

# The Occult

[Presented to Black Canyon Delegate Conference, Phoenix, Arizona, February 2, 1973]

by *Hugh Reaume*

I would like to say at the outset that the subject matter of this paper is one of the most, interesting, enlightening, and frightening subjects that I have ever looked into. I might also add that even though I am presenting this paper on the "Occult," in no way am I to be considered an authority on the subject. A year ago at this Conference, I expressed interest in a subject that I called (for lack of a better name) "Psychic Phenomena," and suggested that it might be a good topic for someone to present at a future Conference. I am not sure at this point whether it was just my turn for a paper...or if the stars determined it...or if it was the work of demons that it was assigned to me. At any rate, I have found the whole thing so large a field that it is impossible for me to do it justice and present a paper that will answer all questions and be the final authority in all these matters. Quite frankly, even though I have read a number of books and many more articles and clippings, I still don't know very much about it. I hope, however, that it will provide a jumping-off point for the rest of you to enter into a worthwhile discussion of the "Occult" after this paper is finished.

In a book called *The Wierd World of the Occult*, the author put forth the question, "What should be included in a discussion of the occult?" This was the answer given by an authority of the subject: "I would include astrology; Oiuji boards; fortune-telling; seances; communication with the dead; spiritualists; churches with mediums; witchcraft with white and black magic; Tarot cards; palm reading; telepathy; reading people's minds; and some areas of psychic phenomena..." For those who still don't know what we're talking about, we could add a few more familiar words to the list, like "ghosts" and "haunted houses" and "crystal balls" and "Satan worship."

For a number of years I have been teaching the Catechism to classes of gradeschool children, as have the other pastors here. For years, I assumed, more or less, that the explanation of the 2nd Commandment which warned against "practicing superstition" was essentially just another way of saying not to put your trust in any other God but the Triune God...by putting confidence in 4-leaf clovers, fearing black cats, and so on. Missouri's "witchcraft" said it another way, but I thought of that as generally something out of the past...and really did not say too much about it to the kids. I suspect that I did not stand alone. A couple of years ago I began to hear things from different people that made me wonder if there were more to it...if there actually were a world of spirits and/or demons that is closer to our physical world than I used to think. People with normal imaginations, good sense, average intelligence, and even, Christ, told me that they knew people who had seen ghosts, and that they themselves had seen things floating around in the air and moving around all by themselves. These things allegedly happened only in the presence of certain people. Recently, ESP has become a common household term, and we immediately admit that there is still a great deal that has to be investigated on that subject. I do think, though, that to label this whole thing as some kind of intuition...or to just ignore it...is too easy a way out.

Recent years have brought out the facts that Satanism is flourishing, it is in the open. It's effects are also open. As evidenced by the fact that a number of murders in our country have had very definite cult connections. Arthur Lyons, Jr., author of *The Second Coming*, a recent book on Satanism in America, argues that intense devil dabblers are "really dangerous." How dangerous was seen last June when a 20-year old New Jersey youth had himself killed by two of his teenage

friends in what police described as an action linked to a Satanic cult. According to police, the victim, accompanied by his friends, drove out to a pond in southern New Jersey. There he conducted a brief service to the devil, and his friends, at his request, bound his hands and feet with adhesive tape, pushed him into the water and watched him sink. His body was found three days later. The police quoted the victim's friends as saying that he had asked to be killed, because he told them that "as a loyal worshiper of Satan," he needed to die "violently" in order to be put in charge of "40 legions of Satan's horde." Another such case came to light in late November, 1967. The U.P.I. report read as follows: "'Two parents practicing black magic dipped their six-year-old son's feet first into boiling water every two days during a month of torture,' police said. 'When we recovered him, his feet were just globs of raw and bleeding flesh. The rest of his tiny body had been burned and cut.' The child's mother and father readily confessed to having tortured their son as part of a "witchcraft sacrifice" to the devil." Another case out of New Jersey tells about a long-time student of voodoo and black magic. The man was found to have killed a 13-year-old boy during a Satanic ritual "by striking him a blow upon the back of the head and then strangling him with a cord...He buried the body under the dirt floor his home. Seven months later he dug up the body, cut off the head and carefully dried it in a stove. Then he performed a hideous ritual with a lock of hair from the woman he desired, placing it within the skull of the sacrifice." In all these cases, the murderers were found "sane." Were these people all just over-enthusiastic? Or is it possible that they had actually made some kind of pact with Satan...with the result that they actually became demon-possessed? In the manner of the New Testament demoniacs?

