

Spiritualism

Integral to the word of God becoming living and real is an understanding of spiritualism. To become spiritually minded, the Christian must understand spiritual matters.

(1 Cor 12:1 KJV) Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.

It may come as a surprise to discover that italicized words in the King James Version of the bible are added words and do not appear in the Greek texts. The word gifts is one such word. The text uses one word for 'spiritual,' pneumatikos, which means, 'spiritual matters' or 'things of a spiritual nature.' God does not want us ignorant of spiritual matters, Ouija boards being one such. A fairly generic definition is, "a board printed with letters, numbers, and other signs, to which a planchette or movable indicator points,



supposedly in answer to questions from people at a séance." Spiritual matters include what the devil is doing to move ahead his agenda. In Acts 19, a record regarding the curious arts can be found, and a greater understanding of evil that binds people.

(Acts 19:11-20 KJV) And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul: {12} So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them. {13} Then certain of the

vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth. {14} And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so. {15} And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye? {16} And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. {17} And this was known to all the Jews and Greeks also dwelling at Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. {18} And many that believed came, and confessed, and showed their deeds. {19} Many of them also

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which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. {20} So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.

Anytime a people get to the place that they do not have any of God's word left, this has to be caused by evil spirits.

(2 Cor 4:4 KJV) In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

There are two gods, the true father of Jesus Christ, and the devil. The devil will do all that he can do to get into people's minds in order to prepare them to receive him. These attempts are distractions to prevent the word of God from becoming living and real.

We talk about people dying and still being alive. There is so much talk

about this in the world; so many people believe that dead people are yet alive. You read about it daily, or hear it referenced in movies and television. A common phrase is that someone has 'passed.' People don't pass anywhere except to the grave. This is nothing but a promotion of spiritualism. We hear about "the gift of prophecy," somebody knowing ahead of time that another is going to die or be killed. What good is this kind of knowledge if nothing can be done about it? There has to be two types of profit involved for good to come out of this kind of information—short and long-term. Otherwise, the information is not from the true God—the right source. Nowadays, most people don't acknowledge the existence of devil spirits or the devil, but there are two gods and one of them is bad. The information that a psychic provides, one of the bad ones, has to be accurate at times. Otherwise, no one would believe their garbage. Evil is a parasite and could not exist without truth. Evil spawns from incorrect information sources, and it could not

exist without the true God. Because someone holds up a bible and quotes it doesn't mean a thing. They look and sound so sincere. Well, even the devil can quote the bible. These people are trying to fool us and we have played right into their hands. When a person dies, he is dead and stays dead until God makes him alive either at the return of his son Jesus Christ, or at one of the resurrections.

What about crystal balls? If the bible is right, then these are in the wrong ballpark too. No body that has ever died is living, with the exception of Jesus Christ. If the church, your preacher, would teach this, then the spiritualists would have to back up. If the word of God is true, then the spiritualists aren't bringing people back at all. These deceiving spirits are counterfeits. They can come back in forms that make you think that they are people. They have been around for a long time. They can make vocal chords sound just like a person that you knew because they heard that person before too. The rea-

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son they can keep propounding this is because the accuracy of God's word has never stood in our day and in our time in Protestant or the Roman Catholic church. Every group has taught that when you die, you go somewhere and are alive. When you die, you stay dead! Why should you be raised from the dead in a resurrection if you are already alive? Christians who have died are dead until the return of Jesus Christ. If someone says that they have heard from a dead one, it's a lie. There is no great cloud of dead people watching over us. The spiritualists would like to have us believe this, but it's a lie. If we keep going this way, the spiritualists can kill an entire nation. It can take it to its knees. We have to believe the word of God—not what man says.

(Rom 10:17 KJV) So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

The word gives believing for rebirth. The word of God is the gospel of salvation, and it gives you the ability to get born

again. You can't separate God from his word because God is his word. Whatever God has promised, he will perform. We have to believe the word for it to work effectually in us. Just having the word doesn't guarantee us success. We have to abide in the word. The word must become our vocabulary. It may sound like the word of man, but it is God's word.

(Eph 1:19 KJV) And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

The word of God works according to God's mighty power.

(Jer 15:16 KJV) Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.

The word of God will thrill you. Only the word can thrill a man's heart like this. Every man's soul thrills when the word starts to unfold. Their

hearts start to burn within them.

(2 Tim 3:16-17 KJV) All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: {17} That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

The word of God makes you perfect. Listening to people on street corners doesn't perfect you. The entire bible is for our learning, while some of it is addressed specifically to us.

(Prov 4:4-6 KJV) He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live. {5} Get wisdom, get understanding: forget *it* not; neither decline from the words of my mouth. {6} Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee.

Retain the word of God in your mind. Retaining profane, secular sources for

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truth won't satisfy inner-longings for spiritual fulfillment. We are to retain God's word. We want to be able to share it with others so that its greatness may once again live for those who want to know, and so that it will become living and real in our day and in our time.

Much love in Christ,

Jerry D. Brown