leave; fast! You are in greater danger than if you were seeing a 'New Age' show. "But surely", you say, "these things are not in the church?"

At a church pot-luck, an Adventist in 'good standing' sits down to his meal and pulls a 'pendulum' (a piece of chain with a little weight of some kind on the end) from his pocket and holds it over the food. By watching the movement of this pendulum, he says he can tell if the food is nutritious or not.

Is this from God?

A few years ago, a General Conference officer offered an interesting service to missions. If they needed to drill a well to find water, they would send him a map and he would take a pendulum and hold it over the map. Then by watching the action of the little weight, he would make a mark on the map and send it back to the people in the mission field. They would drill their well, and yes, they would find water.

Was this from God?

In western North America an Adventist man takes a funny black box with dials and adjusts and sets it to send healing power to a relative hundreds of miles away. The relative claims to receive the healing power. (but dies anyway).

Is the 'power' from God?

A leading SDA minister stands in front of a large group of ministers and church workers and teaches them how to use transcendental meditation and teach their church goers to 'visualize' Jesus and then talk to what their mind sees AND listen to 'his' answers and use them to direct their lives. When one person is concerned and asks if this is right, he assures that God would protect them from any harm.

Will God protect this?

Another Adventist minister tells a grieving father to 'visualize' his dead son and then talk to him and listen to what he says.

Should we 'talk' to the dead?

Again an SDA family uses the 'pendulum' to test their fruit and vegetables; if the pendulum doesn't act right they throw the food away.

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Is God guiding that pendulum?

In an Adventist church in the USA, a 'pastor' preaches to his church on Sabbath; on Sunday the same 'pastor' puts on martial arts clothing and teaches martial arts in the church.

Does God bless heathen martial arts classes because they are in the church?

In an Adventist hospital, a young Adventist teaches people to sit in a 'lotus' position and gaze at a lighted candle to 'calm the nerves and expand the mind'. At the same classes, Yoga positions imitating the 'great serpent' are taught for exercise.

Does God bless such exercise?

At a camp meeting, an Adventist 'minister' dresses up as a magician and does 'tricks' in the meetings.

Is God in 'magic' shows?

In many churches people kneel in groups while a minister walks around during the prayer session and places his hands on the heads of various ones. Is this Biblical? When we pray, does God only send our blessing through a 'minister'? What if the 'minister' doesn't like us?

Friends, I could go on and on all day; the bottom line is this: YES! Spiritualism IS among Adventists! NO! God never uses heathen, occult methods to do His work! You can never do good by using the devil's devices.

Does God say, "Well it is only bad if heathen do it, it is OK if you Adventists do it"? Israel was destroyed because they learned the ways of the heathen and practiced those wicked things in their own 'churches'.

If God hates the ways of the heathen, He hates them many times more when people who claim to follow Him do them! And Satan? Well he has a carnival!! =^..^=



COUNTERFEITS:

9. Paying the Price:

In this chapter we have to talk about some very serious matters. There is a verse in the Bible that tells us how kind and generous our dear Heavenly Father is: "That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust." Matthew 5:45. God even cares for the needs of His worse enemies—if He did not—they

would cease to exist. Someday, if they do not repent and return to Jesus, they will be destroyed, but He wants them to have every possible chance to be saved.

But Satan is just the opposite—if he, or his nasty angels, do anything for you—or even if you show an interest in his stuff and start to learn about it, or read or watch it from curiosity—there is ALWAYS a price to pay. Oh, true to his sneaky nature—he does not display the price tag where you can see it—but still, it is definitely there. And because he is a cheat—the price is always way more than the help or knowledge is worth! It is always way more than you would want to pay, if you knew the truth about what was going to happen.

There was a German Pastor, Kurt Koch, who spent a lot of his very long life counseling and helping people who were having problems, and he found many cases where their problems were connected with the fact that either they, or their family were into magic, or some kind of fortune telling or other occult devil-tricks. Sometimes they had only had contact once with it; for example, they may have just had a friend use cards or palm-reading to tell their fortune—just for fun. BUT then there came oppression and interference into their lives. They also could not pray or read their Bibles very well at all any more—even when they wanted to.

This Pastor collected records of the different problems he encountered, and made files of them. He wrote his last book when he was in his 90s and he had over 22,000 cases of occult-caused problems in his files. Even though people like to think these things don't matter—I think the evidence of over 22,000 cases from only one country—is pretty solid proof. He had found that no matter how innocent the people had been in getting involved with the occult—there was always a price to pay, and the price was always high.

I am going to tell you about a few of the examples he had in his books and others that I have read.