After this paper was assigned to me, I immediately "jumped into" the business of reading up on the "Occult" so that I could become an authority. Of course, I jumped into shallow water to begin with, caution being part of my nature. The first thing I read was a fictitious novel by William Blatty, called "The Exorcist." It is a very frightening book...the story of a girl who becomes demon-possessed. It describes the tortures the girl went through, as well as the total control the demon had over her before it was cast out of her. Two Catholic priests died in the effort. Further reading has brought me to the conclusion that the novel could well be a true story. For there is a good deal of evidence that the world of the demons is not so far removed from our physical world as we might at times think. If this is, in fact, the case, then passages like Exodus 22:18 and Leviticus 19:31 are very meaningful.

Exodus 22:18, "*You shall not allow a woman to live who practices sorcery.*" Witches and sorcerers are the same thing, by definition, they are persons who summon invisible powers to help in casting spells or performing feats of magic. The power doesn't come from God, or else He wouldn't condemn those who used it.

Leviticus 19:31, "*Turn not to those (mediums) who have familiar spirits, or to wizards; do not seek them out to be defiled by them. I am the Lord your God.*" (both quotes from the amplified Bible)

Of course, the subject of the occult has a seemingly more innocent side to it. Astrology is a case in point. Astrology is the so-called science of predicting human character and destiny from the position of the sun, moon, fixed stars, and planets, at the precise moment of person's birth. Astrologers also claim to be able to predict significant events that will occur on the earth by the study of these positions. It is probably the most widely-spread superstition of our times. But is it *all* just so much foolishness and hokus-pokus? Is it *all* just a bunch of superstitious silliness being thrown to the gullible mentality of many Americans (and others)? Or is it possible that in the area of astrology we are again involved in the actual kingdom of Satan? Even assuming that

most astrologers are frauds, is it possible that some have special powers for predicting future events? If that is the case, as it seems to be, where does this power come from? Two sources are possible: God and Satan. If God is the source why does He condemn the study of heavenly bodies for the predicting of future events in the Bible? If Satan is one source, should we not be more aware of that fact and give more serious warning to our people?

One of the biggest problems in the area of astrology is that most people think of it as “fun” or “humorous entertainment, not to be taken seriously.” But as one investigator put it, “The trouble with innocent, fun is that it sometimes leads to serious interest. And from that point, anything can happen.” There are others who are convinced that any experimentation with the occult tools can become an open invitation to Satan and his demons to come into the open of our society. What do you think accounts for the fact that already in 1970 over 1200 of the 1750 daily newspapers in our country ran horoscope columns...it is a \$200 million annual business in our country...30,000 customers receive computerized horoscopes each month...10,000,000 Americans are devotees to it and 40,000,000 dabble in it...that there are 10,000 full-time and 1750,000 part-time astrologers. Obviously, there are some who do not think it is all fun! How many of the members in your congregation read their horoscopes...daily? Most of them would be shocked (and perhaps skeptical) if they were told that were actually fooling around in a kingdom ruled by Satan. Yet it seems altogether possible that this is exactly what they are doing. In spite of the fact that the Bible warns us to avoid everything that involves Satan. And in spite of the fact that the whole business of astrology has left almost as many questions unanswered as the theory of evolution has. By the way, according to astrologers, people, with birthdays between November 23 and December 21 are particularly suited to be theologians...or comedians.

