

STRONGMAN'S

HIS NAME....

WHAT'S HIS GAME?

An Authoritative Biblical Approach to Spiritual Warfare

DRS. JERRY & CAROL ROBESON



**WHITAKER
HOUSE**

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STRONGMAN'S HIS NAME...WHAT'S HIS GAME?
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Preface

Most of us have seen the advertisement showing a ninety-eight-pound weakling getting sand kicked in his face by the huge beach bully. The muscle-bound loudmouth then walks off with the poor guy's girlfriend.

The next scene shows the discouraged young man starting a muscle-building program. He vows fervently that he will never be humiliated like that again.

After a few short months of intense exercise, we see that he has developed into a gorgeous specimen of manhood.

The last frame shows our hero delivering a well-aimed blow to the jaw of the bully with the appropriate caption, "Take that, you rat, and don't ever bother my girl again!"

On a spiritual level, God wants to turn you into a spiritual dynamo so that you can stand up to Satan, the bully of the universe, and tell him he can't take advantage of you.

Listen as Jesus tells us how we are to live now that He has defeated the Enemy.

And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. (Mark 16:17–18)

This isn't saying that you will be *looking* for demons to attack. It simply means that you won't have to put up with being knocked around or confused by their disruptive activities. You will be able to nail them in their tracks when they pop their heads up and, as a result, live a victorious Christian life.

We are told that "God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (2 Timothy 1:7).

Isn't that what you want? Let us show you how you can be "*more than conquerors through him that loved us*" (Romans 8:37).

—Jerry and Carol Robeson

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Introduction

As children of God, we must understand that our heavenly Father is *good*. His chief goal in our lives is to make us the best people we can possibly be. Everything He does as He deals with us in our Christian lives is to develop our potential to the greatest degree possible.

On the other hand, Satan is totally evil. Jesus gave us Satan's job description in John 10:10, when He said, "*The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.*"

To better understand who God is, let's look at the attributes and characteristics of God, which He has revealed about Himself in His Word.

ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

GOD IS:

1. Spirit
2. Holy—He has never been touched by sin.
3. Eternal—He has always existed.
4. Infinite—without limits except when He has limited Himself by His Word.
5. Omnipresent—everywhere at once.
6. Omniscient—all knowing.
7. Omnipotent—all mighty.
8. Truth—He never, ever lies.
9. Just—100 percent fair in His actions with us.
10. Righteous—totally good.
11. Life—He isn't just alive...He *is* Life.
12. Unchangeable—"*Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning*" (James 1:17).
13. Sovereign—absolute supreme ruler. But His sovereignty is in complete harmony with His other attributes. God never, ever steps out of character in any one of His attributes.
14. Love—He is the most loving personality in the universe.
15. Faithful—absolutely trustworthy.
16. Merciful—beyond human comprehension.
17. Provident—watches over and cares for His creation.

*God's attributes never get out of balance with each other.
He never acts out of character.*

Strongman's His Name...What's His Game?

For this reason, we can trust and have confidence in God's judgment concerning our lives. He will *always* do what is best for us. He is totally wise, good, and just. His love for us is so great that it is beyond understanding, and He is absolutely trustworthy. So why would anyone ever want to disregard His leading and advice in their lives?

Now, what about the enemy? What does the Bible reveal about his character?

ATTRIBUTES OF THE DEVIL

THE DEVIL IS:

1. A liar
2. A murderer
3. A sower of discord
4. An adversary
5. Cunning
6. Wicked
7. Malignant—totally evil
8. Cowardly
9. A tempter
10. A thief
11. Without principles
12. Proud
13. Deceitful
14. Fierce and cruel
15. Aggressive
16. A destroyer

As we compare these two lists of attributes, who do you suppose causes sickness and suffering in the human race?

Understand that the devil is not a negative God, but a fallen angel. As a result of the fall, he did not become more powerful. Sin *always* weakens whatever it touches. Are we stronger or weaker after we have sinned? Just because he was Lucifer does not nullify the fact that he is nothing now compared to what he was when he was created perfect. However, if we get into the works of the flesh, he is powerful because that is his playground.

