

Occult Practices Condemned in the Bible

Introduction: Occult practices are deceptive and destructive, like a whirlpool that sucks you in and drowns you.

Challenge to think about:

There are two sources of power, wisdom, etc. available: God, and God's enemy Satan.

God is our only source: of power, of wisdom, of knowledge about the future, of protection or safety, of health and life.

God's ability is unlimited. Satan's is strictly limited, but he has so much more than we do that it seems great to us. Yet in comparison to God, his power is severely limited and greatly inferior. (Prov 21:30, 21:31)

God's ability is perfect and honest. Satan's ability is flawed and deceitful.

God is all good and intends good toward us His creatures. God's enemy is malevolent, evil. He intends to steal from us, kill us, and destroy us (John 10:10).

See if these practices do not in one way or another involve the seeking of hidden knowledge that God has not revealed or superhuman power that God has not given.

“Do not defile yourselves with any of these things; for by all these the nations are defiled, which I am casting out before you. For the land is defiled; therefore I visit the punishment of its iniquity upon it, and the land vomits out its inhabitants” (Lev. 18:24-25)

“When the Lord your God cuts off from before you the nations which you go to dispossess, and you displace them and dwell in their land, take heed to yourself that you are not ensnared to follow them, after they are destroyed from before you, and that you do not inquire after their gods, saying, ‘How did these nations serve their gods? I also will do likewise,’ You shall not worship the Lord your God in that way, for every abomination to the Lord which He hates they have done to their gods, for they burn even their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods. Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it.” (Deuteronomy 12:29-32)

“When you come into the land which the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations....For all who do these things are an abomination to the Lord, and because of these abominations the Lord your God drives them out from before you...For these nations which you will dispossess listened to

soothsayers and diviners; but as for you, the Lord your God has not appointed such for you.” (Deut. 18:9,12, 14)

“For you know that we dwelt in the land of Egypt and that we came through the nations which you passed by, and you saw their abominations and their idols which were among them—wood and stone and silver and gold, so that there may not be among you man or woman or family or tribe, whose heart turns away today from the Lord our God, to go and serve the gods of these nations, and that there may not be among you a root bearing bitterness or wormwood” (Deut. 29:16-18)

Occult practices

Astrology (Isa. 47:13)

Burning incense to false gods (Jer. 1:16, 11:12-13, 44:3-5,8,17)

Changing form of matter (rods to snakes)

Charms, amulets (Ezekiel 13:18-20)

Conjuring of spells (Deut. 18:11)

Conjuring of spirits by a spirit medium (Lev. 19:31, Deut. 18:11)

Cursing (Lev. 20:9)

Cutting & tattooing (Lev. 19:28, Deut. 14:1-2)

Divination (Lev. 19:26, Deut. 18:14, Ezekiel 13:6)

Eating blood (Lev. 19:26)

Enchantments (Isa. 47:9-10,13)

False dreams (Deut. 13:1-3)

False miracles & signs (Deut. 13:1-3)

False prophecy (Deut. 13:1-3, 18:20, Ezekiel 13:2-3,17)

False visions (Ezekiel 13:2-8)

Fortune telling or soothsaying (Lev. 19:26, Deut. 18:10)

Idolatry (Lev. 19:4, 26:1, Deut. 5:6-10, 27:15 29:26-27, 30:17-18, 31:18, Jer. 1:16, 2:5, 10&11, 26-28 10:2-5, Ezekiel 14:2-9)

Incantations (Isa. 8:19)

Interpretation of omens (Deut. 18:10)

Libation (pour out drink offerings to queen of heaven) Jer. 44:17

Magic (Ezekiel 13:18-20, Acts 19:19)

Making children pass through fire (Lev. 18:21, Deut 12:31, 18:10)

Making head veils to curse & kill people (Ezekiel 13:18-20)

Necromancy, calling up the dead (Deut. 18:11, Isa. 8:19)

Prostitution & prostituting daughters (Lev. 19:29, 20:5-6, Jer. 2:20)

Shaving in certain ways (Lev. 19:27, Deut. 14:1-2)

Shrines & high places (Ezekiel 16:30-31)

Sorcery (Deut. 18:10, Isa. 47:9-10, 13))

Spiritism (Lev. 19:31, Deut. 18:11)

Offering cakes as offerings to gods (Isa. 44:19)

Offering children as sacrifices (Lev. 20:2, Ezekiel 16:36)

Trances or altered states of consciousness (peep and mutter) (Isaiah 8:19)

Witchcraft (1 Sam. 15:23, Isa. 8:19)

Associated practices

Injustice (Jer. 7:9)

Sexual deviancy & worship—Adultery (Lev. 18:20, 20:10) bestiality (Lev. 18:23, 20:15-16, Deut. 27:21), homosexuality (Lev. 18:22), incest (Lev. 18:1-17, 20:11-14 & 17), Deut. 27:20,22-23), prostitution

Slavery—(Isa 61:1, 2 Tim. 2:26)

Results: Forgetting God (Jer. 2:32)

Backwardness, underdevelopment, destructive habits & practices. Self-destructive tendencies—(Psalm 135:18, John 10:10)

Conclusion: A Satanist said, “Who do we worship? We worship ourselves, but when we do so, Satan shows up.” As Christians, we should avoid all forms of occult power because they ultimately come not from God, but from Satan.

What occult practices have been a part of your life, either knowingly or unknowingly, which you should now give up? What will be the next step for you?