Closely akin to the astrologers are the “psychics,” or the people who have certain gifts which enable them to foresee certain future events (as well as being able to see past events). You have heard of Jeanne Dixon. Well, she’s a “psychic.” Perhaps the best way to approach this is to quote from a pamphlet entitled, “Do Demons know the Future”:

“President Kennedy shot!”

“That announcement was no surprise to Jeanne Dixon. She predicted his assassination. She even tried to warn him not to go to Dallas. Does that mean God uses her to predict future events? Hardly. She has made other world-shaking predictions which have failed to come to pass. If God were the source of her information, there’d be no misses. God doesn’t guess—*He knows*.

“How then was it possible?”

“Jeanne Dixon and others, who occasional make accurate predictions, can do so because *Spiritism* is real. Right outside our world is another—the *Spirit-World*. A person would have to discard the Bible to deny that. The spirit-world is as close as the unseen radio waves flooding your room this moment. Within the spirit-world is the kingdom of Satan. He has a fantastic organization of beings (demons, if you prefer) who operate his unseen empire of highly organized satanic beings,” (Ephesians 6:12 PNT).

“Occasionally someone comes along who is *sensitive* to the spirit-world. That is, the protective *ensor* (a device separating the conscious from the unconconscious) is not as fool proof in them as in most people. “Sensitives” receive impressions from the spirit-world.

However, it is not a gift, but a liability. God's Word forbids all forms of spiritism and witchcraft (Ex. 22:18; Lev. 19:31; Gal. 5:20; Deut. 18:10-12, "*There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord: and because of these abominations the Lord thy God doth drive them out before thee.*") Even so there are those who deliberately work to destroy the *ensor* in order to make *conscious* contact with the spirit-world. Those who succeed we call "mediums."

"Is the contact real? Yes, indeed. True mediums establish genuine contact with people (evil spirits) on the other side of the flesh. While it takes years to tear down the protective barrier, it can be done and contact is easily achieved afterwards. The dreadful thing is, a medium must submit himself to a control demon for use as a physical instrument. Demons are spirits and have no way of contacting the flesh. They must use a surrendered human agent. Raphael Gasson in *The Challenging Counterfeit* tells of the years he spent trying to destroy his own censor. He was close to becoming a genuine medium when the Lord saved him.

"When Lee Harvey Oswald was planning to kill President Kennedy, Satan's demons were spectators to the whole thing. They watched the scheme unfold in Oswald's *mind*. That's the advantage of being a spirit. As soon as the assassin set the date and place, the demons shared the knowledge. They could pass it on to anyone responsive to them or in contact with them. Had Mr. Oswald changed his mind at the last minute, the demons would have goofed again.

"While demons are limited with respect to future knowledge, they are experts on secrets of the past. A dear friend of mine, a Christian leader, attended a séance held by a true medium. He was dumbfounded to hear a secret revealed which only he knew. When he was a lad, he and his mother found a dead man in a ravine near their home. They took something from the dead man's pockets and made a pact never to tell anyone about it. Now, 50 years later, this medium brought it out with the accuracy of an eye-witness. Indeed, there were many eye-witnesses, for the event was open to the Satanic host.

"We will hear more about spiritism (demonism) in coming days. As the end of the age approaches, demon activity will intensify. Supernatural works will abound. Counterfeit miracles will occur, particularly in the area of healings. Counterfeit miracles will occur, particularly in the area of healings. Some ministers will be deceived into thinking a revival can come through the use of miraculous manifestations—and Satan will oblige (II Thess. 2:9-11; Matt. 24:24, "*For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.*") The devil will lure many into operating as "healers" and "prophets," and he will back them with "lying wonders" as he did the magicians of Pharaoh (Ex. 8:7, "*And the magicians did so with their enchantments, and brought up frogs upon the land of Egypt*"). The deception will be fantastic, for Satan will be operating full blast as "an angel of light" (II Cor. 11:14, "*And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an*

*angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works”).*

“ESP, astrology, and exploration in psychic phenomena are but variant forms of spiritism. Young people are finding seances provide better psychedelic “experiences” than drugs. Not only do startling revelations come “across the line,” but in some cases, materializations and apparitions. Demons can counterfeit both the form and facts of departed loved ones. God’s Word warns of these times: “*But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons,*” (I Tim. 4:1).”