Some of the works of the devil are sin, sickness, fear, death, depression, murder, temptation, deception, lust, and rebellion. But 1 John 3:8 informs us, "*For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.*" Now, in the name of Jesus, we have victory over the devil and his works because Jesus made them of no effect.

God will never stoop so low as to use one of the works of the devil to deal with His children. God would not have sent Jesus to destroy the works of the devil only to pick them back up to use on those He loves. We can have confidence that God has enough wisdom to deal with us on a higher level than the devil would use.

TRUST IN THE LORD

Many have unfairly attributed the devil's acts to God. The results are devastating. What can a person do if he believes it is God who sent sickness into his life to teach him something? He shouldn't fight against God, so he allows the sickness to rob him of his health when he should be standing against it in the name of Jesus to be healed. We have to be able to recognize who is doing what in our lives if we are going to be able to react correctly according to God's Word.

OPEN DOORS

Now let's look at a very important truth in spiritual warfare. Paul told us that we are the determining factor in whether the devil can operate in our lives or not. He said, *"Neither give place to the devil."* Or, as the *Amplified Bible* says, *"Leave no room or foothold for the devil...give no opportunity to him"* (Ephesians 4:27). When we allow openings in our spiritual lives, the devil feels he has the right to take advantage of us in those specific territories. If we keep the doors closed, he can't do what he would like to do.

The Bible introduces us to the open door principle in Genesis 4:7, where the Lord said to Cain, *"If thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him."*

God told Cain that Satan was crouched at his doorway, waiting to leap into his life. Cain had the choice, and because he chose to open the door to jealousy, Satan led him into the murder of his brother, Abel.

Sin is progressive. One thing leads to another until we find ourselves in big trouble. For that reason, we must learn to close those doors, and keep them closed, before they develop into something harmful.

WHAT ARE OPEN DOORS?

LINEAGE

An area that we should examine closely is inherited weakness from our family lineage. Our ancestors may have done things we are completely unaware of that can still affect us today.

The first commandment concerning graven images carries this warning, *"Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me"* (Exodus 20:5). We'll be touching this in more detail later on, complete with a model prayer, so that you can shut this door if it should apply to your case.

Strongman's His Name...What's His Game?

CRISIS

An emotional or physical crisis can leave doors open that we must go back and close so that the enemy will not continue to hassle us in that part of our lives.

IGNORANCE

Ignorance of the Word can leave openings in our defenses that are devastating. Paul warned believers six times “*not to be ignorant*” concerning the Word of God. If you don’t know your rights as a child of God, how can you defend yourself?

After we have gotten up and dusted ourselves off for the umpteenth time, the questions usually come, “Where did *that* come from? Why is this happening to me? I thought when I got saved I would be protected from these kinds of things. What can I do to stop this vicious cycle?”

Let’s go to God’s Word and find the answers to those questions.

PUT ON YOUR ARMOR

Ephesians is our first stop:

Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

(Ephesians 6:10–13)

Recognize your enemy. Put on the armor of God. Don’t sit around feeling sorry for yourself. Begin doing what you must do for yourself. (We’re going to show you how to do this in later chapters.)

We see that it is not human personalities we are fighting. It is Satan himself, with all his henchmen.

Don’t let this fact throw you, though. The promise of God is, “*Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you*” (James 4:7).

From there we go on to 2 Timothy 2:15, where we are instructed, “*Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*” When we are grounded in God’s Word and find ourselves in battle with the enemy, we will have no question about who we are fighting, what the procedure is to defeat him, and by whose authority we will gain the victory.

Hosea the prophet warned the Hebrews: “*My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge*” (Hosea 4:6). This is basic. Buy yourself a set of cassette tapes of the New Testament and listen to them instead of some of the other things you listen to. Find a church that preaches the Word of God and feeds your spirit.

FAITH IS THE KEY

The reason we need such a church is because, “*Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God*” (Romans 10:17). We can’t get away from the Word because it is the cornerstone of our faith. Our power source is faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His Word. When we fully understand this principle, we are ready to begin putting His instructions into practice.

Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them. (Matthew 18:18–20)

Can you see the power God gives us when we let our faith level rise through the hearing of the Word of God? As we go through this study, we’ll see the importance of binding the enemy in the name of Jesus and loosing the power of the Holy Spirit. This does not mean that the Holy Spirit is tied up and needs to be loosed. When we loose, we release or invite the Holy Spirit to accomplish in us what the will of God is for our lives. God can only do what we allow Him to do. So, by an act of our wills we open ourselves up to Him so that He can freely work as He sees fit in our lives, families, or situations. Then, after the enemy has been kicked out of his stronghold and the breach has been repaired, we can keep him from ever gaining an advantage over us in that area again.

OUR PART

Note that God doesn’t do everything. There is a part that we must do.

*The night is far spent, the day is at hand: **let us** therefore **cast off** the works of darkness, and **let us put on** the armour of light. **Let us walk honestly**, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But **put ye on** the Lord Jesus Christ, and **make not provision** for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.*

(Romans 13:12–14, emphasis added)

Positive action is required. Wake up, walk honestly, and put off the works of darkness. Remember that Paul was writing here to a Christian body of believers just like you and me. He was not writing to pagans. These believers were into the works of darkness. Some of them were still hanging on to past or pet sins. If that is the case in our lives, we must cast off those things that pull us down spiritually. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you where your weak areas are and start changing them with the help of the Lord.

Then we are to put on the armor of light and the Lord Jesus Christ as we would put on a garment. Don’t start your day without making up your mind not to fulfill the desires and lusts of the flesh. Put on the holiness of Christ so you will not sin against God. That takes willpower. But when we will to act, God is then released to pour His power into our life so we can be overcomers.

Strongman's His Name...What's His Game?

THE STRONGMAN

Now here is a major truth we will be dealing with as we go through this study. *“How can one enter into a strong man’s house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house”* (Matthew 12:29).

When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace: but when a stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him, he taketh from him all his armour wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils. (Luke 11:21–22)

WHO? WHAT? HOW?

In these two parallel passages, Jesus called the demonic presence a “strongman.” Who is the strongman? What is his name? What does he do?

Once we know the answers to those questions, we can zero in and bind him in the name of Jesus, forbidding him to come back to harass us again. Then, according to Matthew 18:18, we loose the power of God to fill our lives and repair the damage done by the strongman.

It is possible to spend hours binding symptoms. The mortal blow comes, however, when we sever the main root, or the strongman, who is energizing the activity. If we don’t take care of it properly the first time, the problem will return. It is like a carrot. We don’t occupy ourselves pulling all the little hair roots, we pull up the carrot and all the little hair roots come along with it or die from lack of nourishment.

In warfare, when the general surrenders, all the troops under his command automatically surrender with him. The same principle applies in spiritual warfare.

Jesus gave further light on this subject:

When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he saith, I will return unto my house whence I came out. And when he cometh, he findeth it swept and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh to him seven other spirits more wicked than himself; and they enter in, and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. (Luke 11:24–26)

FOLLOW-UP

Do you see that it wasn’t enough to just bind the strongman and cast him out with all his belongings? Follow-up work was necessary. We must learn how to *maintain* the freedom God has given to us, whether it is a case of possession or just harassment. That will keep us from having to repeat the same hassles over and over again in our Christian lives. Some Christians never seem to get beyond a certain point in their spiritual lives. Whenever they arrive at a particular plateau, “something” seems to kick their spiritual legs out from under them, and they land back at square one again. After the “house” is cleaned by repentance of sin and rejection of satanic influences, we must then feed on the Word so that the “house” is transformed into the temple of the Holy Spirit.

CAN CHRISTIANS BE POSSESSED?

Don't misunderstand. It is not that we see demons everywhere and in everybody. *Not everything is caused by demons.* However, the point is that, when it is an evil influence that is operating, we will recognize it and deal with it according to God's Word.

We do *not* believe that Christians can be demon-possessed. But they certainly can be attacked in their minds, wills, emotions, and bodies. They can be troubled, pressed, buffeted, harassed, depressed, obsessed, oppressed, in bondage, and bruised. Those people who are in the final state of possession or are indwelt have long since severed their relationship with God. They may still hang on to a form of godliness, but it is only an empty shell camouflaging their true spiritual condition.