You may have heard about Dowsing; also called water-witching or divining with a stick or rod. People who do this are able to find water underground so they can tell people where they ought to dig a well so they can reach water. Many people learn this from their parents, or are shown it by someone, and find they can also do it. They carry a stick of some sort—often shaped like a Y, where they hold the two handles. When over water the stick will suddenly move or twist. Many people refuse to believe that this is actually an occult practice, and the power for it is coming from the fallen angels. They like to try and tell you that it is actually a natural power because the wood is attracted to water.

BUT when you find people doing this sort of thing with all kinds of sticks, rods and even pendulums, made of all kinds of materials, and when you find out they can also do it over a MAP—then, if you have any spiritual understanding, you will know that it is occult and not natural. Even 'Christians' often practice this kind of 'magic' and refuse to think it is Satan that empowers it. BUT people who have researched the lives of such practitioners have found they often have spiritual oppression and problems in their lives and families. Those that are honest will admit that after they do it, they have a hard time to pray, and have no wish to read the Bible. Real Christianity and Satan's occult games do NOT mix.

The Pastor I spoke of tells of the troubles that come to those who touch the occult. Here are a few examples from various occult practices:

An older lady was lying in a hospital bed; she had shingles and severe ulcers on her leg and was in great distress. The doctors had been unable to do anything for her. A young nurse that was caring for her was upset by the woman continuing to repeat, "Nurse, you can help me." The nurse felt a fear of this woman but finally she asked, "How can I help you?" The woman excitedly told her to put her hands on the diseased places, make three crosses over them, say the name of the Trinity and repeat a little verse the woman would tell her.

Counterfeits: The Series

The nurse did not know what to do about this, so she went and asked advice from the doctor. He said to go ahead, as it would do no harm, and there was nothing more he could do for the woman. So the nurse did as the woman said. Immediately the woman relaxed and was restful. The sores began to heal and shortly were completely well. The doctors were amazed—but the doctor who had advised her to do what the woman asked—kept it to himself.

Following this incident, where she had, without realizing it, taken part in magic charming, the nurse had severe problems. She could not rest; she had dizziness and could not concentrate; she could not pray and to hear the scriptures or try to read them made her nauseated. She had psychic disturbances and these things went on for six years, until in desperation she came to the minister for help. Everything was traced back to the charm incident, and once she had repented and turned her heart over to Jesus, she was restored to normal again. Please notice that even though the old woman had told her to repeat the name of God, it was still from Satan; Christian words in a magic charm, do not make it OK.

Even fortune-telling brings a sinister price; those who practice it, or take part have a resistance and inner defensiveness to anything to do with God and the Holy Spirit. Even when they decide they want to come to Jesus, they find the way very hard. Sinister and violent forces appear and try to prevent them from making a real surrender to Christ. It seems that fortune telling makes the person almost totally insensitive to the Holy Spirit—and if we can't hear the voice of the Holy Spirit, we cannot be brought to accept Jesus as our personal Savior. To lose out on Eternal life just for the sake of fooling around with the different kinds of fortune telling—often 'just for fun', is a very high price to pay indeed!

The Bible calls fortune-telling 'soothsaying' and tells us that God hates this practice. "Therefore thou (God) hast forsaken thy people the house of Jacob, because they be replenished from the east, and are soothsayers like the Philistines, and they please themselves in the children of strangers." Isaiah 2:6

"And I will cut off witchcrafts out of thine hand; and thou shalt have no more soothsayers:" Micah 5:12

There was a woman who was a fortune teller who 'read palms'. She was totally against Christianity and had nothing to do with it. One day a sweet, young, Christian girl was introduced to this fortune teller. The girl thought it was just a silly joke, and foolishly she stuck out her hand to have the fortune-teller read her palm. After this the girl suffered continually from depressions and soon lost her faith in Jesus. This fortune-teller's whole family were mental wrecks as well. Again the price is ridiculously high to pay for something like this!

A woman went to a fortune-teller and also a man who practiced using a pendulum to get answers to questions. When she started doing this her house became haunted; she heard scratching and knocking and would see shadowy, ghostly figures. She lived in fear and so she went to a Christian minister to get help. He was able to pray with her and help her to give her whole heart to Jesus and after that she was set free from the haunting.

People who do get free from occult oppression by surrendering their hearts to Jesus, and then make the mistake of taking part again in something occult—find that all their trouble and more, comes back on them right away.

One man had the seeming ability to find out much information by using a pendulum—he even located a lost airplane. He really thought that this was a new science, and did not really think it was occult. One day he had a booklet given to him, written by a Christian. He noticed the passage Deuteronomy 25:16, "For whoever does these things is an abomination to the Lord." These words hit home. A great inward battle began.

He threw away his pendulum literature, together with his books on magic, and he tried to free himself from it all. Only now did he realize who he had been serving. He later wrote in a booklet, "The devil, who

through my activities had a claim on my soul, beat and tormented me incessantly." He came to a point of complete inner bankruptcy. For many months he fought and battled to be delivered. A prayer group started interceding for him. For 15 months the battle went to and fro. Hours of joy and faith were interspersed with hours of depression.