Two weeks ago, the Valley newspapers gave full play to a visit by Jeanne Dixon. How many Christians have considered the possibility that she is an “operative” of the devil? Probably not as many as believe that she is indeed a gift of God to the world. In fact, her visit and lecture were sponsored by the Organ Fund Committee of the First Christian Church in Phoenix. Jeanne Dixon makes a big outward show of Christianity (“a devout Roman Catholic”), as seems to be the case among many in the occult field. She claims that her powers come from God, even going so far as to claim to be a prophetess of God, with the same “spirit of prophecy” that the prophets of the Old Testament had. Of course, if this were true, she would never make mistakes. And this fact alone proves that her power comes from some source other than God. If it were from God, her record would be 100%, and not around 50%. Because God doesn’t guess. But since she *claims* it comes from God, many gullible Christians believe it. The fact, however, that a phenomenon is spiritual does not necessarily mean that it is an act of God. There comes to mind the account as it is recorded in Acts 16:16-18: “*And it came to pass as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying: the same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are servants of the Most High God, which show unto us the way of salvation. And this she did many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.*”

This brings to mind an article from the June 1954 issue of the magazine *Alliance Weekly*: “The gullible mentality, like the ostrich, will gulp down anything that looks interesting... Many Christians have no more discrimination than the ostrich. Because they must believe certain things, they feel they must believe everything. Because they are called upon to accept the invisible, they go right on to accept the incredible. God can and does work miracles; therefore, everything that passes as a miracle must be of God. God has spoken to man; therefore, everything that passes as a miracle must be of God. God has spoken to man; therefore, every man who claims to have had a revelation from God must be accepted as a prophet. Whatever is unearthly must be heavenly... whatever cannot be explained must be accepted as divine. The prophets were rejected; therefore, everyone who is rejected is a prophet. The saints were misunderstood; therefore, everyone who is misunderstood is a saint. This is the dangerous logic of the gullible Christian.”

C.S. Lewis, in the preface to his book, *The Screwtape Letters*, says, “There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them.” Do you believe in demons? Devils? Ghosts? Magic? Are all of these things throwbacks to older times, or are they realities which we as Christians should be aware of and warned against? Do the many Bible passages that speak of witchcraft and sorcery and familiar spirits mean anything

for us today, or were they included in the Scriptures only as a reminder to us of what the problems were like in “the old days”?

Anton Szandor LaVey is the high priest of the Church of Satan in San Francisco. He is also called the “Black Pope” of America. There are Satanic churches in many of the larger cities in the United States. There is apparently none in Phoenix, for in checking the yellow pages of the new phone book, I found no listing...the closest it came was the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. At any rate, LaVey claims to have the power to do magic. He says, “At first I detected this force in small ways. It might be discovery of an individual whose powers of wishing were so great that he could win horse races. In my case, I found that I could conjure up parking places at the last minute in front of theaters, when none should have been there. I also discovered an ability through magic to bring reversals to enemies and gain advantage for myself.” If he were alone in this claim to have magical powers, it might be discarded. But he is not alone.

I found this definition of magic somewhere: “The belief that certain things and particular objects possess hidden powers. Magic is a relic of primitive paganism and the cult of animism. It is the belief that there are spirits who reside in stones, plants, and animals and that by certain manipulative devices we can share their power. This ancient belief finds contemporary expression in the wearing of good luck charms, talismans, etc.” Witchcraft credits certain people with special powers, powers which are believed to come from compacts with evil spirits. The result is what many would call “black magic.” If, on the other hand, the compact is with God, the result would be “white magic.” The *Lutheran Witness* for March 1971 says, “Luther was absolutely convinced that witchcraft existed and that it was quite possible for a man or a woman to make a pact with the devil.” Can we assume that this is a true representation of Luther’s belief? I didn’t check it out.