Although much of the problem in this area is a matter of semantics, it is still necessary to state some clear principles of what God's Word actually says about the matter. The following are some of those Scriptures that lead us to believe that blood-washed believers, living according to the Word of God and loving the Lord with all of their hearts, cannot be demon-possessed.

1. MATTHEW 6:24 AND LUKE 16:13 *"No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."*

It is true that "*mammon*" refers to riches in this verse, but the principle still remains true that it is either God or the devil that rules in our lives, not both at the same time. (Mammon was the demonic god of wealth and profit.)

2. JAMES 3:11–12 *"Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter? Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh."*
3. 1 CORINTHIANS 10:21 *"Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils."*

This has reference to the Lord's supper, but once again we see the principle that God will not share us with the devil under any circumstances.

4. 1 CORINTHIANS 3:16–17 *"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are."*

Can you imagine demons running around in God's holy temple? I can't!

5. 1 CORINTHIANS 6:19 *"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?"*

Some believe that, under certain circumstances, demons can possess the soul and body of a Christian without violating the spirit. But this verse states that our "**body** is the temple of the Holy Ghost" (emphasis added), not of the devil. In any event, we are not some kind of condominium, with demons living in one or two rooms and God in the other. It is either one or the other.

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6. 1 JOHN 4:4 *“Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he [God] that is in you, than he [the devil] that is in the world.”*

John told us where the devil is if God is in us: he is “*in the world.*” What we are really discussing when we wonder whether demons can possess a Christian is simply whether God is stronger than the devil. If we believe a demon can possess the very temple of God, then we have no faith in the fact that God’s protection is complete when we serve Him with all our hearts.

7. 1 CORINTHIANS 2:12 *“Now we have received, not the spirit of the world [demonic], but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.”*
8. 1 JOHN 5:18 *“We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.”*

The Greek word for “*toucheth*” means to fasten, cling to, or attach oneself to. Here we are told that if we are not practicing sin (*Amplified Bible* and Spanish translation), the devil doesn’t have a right to touch us.

Some Christians mistakenly attribute works of the flesh to demon possession. Our flesh has some strong ideas of how it wants to live. If we don’t use the power of the Holy Spirit to keep it subdued, it can raise havoc.

Then there are others who would rather have demons cast out of them than personally have to deal with their flesh and keep it on the altar of sacrifice as Romans 12:1 commands: *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”*

It is not God’s will for His children to live in constant bondage.

“If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed” (John 8:36). That is the reason we have taken the time to do this study. We want you to know that God has provided complete liberty for you over the enemy. We have power over the forces of hell when they attack us or members of our families.

PAUL

Paul didn’t beat around the bush. He told us who it is we are fighting. *“Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil”* (Ephesians 6:11).

A lot of people would like to believe that it is just the evil days in which we live or negative influences that cause our spiritual problems. No, we must be more specific than that. We are fighting an adversary, and his name is Satan.

PETER

Peter called him by name. *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: whom resist stedfast in the faith”* (1 Peter 5:8–9).

JAMES

James comforted us when he told us to “*resist the devil, and he will flee from you*” (James 4:7). This is a picture of what happens in the spirit world when we walk in the authority of God’s Word and use the name of Jesus. Satan and his demons have to obey. They don’t have a choice in the matter! They begin to tremble and run when we speak according to God’s Word.

So as you study, keep in mind that it is God’s will for you to be free from every evil influence of the devil. He wants you to be free to enjoy all the good things He has prepared for His children. He promises us salvation, peace, joy, health, protection, provision, wisdom, and eternal life to name just a few. Take what you need from the Word of God so that you will never again be robbed of God’s very best in your life.

Remember, “*though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ*” (2 Corinthians 10:3–5).