He was still not delivered of his magic. He had yet to give up the idea that his use of a pendulum had something to do with science. Only then was the power given to him to break free from all his occult practices. At once the pressure lifted and a great peace entered his life. He had assurance that he had been forgiven. Jesus Christ became the centre of his life and since then he has served his Lord faithfully. "If the Son shall make you free you shall be free indeed."

We will continue with an example of how a young man was delivered after he had read of the dangers involved in occult practices.

A young man with a Christian background learned how to use a pendulum. He thought that it was a new branch of science. Later he became engaged to a Christian girl who called his attention to the dangers of using a pendulum. She gave him a book called, "Under the Spell of the Devil". Through reading this book he recognized that the powers behind such a practice were evil. He tried to free himself from their grip yet he found this impossible, and even began to have experiences involving ghosts. His fiancée then started a small prayer group to intercede for him. The battle lasted for about a year, but in the end he was completely delivered through the power of Christ.

This is a very sad story; a young man fell in love with a girl from a well-to-do family. The foolish man cut his finger and wrote a pact with the devil to get the girl to fall in love with him. He put the paper in a cave to get this love magic. Afterwards he felt afraid and returned to get the paper, but it was gone. He did marry the girl, but their first babies were a set of twins, horribly disfigured. Shortly after this, the mother died from the shock of it all. The young man continued to be tormented in various ways until in desperation he went to a minister for help. After confessing and renouncing everything he had done and all contact with evil forces, he turned his life over to Christ and found complete relief.

The main reason why people get into the occult is often a determination to have what they want, no matter what the cost, and no matter even if God says, "No." This is why the Bible equates witchcraft with rebellion. ("For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry". 1 Samuel 15:23.)

The Bible does indeed recognize the efficacy of magic. We have only to remember the Egyptian magicians or Simon Magus to prove this fact. Magic can indeed bring a certain relief to the body, but this is a form of short circuit, because the spiritual wellbeing of the person is completely bypassed. With the Scriptures, man's relationship to God is of far more importance than his bodily welfare. In magic the question is, "What can help?" whereas in the Bible, the question is rather, "Who can help?" The sorcerer will say, "It helps." The Christian says, "HE helps." Behind the 'What' and the 'It' of magic, lies the twilight world of uncontrollable powers and forces. It is here that Satan hides himself—waiting for you to open the door and turn him loose in your life and family.

Behind the 'Who' and 'He' of the Christian faith stands Christ, the living Word. "The Lord will raise him up," declares James through faith and in gratitude and joy. This same Jesus is the same yesterday, today and for ever. And we are debtors to Him. We owe Him our lives out of thankfulness for what He has done for us. He is the Saviour of the world.

People who get involved in spiritist activities often not only have distress themselves, but some have their whole families become insane or nervously diseased. Some lose their families to disease or tragic

accidents. Truly it does not pay to even be curious about occult practices—the price for even a worthless bit of power can be terrible! But repentance and prayer can redeem those caught in the devil’s snares!

For thus saith the LORD, Ye have sold yourselves for nought; and ye shall be redeemed without money.”
Isaiah 52:3 =^..^=



COUNTERFEITS:

10. Breaking the Chains:

We are surrounded these days with the occult; so much so that many people do not even realize that it IS occult. This OCCULT business does not mean only going to a séance and talking to the dead; it includes any fortune telling; magic charms; many so-called ‘natural’ healing practices; dowsing or pendulum practices; reading or watching occult entertainment—all the way from fairy-tales to horror stories. You see, a story or movie may be ever so cute—BUT if it is not TRUE—it is contrary to God’s will for anyone to watch or read it. Yes—this includes all the Harry Potter stories and books and movies like that. There are few people who have not had some sort of willing or unwilling exposure to occult powers and most do not think anything of it.

There are many people who claim to be Christians, and yet they have much depression and oppression in their lives and families; they have no real joy in their Christian lives, and have never really experienced the power of a joyful, victorious walk with Christ. These people often manage a good front, as they live a ‘nominal’ Christian life and go to church and avoid getting too serious about seeking God. However, when they start really seeking to serve God all the way—then hassle, oppression and distress may happen in their lives and families. Some can become discouraged by this and just give it up; BUT there may be a reason for this, that they have not come to grips with.

So many people today can be up to their necks in occult things, and yet not have any idea of it. They have occult story-books; occult movies; occult games; types of music that are really demonic in nature; pictures of occult symbols and movie characters; even clothing with such pictures and symbols on them. They may take part in Halloween and think it is just innocent fun. They may play with an Ouija board or fool around with Tarot cards or other ‘social’ fortune-telling activities. The list goes on and on.