Getting back to LaVey, witches, and magic. He does not stand alone. As a witch, or warlock, as male witches are known. The following two examples are mentioned only to show what is meant by the use of magic by witches, sorcerers, charmers, magicians, or whatever else they are called.

Example 1: a farmer who had several bad crops in a row was instructed by a magic practitioner to place three grains of corn under his tongue while sowing. Then he was to spit the corn out of his mouth into the field and say a magic charm. That year he had a much better crop than before.

Example 2: a boy suffered greatly and repeatedly from a severe pain in the knee. Then, on the advice of a healing charmer, he went into a field, repeated a magic charm, threw kisses at the moon and anointed his knee with oil. The pain left him.

The list of examples could be much longer. Are these occurrences just chance or coincidence? Just a good use of psychology? Or is there something more subtle to it all? Is it possible that the powers of the devils are actually involved and being called? It seems to me that the powers of witchcraft lie deeper than twisted imaginations and trickery. I suspect that, as in Bible times, much success is due to the tremendous power of Satan to deceive. Perhaps because Satan has the power to masquerade as angel of light, he is also able to keep people from recognizing the demonic character of every aspect of the occult.

Certainly history informs use (through the inspired Scriptures also) that people have been able to perform supernatural feats with the help of Satan. He is the greatest liar, the greatest deceiver, and the greatest impersonator of all. And Satan, the author of all evil, finds man to be a

ready co-operator. Man's participation may be involuntary or it may be deliberate. But in either case he is in league with the devil. Of course, Satan will never go out of his way to make this obvious. As someone said, "Of course, Satan doesn't label or advertise his products; he prefers to give his credit to his co-workers. The Prince of Darkness was not born yesterday!" In contrasting witchcraft to Christianity, we note at once several distinct differences.

*Witchcraft relies on:* magic rite...instead of prayer

Occultic writing...instead of...the Bible

Protection by amulets...instead of...protection by God

If you were interested in the subject, I suggest that you read *Between Christ and Satan* by Kurt Koch. He is (was?) a German Lutheran theologian who became something of an authority in the field of the occult through extensive counseling and study. In the course of time, he investigated and documented over 20,000 case histories. He doesn't say that you must believe that people have magic powers. He only reveals what he had heard from others and what he has seen and heard for himself. He does make this observation, though: "My counseling work continually supplies evidence to the effect that magic in any form is the work of the devil, whether it sails under a black, white, or neutral flag." From his counseling, he has also come to the conclusion that magical powers can originate in four ways: *Heredity...Subscription to the Devil* (a counterpart to Christian Baptism)...*Experimenting with Occultism* (reading magic books, etc.)...*Occult Transference* (laying on of hands). He likewise lists different areas of applied magic: 1) healing and inflicting disease; 2) love and hate magic; 3) persecution and defense magic; 4) casting and breaking spells; and 5) death magic. There is now doubt in *his* mind that magic is real and that the source is Satan. There are many others as well who have come to the conclusion that the Kingdom of Satan is very active in our day, and that there are many people who actually are themselves the instruments used by Satan to do his thing.

Perhaps one of the most immediately dangerous areas of the occult for Christians (and all people, for that matter) is the Spiritualist Movement. If you would check the yellow pages of local phone book, you will find at least five Spiritualist Churches in the Phoenix area. The teachings and practices of Spiritualists are fairly well defined in different writings of their own as well as others. I would like to see another paper done in the near future on this cult, as I am not likely to do it justice here.

In a book titled, *Satan, Satanism, and Witchcraft*, author Richard DeHaan sums up their beliefs as follows:

"In discussing the religious beliefs of people who seek to converse with the dead, we can distinguish between those who claim to be "Christian" and those who make no pretense of accepting historic Christianity. The distinction between these groups is sometimes made by using the term "spiritualist" to denote the ones who profess to believe the Bible, and designating the others as "spiritists."