In our study of God’s Word, we have found that there are at least sixteen strongmen mentioned by name. We will study them one by one and show you how they like to operate and their symptoms on the tree diagrams. Just as a doctor diagnoses disease by pinpointing the symptoms presented by the patient, you will recognize symptoms or manifestations or minor spirits of the strongman so that you can know exactly where the devil is coming from. Then, instead of making stabs in the dark when you are under attack by the enemy, you will know immediately who is trying to hassle you or members of your family and also how you can resist and drive them away according to biblical teaching.

Spirit of Divination

Acts 16:16–18

Fortune-teller, Soothsayer

Micah 5:12; Isaiah 2:6

Warlock/Witch, Sorcerer

Exodus 22:18

Stargazer—Zodiac, Horoscopes

Isaiah 47:13; Leviticus 19:26; Jeremiah 10:2

Drugs (Greek, pharmakos)

Galatians 5:20; Revelation 9:21; 18:23; 21:8; 22:15

Rebellion

1 Samuel 15:23

Hypnotist, Enchanter

Deuteronomy 18:11; Isaiah 19:3

Water Witching

Hosea 4:12

Magic

Exodus 7:11; 8:7; 9:11

Roots are
“...works of the flesh.”
—Galatians 5:19–21

“By their fruits ye shall
know them.”
—Matthew 7:20

According to Matthew 18:18...

Bind: Spirit of Divination

Loose: Holy Spirit and Gifts

1 Corinthians 12:9–12

Spirit of Divination

The dictionary defines *divination* as, “the practice of attempting to foretell future events or discover hidden knowledge by occult or supernatural means.”¹

God’s Word goes a step further by showing that people who divine are controlled or possessed by supernatural spirits that enable them to receive information beyond the human realm. God’s prophets receive their divine revelation by the Holy Spirit. On the other side of the spectrum are demonic spirits feeding information to fortune-tellers and sorcerers.

PAUL

Luke told us of such a case in the book of Acts.

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 the servants of the most high God, which show unto us the way of salvation. And this did she 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. (Acts 16:16–18)

The girl was a known fortune-teller, or soothsayer, in the community. Although she spoke the truth about Paul and his party, it was not her intent to help them through her proclamations. The very fact that a woman of her reputation would choose to advertise their ministry was a terrible reproach to the name of Jesus.

As Paul became more and more grieved in his spirit, the Holy Spirit revealed what was going on, and he rebuked the spirit of divination in the name of Jesus Christ.

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NOTES

*God works through
His children against
the power of evil.*

He didn't speak to the girl but to the spirit that was operating through her.

We have a clear example here that the power of God is always greater than the power of the devil. "*Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world*" (1 John 4:4). The demon had to leave when it was ordered to do so in the name of Jesus by a child of God.

GOD WANTS YOU!

It also reveals that God wants to work through His children *against* the power of evil. The battle of the universe is God against the devil, good against evil, and we must choose which side we prefer. It is impossible to dabble with both powers at the same time. God's Word thunders down through the ages, "*Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord,...for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?*" (2 Corinthians 6:17, 14).

One of the problems today is that many Christians are unaware of where the dividing line is between the things of God and Satan's territory. When God's people stray into those areas that appear harmless but in reality are demonic, it creates all kinds of havoc in their spiritual lives.

Let's begin by showing what we must stay clear of as far as divination is concerned so we can live the kind of life that pleases God.

MECHANICAL PROPS

The spirit of divination often makes use of mechanical props such as sand, bones, entrails of a sacrifice, tea leaves, tarot cards, lines on the palm, horoscopes, lumps on the head, Ouija boards, planchets, crystal balls, occult computer games, charms, and drugs, etc. It also often uses magic, levitation, water witching, automatic writing, occult literature or objects, and handwriting analysis.

And what does God say about these things? He says:

Therefore hearken not ye to your prophets, nor to your diviners, nor to your dreamers, nor to your enchanters, nor to your sorcerers, which speak unto you, saying, Ye

shall not serve the king of Babylon: for they prophesy a lie unto you, to remove you far from your land.

(Jeremiah 27:9–10)

And they left all the commandments of the LORD their God, and made them molten images, even two calves, and made a grove, and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served Baal. And they caused their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire, and used divination and enchantments, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger.

