

PLAYING WITH FIRE

Deuteronomy 18:9-13

God warns us to stay away from the occult and superstitious practices

LET'S GET STARTED

Satan wants human beings to look to him for guidance, rather than to God. In this message we will see why God forbade the Israelites to participate in the occultic practices of the Canaanites, and why that prohibition also applies to us today.

LET'S HEAR THE WORD

Occult Practices—Then and Now (Deuteronomy 18:9-11)

Deuteronomy 18:9—"When you enter the land the LORD your God is giving you, do not learn to imitate the detestable ways of the nations there."

- **Child sacrifice (v. 10).** Allowing one's child to be killed as an act of _____ of a false god.
- **Divination (v. 10).** Seeking secret _____ especially about future events.
- **Sorcery (v. 10).** Seeking to _____ people and the future by way of magic, witchcraft, and spells.
- **Omens (v. 10).** Supernatural _____ that precede and foreshadow events.
- **Witchcraft (v. 10).** The performance of _____ for non-biblical ends.
- **Consulting the dead (v. 11).** Obtaining information from the spirits of dead people through _____.

Quotable

There are but two sources of hidden information and knowledge, or supernatural help, guidance and healing—God or Satan. . . Satan and the powers of darkness . . . work through the occult media of fortune telling, magic, spiritism, and false religious cults. The Scriptures forbid men to seek help from these sources for it is tantamount to calling upon another god.

—Hobart Freeman

If you would like to know more

Understanding the Occult, by Josh McDowell & Don Stewart (Here's Life Publishers, 1982)

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STEERING CLEAR OF THE OCCULT TODAY

Awaken to the fact that either _____ or _____ is behind everything.

Matthew 12:30—“He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me scatters.”

1 Thessalonians 5:21—Test everything. Hold on to the good.

1 John 4:1-3—¹Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

1 Timothy 4:1—The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.

Steer clear of the occult, because it's _____.

John 8:44—“ . . . [the devil] was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”

Steer clear of the occult, because you _____ it.

Jn 16:13 (Jesus)—“When he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth . . .”

2 Peter 1:3—His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

LET'S LIVE IT

We can put the truths of this message into practice by avoiding all forms of the occult, and by practicing biblical discernment in evaluating everything that promises to inform us and guide us.

If you would like to speak to any of our Pastors about a spiritual need in your life, here is their contact information:

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Pastor David: Office extension 11, email: dcoleman@crowfieldbaptist.org

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You may also discover what the Bible says about how to become a Christian by visiting the following page on our website: <http://www.crowfieldbaptist.org/salvation/>