"Those we have called spiritualists often open their meetings with prayer, singing of hymns, and the reading of the Scriptures. They teach the golden rule as the standard by which people should live, and some of them revere Jesus as the greatest of all mediums. They conceive of God as primarily a universal force, and place little emphasis upon His personality. Their doctrine of the afterlife is a curious mixture of ideas that come from Hinduism, Buddhism, Theosophy, and other religions, and bears almost no resemblance to the teachings of the Bible. They deny Hell and look upon Heaven as a series of spiritual planes through which the souls of the dead pass in an evolutionary process.

Those who live most wickedly begin on the very lowest plane, and need a great deal of help from other spirits to advance to the next sphere...

“While some of these teachings are commendable, spiritualism is clearly a false system. It does not confess that Jesus Christ is the second Person of the Trinity, nor does it accept His sin-atonement death or physical resurrection. It is therefore guilty of denying the very heart of the Gospel of God’s grace, and does not by any stretch of the imagination deserve to be called “Christian.”

“The second group, the spiritists, attempt to communicate with the dead without any distinct reference to the Christian faith. They are to be commended for their honesty, for they do not try to give their practices a superficial religious window-dressing. They usually admit that they cannot understand what happens at their seances. They believe that certain psychically gifted people possess the power to exert an invisible and incomprehensible force through which they can contact the spirits of the dead. Though totally naturalistic, some even atheistic, they still believe in continued existence after death.

“The spiritualists, the first group mentioned, are the more dangerous, because they are more likely to deceive uninstructed believers. These so-called Christians say they believe the Bible, speak well of Jesus, and set forth high standards of ethics and morals. They may even call Jesus their Savior, and the Son of God, but their concept of salvation is far from Scriptural. The devil, using every device imaginable to deceive believers and confuse unsaved people, often mixes truth and error to accomplish his ends. Paul warned the Christians in Corinth about false teachers who called themselves apostles of Christ, but were actually deceitful workers teaching error. He added, *“And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore, it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness, whose end shall be according to their works,”* (II Cor. 11:14, 15).

“The archenemy of God will advocate an upright moral life if by this means he can deceive sincere people into seeking salvation by works instead of through faith in Jesus Christ. Christians must therefore reject without qualification the teachings of those who hold seances and try to communicate with the spirits of the dead. Spiritualism, even when dressed in Biblical garb, is not true Christianity.”

Spiritualism gropes for evidence of survival after death. They don’t want it all to end here, with the body being lowered into the grave. Nor do they want it to continue after this life, with the soul immediately coming into the presence of God for judgment. The result is that the spiritualists have come up with an arrangement whereby the soul, or spirit, leaves the body in what we call death. But they don’t think of it as death, only as the beginning of another kind of existence in a better place. The world of the spirits is closely akin to our own world of the flesh, as evidenced by their ability (so they claim) to contact the spirits of those who have entered the world of spirits. Unfortunately, spiritualism gives its adherents no certainty of forgiveness, no cleansing from sin, and no assurance of a triumphant eternal life. For the Christian, eternal life involves not just moving from sphere to sphere hereafter, but the glory of being in the very presence of Christ, which St. Paul says (Phil. 1:23) is “far better.”



Spiritism came to public attention in this country in 1848 in Hydesville, New York, when the Fox sisters heard rappings on their cottage wall. Wondering if the noise could be the work of spirits, they asked three questions and told the spirits to rap once for *no* and twice for *yes*. The amazingly accurate replies confirmed their suspicions, and the young sisters found themselves launched on a most unusual career.

In 1893, the National Spiritualistic Association was organized in Chicago and remains the outstanding spiritualist body in the U.S. It claims that spiritualism is a science, a religion, and a philosophy. Many people have been deluded into thinking it is a Christian church.