(2 Kings 17:16–17)

NOTES

WHY GOD HATES DIVINATION

God hates divination because it leads people to seek satanic intelligence for guidance in their lives instead of God and His Word. We cannot mix the guidance of the Holy Spirit with that of Satan without getting into problems. Millions of people in our world are doing just that when they consult their horoscopes instead of God's Word for their daily direction.

HOROSCOPES

When you pin many of these people down, they get a silly little grin on their faces and quickly tell you it is only a harmless game. One person told me that nobody really gets too serious about horoscopes. It's just fun to see if anything comes true. Later, I found that it was a much more serious problem area in this person's life than "just fun."

A few years ago, I picked up a *Miami Herald* newspaper with the headline blaring, "32 Million, Mostly Women, Believe in Astrology and Let It Run Their Lives."

The Gallup Poll went on to state that, "One in four adults reads an astrology column regularly and believes their life is governed by the position of the stars.

"The survey shows that almost as many churchgoers as non-churchgoers believe in astrology.

"One of the most surprising findings was that nearly eight in ten Americans (nine in ten under thirty years old) can name the sign under which they were born."²

NOTES

*Only a loving Father
can give us direction.*

MY SURVEY

In a survey I made while speaking in ladies' religious meetings, I asked the question, "How many of you are now involved in horoscopes or other occult practices, or were involved before you were saved and did not know that you should renounce any connection with those occult practices even after accepting Christ?"

I estimated that 90 percent of the women raised their hands. Mind you, I wasn't speaking to followers of Satan. These were Christian ladies who had either left a wide-open door because of their past actions or were still dabbling in it after accepting Christ!

When we reach out beyond God's provision for us, we are in danger of hooking into demonic knowledge. Can we really take that chance?

Demon spirits cannot be relied upon for guidance. They mix their limited knowledge with lies to hold people's attention. Their brand of guidance leads their followers downward as they are slowly sucked into the whirlpool of evil. Only a loving Father can give us the direction we need today.

CREATION VERSUS CREATOR

Let now the astrologers, the stargazers, the monthly prognosticators, stand up, and save thee from these things that shall come upon thee. Behold, they shall be as stubble; the fire shall burn them; they shall not deliver themselves from the power of the flame.

(Isaiah 47:13-14)

Deuteronomy 18:12 informs us that one of the reasons God drove the nations out from before the Israelites was because of the sin of divination. Maybe those nations started out studying the stars as a pastime. But over a period of time it became more and more of a fascination to them until, in the final stages, they worshipped and served "*creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever*" (Romans 1:25).

Ur of Chaldea had its moon god worship. Abraham had to be called out of it before God could begin using him.

The tower of Babel was an apparent attempt to study the heavens so that the people could become like gods themselves. God interrupted it before it got out of hand.

The ancient Egyptians had their sun god worship and they were overthrown. All down through history, the nations and people who became involved in occult worship were destroyed.

FORTUNE-TELLERS

Not long after we moved to a small town in Oregon, we noticed that a fortune-teller had established a place of business directly across from a Christian bookstore we often visited. We agreed together with the owner and manager that each time we looked in the fortune-teller's direction or passed in front of the building, we would curse it in the name of Jesus and bind the spirit of divination involved there.

A week or so later, a rival group of fortune-tellers broke all the windows in the building and, shortly after, the place was empty. Praise the Lord!

We are warned to stay away from fortune-tellers or, as the Bible calls them, soothsayers and seers.

"I will cut off witchcrafts out of thine hand; and thou shalt have no more soothsayers" (Micah 5:12).

People who put their trust in this kind of practice are usually full of confusion, problems, fears, misunderstandings, hatred, bitterness, unbreakable habits, and calamity because that is the end result of such satanic practices.

HYPNOTISTS, CHARMERS, PASSIVE MIND STATES

Charmers or chanters today would be labeled hypnotists. Hypnotism is big business now. We are inundated with commercials telling about people who have stopped smoking or lost weight through hypnosis. Some dentists and doctors use it to control their patients' pain. Other individuals use self-hypnosis to help them concentrate or sleep at night.