They may have been involved with fooling around with witchcraft or such things as a child or teen and then just left off, and forgot about it. They may have parents or grandparents that practiced charming and other types of occult activity, either in the past or are still into it.

Counterfeits: The Series

These people will often think you are some kind of a fanatic if you seek to warn them that all these things may be affecting their lives and they may be paying high occult prices, they don't associate with the true causes. These things can be causing an impassible barrier to their being able to have a fully victorious and Holy Spirit filled Christian life. IF people ignore this in their lives—they can never have the full spiritual power that God wants to give them.

In many cases, parents or grandparents have practiced charming or casting spells over infants or young children, and the life of that child has been adversely affected by the fact that Satan claimed, because of this, to have rights over it.

While it is true, that we are not held guilty for the sins of our parents—we often do take part in the same things or we have done so. ALSO we often may have a kind of PRIDE that occult 'abilities' are found in our family. We may smugly tell our friends, "Oh, my Granma can make warts go away just by buying them off the person." Or "My uncle can find lost items by using a pendulum over a map."

We also can cherish pride in occult abilities we ourselves have practiced—even after we no longer do it—this 'pride' shows that we are still holding on to this, and have not made a full break from it. This all needs to be repudiated and we have to truly repent and realize it is NOTHING to be proud of, because it all comes from the rebel angels and puts us in a position where God cannot bless us as fully as He would like to. It is also like a built in snare to us—sitting there—just waiting for Satan to tempt us to go back into it sometime—for a 'good' reason of course.

God knows about this kind of pride and holds us answerable for it. There is an interesting text in Leviticus 26:40: "If they shall confess their iniquity, and the iniquity of their fathers, with their trespass which they trespassed against me, and that also they have walked contrary unto me." The Lord goes on to say that they need to admit that they were wrong and that the bad effects that came upon them were deserved—then if this is done, He will restore blessing to them and they shall truly be His people and under His care.

In a nut shell—it is a fact that ALL contact with the occult in any form—even when we did not know any better—must be repudiated, repented of, confessed, and turned away from, and we must then ask God to break ANY residual links that Satan may have on us because of it—sometimes a lack of victory and peace in the life is because of things like that. ALSO we have to admit and repent of any occult stuff our PARENTS or Grandparents etc. may have been into—because Satan has a claim on the children of people who are involved in such stuff. Spiritual and mental oppression can be hitting our family and us; even disease and death can sometimes result from these occult chains that are still fastened to us.

THEN there is another side of the coin, and this is one that many refuse to admit or do something about. ALL occult material NEEDS to be gotten rid of and destroyed from our homes. This includes videos; story-books; music; pictures; games; toys; charms, amulets and trinkets—even if they are an heirloom; occult or magic books or equipment; dowsing rods or pendulums; idols or pictures of heathen deities and angel figurines or jewelry; Video or computer games of the occult; and so on. Fallen angels have a right to stay with their stuff!

Gifts that have been given to you by a person that is a spiritualist or an occultist may be dangerous to have around, even if they are just non-occult objects. How much more if they are related to heathen gods? I know of a family that were missionaries in India. When they left India, they were given a large painting of Krishna by a Brahmin priest—With, what I consider tremendous spiritual blindness, they brought it back with them and hung it in their home. Even though they are both professing Christians, they are most miserable in their family life and seem to be almost continually quarrelling. They have given the devil a place in their home and he is not shy at occupying it.

Counterfeits: The Series

If you feel that it is not important to follow through on this information, stop and ask yourself—are there spiritual problems in my life or family? Is my Christian walk all I would like it to be? Would it not be wise to do some heart-searching and home-searching to deal with all occultism that may be clinging to you?

Perhaps you are still engaged in watching or reading occult type material. Perhaps you are a person that says, “Oh, I can watch anything I like and it has no affect on me.” If this is true, and you are not troubled by anything you watch or read—it is a good sign that your conscience is well on its way to being seared by a hot iron and that the Holy Spirit is a long way off from you! You are in serious spiritual danger!

Sometimes by totally staying away from all entertainment for a few weeks and seeking God earnestly in prayer and Bible study, you may be revived from spiritual death. If so, you will then wonder how you ever could have been so blind.

What are some examples of entertainment that is occult or semi-occult? All things that contain witches; wizards; cherubs, fairies or other ‘little people’; ghosts; vampires and werewolves; mythology and mythical animals; telepathy or fortune-telling; Greek or Roman gods or goddesses; UFOs and fictional space stories; and really, all fiction and fantasy, violence and sex; wickedness and crime—all these things attract evil angels, and drive away the Holy Spirit from your home and life.

Well, then what *should* I read or look at?

“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true,
whatsoever things are honest,
whatsoever things are just,
whatsoever things are pure,
whatsoever things are lovely,
whatsoever things are of good report;
if there be any virtue,
and if there be any praise,
think on these things.” Philippians 4:8
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