Essentially, the one binding belief among all spiritualists and spiritists is the belief that people survive death as spirits, and that they can communicate with the living through a medium, a person who has special psychic gifts. Mediums are sometimes called necromancers, and are often able to put on bizarre and frightening displays as proof of their psychic power. They may cause objects or even people to float in the air (including such cases as people rising from the floor and floating out an open window and in through another), produce music from a piano that nobody is touching, or cause a horn to blow which appears to be miraculously suspended and moving about the room.

For most of their accomplishments, mediums will usually go into a trance, a condition in which the medium allegedly loses consciousness and passes under the control of some external force, as for the supposed transmission of communications from the dead. The force taking control, if it is a spirit, is called a "spirit guide." In this trance condition, the medium may inscribe a piece of paper with the exact handwriting of the deceased. In many cases, handwriting experts have been altogether baffled by the fact that the handwriting matches exactly the samples of writing done while the spirit still had a body and was in this world. In other instances, the writing has resulted in strange products. Such as entire symphonies (read *Unfinished Symphonies* by Rosemarie Brown), and theological dissertations. This is called "automatic writing." In this trance condition, mediums may also speak languages never learned before.

Materialization is the supposed ability on the part of some mediums to create from unknown materials outside of their own body, some visible, tangible, more or less highly organized new formations supplied with their own illumination. This substance develops slowly, from the feet and working up until it had formed an entire body. These materializations can then appear and disappear suddenly. These forms are sometimes called "phantasms." The substance from which they are made is called "ectoplasm." This substance is a semi-luminous thick vapor which oozes from the medium's mouth, ears, nose, eyes, or from the stomach and is dimly visible in the gloom of the séance room. This mist gradually makes contact with the natural surroundings of the séance room. It is the basis for *physical* phenomena. This materialization is then presumed to be the visible spirit of a departed loved one. It is also visible to all the sitters in the séance room, whether they have psychic powers of their own or not.

The Christian ought to be able to see that the communication with what are presumed to be the spirits of the dead is at best (or worst) the contacting of demons from hell who are masquerading and pretending to be the spirits of the dead. The Bible is too clear on the subject to leave any doubt as to whether or not the spirits of the dead can return, and supply all the information that they are credited with.

Eccles, 9:5-6, "*The living know that they shall die: but the dead know not anything...also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more portion for ever in anything that is done under the sun.*"

Job 7:9-10, *“As the cloud is consumed and vanisheth away; so he that goeth down to the grave shall come up no more. He shall return no more to his house, neither shall his place know him any more.”*

Eccles. 9:10, *“For there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave whither thou goest.”*

Even if we could contact the dead, the Word of God has shown that they would not be able to provide the desired information. Besides that, God has absolutely forbidden humans to try to communicate with the departed spirits. And as we have seen, it is impossible to recall the spirits of the dead. Such attempts can result only in communications with deceitful spirits, known as “familiar spirits.” A familiar spirit, in the service of Satan, knows human beings so well that he can disguise himself as that person. In I Samuel 28:7 we read about Saul’s intent to contact a witch who can put him in touch with the departed prophet Samuel. He asks, *“Seek me a woman that hath a familiar spirit.”* The RSV puts it like this, *“Seek me a woman who is a medium.”*

It is not a question of whether or not the evil spirits, or demons, have the power and knowledge to satisfy those who are seeking to contact departed loved ones. They do have the power. The fallen angels have and use their supernatural powers. For example, Satan had the power and ability to produce before Jesus’ own eyes *“all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them,”* (Mt. 4:8). Because any attempt at communication with the dead was really a communicating with demons, God consistently warned his people away from any such attempts. In fact, in Israel, death was the penalty meted out to any who tried to establish themselves as mediums, or who patronized a medium. Deut. 20:6,27, *“And the soul that turneth after such as have familiar spirits, and after wizards, to go awhoring after them, I will even set my face against that soul, and will cut him off from among his people... a man also or woman that hath a familiar spirit, or that is a wizard, shall surely be put to death: they shall stone them with stones: their blood shall be upon them.”*