But don't be fooled. Just because the initial benefits may be positive does not mean that the long-range results will be the same.

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*Never allow anyone to
tinker with your mind,
which is the doorway
to the inner man or spirit.*

For hypnosis to be effective, the individual must allow himself to go into a passive mind state so that he can be manipulated by the hypnotist in whatever direction they may have agreed upon beforehand.

A passive mind state is dangerous because the mind is left unguarded and consequently susceptible to any spirit that may be waiting for just such an opportunity. This is not to say that every case of hypnosis results in demon possession, but it can be the beginning of a very negative experience that can affect the person spiritually.

I remember the case of a doctor friend of mine. She received the baptism of the Holy Spirit but had never experienced freedom of expression in her prayer language. I noticed that whenever the subject of hypnosis came up in our conversation, she was immediately defensive. One day I asked if she had ever used it in her practice.

“Not really,” she answered, “I just put my patients in a very light trance to help reduce the pain.”

In my studies I found that the trance that relieves pain in the patient is actually the deepest kind of all. When I informed her of this, she smiled sheepishly. I quickly told her that if she wanted to play games she could do it by herself.

At this, she acknowledged that I was correct and prayed with me, renouncing the practice. Immediately, she had a fluency in her prayer language that she had never enjoyed previously.

We must never allow anyone to tinker with our minds, which are the doorways to the inner man or spirit. Neither should we clear our minds or set them up like miniature screens for thoughts to be emblazoned across it. Nor should we chant special words over and over again to attain a certain state of mind. Satan has access to our minds as he tries to interject his thoughts and will upon us. When we leave them blank, for whatever or whoever to put something into it, we are just asking for trouble.

Subliminal messages are being recorded into music and other relaxing sounds to convey messages to the mind. More and more people are being harassed mentally and emotionally after listening to worldly motivational

tapes and New Age music. These can be devilish devices used to neutralize unsuspecting persons.

GOD'S WAY OF SPEAKING TO US

God's method of dealing with us is always through our hearts or spirits. Obviously, it is apparent who will be left to fill your mind if it is left unguarded.

Meditation on God's Word is not an exercise of the mind, but of the spirit that refreshes us in a spiritual way.

If you have been a hypnotist or been hypnotized, it is necessary to ask forgiveness for that sin, bind the spirit of divination in the name of Jesus, and promise God you will never do it again.

One person related to me that she could see herself enter into an elevator that went down to different levels and doors opening in her mind as she was being hypnotized. She had to reverse the process and shut all the doors in the name of Jesus before she could get any spiritual liberty.

Paul revealed that the successful follower of Christ renews his mind by immersing it in the Word of God to keep from being forced into the world's mold and also to find the good, acceptable, and perfect will of God. *"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God"* (Romans 12:2).

MAGIC—SORCERY

"Magic is universal, and may be 'black' or 'white.' Black magic attempts to produce evil results through such methods as curses, spells, destruction of models of one's enemy, and alliance with evil spirits. It often takes the form of witchcraft. White magic tries to undo curses or spells, and to use occult forces for the good of oneself and others. The magician tries to compel a god, demon, or spirit to work for him; or he follows a pattern of occult practices to bend psychic forces to his will."³

In today's language, a magician or sorcerer would be called a witch.

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*Meditation on God's Word
refreshes our spirits.*

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Included in the list of those who will be cast in the lake of fire are sorcerers. *“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death”* (Revelation 21:8).

Paul listed “*witchcraft*” as one of the “*works of the flesh*” in Galatians 5:19–20. He went on to say in verse 21 that *“they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”*

Observe the progression downward. First, the process begins in the fleshly desires. Whether it is a quest for special powers or attention, the person begins entertaining a fascination for such things on a fleshly level. As the desire leads to actions, the deadly roots begin entwining themselves around the will of the individual, allowing the strongman to enter the picture as he becomes more and more of a dominant force.

This is of course the usual pattern Satan uses for all sin. The best way to keep from falling into temptation is to resist and cut it off when the first fascination begins.

