

Christians and the Occult

The Battle for Truth
Acts 16:16-18

Introduction

In a nutshell...

A. Paul Casts Out a Spirit. Acts 16:16-18

1. Circumstance. v. 16
2. Encounter
3. Her profitability
4. Her practice. v. 17
5. Her habit. v. 18
6. Paul's annoyance
7. Obedience of the spirit
8. Observations
 - a. It is possible for an "unclean" spirit to enter the body of a human.
 - b. It is possible for a spirit to exercise a certain amount of control over a human.
 - c. It is possible for a spirit to give a certain amount of supernatural knowledge to a human.
 - d. In this case the spirit forced the girl to perform some socially unacceptable acts.
 - e. In this case the spirit used the girl to tell the truth.
 - f. But, the girl was being obnoxious and was hindering the ministry of Paul and Silas.
 - g. Certain Christians are given authority and power to cast out demons.

B. General Observations about the Spirit World

1. It is not so unusual for spirits to live in a body.
2. God's Spirit lives within the bodies of believers.
1 Corinthians 6:18-20

3. The Holy Spirit desires to control the bodies in which He lives.
4. But He does not force this control. It must be yielded. Ephesians 5:17-18
5. Satan is a powerful spirit who seeks to mimic God's rule by setting up a rival kingdom.
6. So he appears as an angel of light. His most effective tool is deceit. John 8:33-34; 2 Cor. 11:13-15
7. Satan appears at times to control the body of a human without the latter's consent.

C. How Satan and His Messengers can Deceive You!

1. Doctrines of demons in our society. 1 Timothy 4:1-5
2. Doctrine of demons: Attack on marriage
 - a. Jesus and marriage. Matthew 19:4-6.
 - b. Evaluation
 - c. Prediction
3. Doctrine of demons: Animal rights.
 - a. God created man to rule animals. Gen. 1:26, 28
 - b. After the Flood, God authorized man to eat animals. Gen. 9:1-4
 - c. Prediction

D. What can you do to protect yourself?

1. Use the full armor of God. Eph. 6:10-18
2. Let the Bible be your standard for truth. John 17:17
3. Beware of false prophets & false teachers. 2 Pet. 2:1-3
4. Don't be conformed to your culture. Rom. 12:1-2
5. Be transformed by renewing your mind.
6. Nutshell: Anticipate Satan's deceit; Fill your mind with God's Word.

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