The demons have the power to appear...and the power to provide information. They had it and did it in Bible times. The only question that remains is whether or not they still can, and do. I cannot prove it either way. I can look at the evidence, as I have been doing, and draw my own conclusions. As you can. But I assure you that it is very disturbing to read the accounts that have been written on the subject. Raphael Gasson, author of *The Challenging Counterfeit*, is a Christian, who claims to have come out of Satan’s kingdom. I suggest that if you have any questions or doubts about how real Satan’s Kingdom is, that you read the book. There is no doubt in the author’s mind that mediums are capable of communicating with, and even producing, spirits. From hell, but nevertheless spirits. He points out that the occult world was his life for many years. He was not only a watch, but a doer. He was on hand on many occasions where the spirits materialized, and says that on one occasion, he even shook hands with a demon. He is also very grateful to the Lord that He pulled him out of darkness. He says further that in his journey to light, he was physically attacked by Satan who attempted to kill him.

It is also mighty disturbing to read about and hear stories of groups of people, young and old, experimenting in such a dangerous field. I read of one group of young people who were dabbling in the spiritualist fields, and the result was more than they hoped for: there indeed appeared the supposed spirit of a long-dead Civil War soldier. He spoke audibly. Such stories abound. Are they all imagination? Are they all lies? Are they all highly executed tricks? Is every medium a fake, as the Great Houdini spent a great part of his career trying to prove? Are all the investigations and conclusions of skeptics and scientists and “unbelievers” to be rejected offhand

because it all sounds just a little too weird to be true? Or because we have never seen it with our own eyes? If so, then it can't hurt to fool around and play around in the occultic sciences, can it? If so, then everything we have been talking about is really not inherently dangerous, is it?

On the other hand, if it is true that the demons are involved, then playing around in the occultic fields (fortune-telling, Ouija boards, seances, horoscopes, crystal balls, etc.) is just as dangerous as playing murder, adultery, etc. If it is true, then perhaps Bishop Pike actually did talk to something from the spirit-world, as he claimed in his book, *The Other Side*.

One thing is sure. The questions were clearly answered for the people in Bible times. Can we be sure that the reality of devil activity and demon-possession such as we have been discussing does not hold true today?

Dr. Kurt Koch (*Between Christ and Satan*) makes the comment, "Demonic activity is not uniform the world over nor in historic experience. It appears that there was a great increase in demonic activity preceding and during the life of the Lord Jesus here on earth. There does appear to be a present increase because of an awareness on the part of the powers of darkness that their time is short and that the second coming of Christ is at hand. It is therefore particularly imperative for Christians to be informed in spiritual warfare."

The Christian does need to be reminded periodically that "*we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places,*" (Eph. 6:12). But being reminded of the warfare, we are also reminded of the weapons we have at our disposal to win the battles. For in this same chapter we are told to "*be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil...take unto you the whole armor of God that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.*"

For the Bible assures us that even the powers of Satan and his demons must surrender to the greater power of Jesus Christ.

## **Bibliography**

*Between Christ and Satan* (Kurt Koch)—Kregel, 1962.

*The Challenging Counterfeit* (Raphael Gasson)—Logos, 1966.

*The Exorcist* (William Blatty)—Bantam, 1971.

*In Search of Dracula* (McNalley and Florescu)—New York Graphic Society, 1972.

*The Kingdom of the Cults* (Walter Martin)—Bethany Fellowship, Inc., 1965.

*The Other Side* (Bishop James A. Pike)—Dell Publishing, 1968.

*Psychic Phenomena* (Drs. Bradley)—Paperback Library, 1967.

*Satan, Satanism, and Witchcraft* (Richard W. DeHaan)—Zondervan Books, 1972

*Satanism: A practical guide to witch-hunting* (Sept. 1970 American Opinion/reprint)

*The Weird World of the Occult* (Walker Knight)—Tyndale, 1972.