John Newport states in his book *Demons, Demons, Demons* that there are five thousand witches in New York, ten thousand in Los Angeles, and in the entire United States there are one half as many witches as clergymen.⁴ In view of the explosion of the occult since that time, we are probably approaching the day when witches will outnumber clergymen.

It is imperative that God’s people learn how to do battle on a personal basis with the demonic forces operating not only in the jungles of Africa but right here in our nation. Only then will we be able to force back the hordes of evil long enough to reach this world with the gospel, which is God’s number one priority at this time.

PROGNOSTICATION

What concerns me is the believers who cross the line into demonic areas because of ignorance. Handwriting analysis is a good example of this. It is merely a modern variation of what the Bible refers to as “prognostication,”

in which handwriting becomes the prop instead of bones, tea leaves, tarot cards, bumps on the head, lines on the palm, etc. The end results, however, are the same. By the study of handwriting they seek to prognosticate, or tell an individual's personal characteristics, and, as a result, their probable future.

HANDWRITING ANALYSIS

A few years ago, it came to my attention that an assistant pastor's wife was heavily involved in handwriting analysis. She had been analyzing not only the pastor's handwriting samples but also those of the people in the church, many of them without their knowledge. She felt this would help her husband deal with them.

When I pointed out the dangers inherent in such a practice, she became angry. I indicated in the Word what God had to say about prognostication and told her that if she continued now, after being warned, she could no longer claim ignorance. From that point on she and her family would be out of the protecting hand of God.

She stormed away, informing me that her mother, who was supposedly a good Christian, had taught her how to do it and therefore it could not be bad.

A few days later, she was driving down the road when the motor in her car suddenly caught fire. She barely had time to pull off the road and scramble to safety before the car exploded in flames. Instead of serving as confirmation of what I had told her, it enraged her all the more and she accused me of putting some kind of hex on her. She later had an affair with a married man she ensnared in her web of deceit.

CHURCH MAGIC

Another seemingly innocent practice is the use of magic in churches to entertain the children and youth. It may be true that a few magic tricks seem harmless enough. But when it is traced back to its root, magic and sorcery are basically one and the same.

"The Exodus record says that the Egyptian magicians copied Moses in turning the rods into serpents (7:11),

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in turning the water into blood (7:12), and in producing frogs (8:7), but failed to produce the lice (8:18–19) and were themselves incapacitated by the boils (9:11). The account leaves us free to decide whether they were clever conjurors or whether they used occult methods.”⁵

Children have a difficult time differentiating between church and occult magic. They naturally assume that all magic is OK. After all, they reason, isn’t it pretty much the same as what we see in children’s church?

It seems to me that we can find something better to do with the precious time we have to teach God’s Word to our children than dabbling with something that has satanic roots.

WATER WITCHING

The very name *water witching* should give a clue as to which domain it falls under. Divining for water is another way of putting it. When you really stop to think about it, there is no natural law that would cause a stick, held a certain way in someone’s hands, to be drawn downward to a source of water deep in the ground.

Hosea instructed the Israelites that they were not to ask counsel of “*their stocks, and their staff*” but of God (Hosea 4:12). They had begun to worship their divining rods and staffs and, as a result, God labeled it an abomination to Him.

If God could provide water for the Israelites in the desert for forty years, couldn’t He also show where water is located today if we ask Him to guide us? He has given us nine gifts of the Spirit, and among them is a word of knowledge to show us the things we need to know.

SOUVENIRS AND IDOLS

As missionaries, we have lived in foreign countries where idols and relics are occasionally brought home by people for souvenirs. To our horror, we learned that some factories allow the priests and witch doctors to pronounce their incantations over the items before they are taken to market for sale. And of course many of the idols have been dug up from graves and represent evil spirits.

I recommend that you do as I did. Go through your house with a fine-tooth comb and destroy anything that even appears like the occult or has anything to do with foreign religions. Look very carefully. You may be surprised at what you find. Even if it is expensive, break it to bits in the name of Jesus. Under no circumstances should you sell it so that someone else gets hit with the curse.

Let me insert a word of caution here. Clean your own house. Leave your neighbors' and your friends' houses for them to clean. God can speak to them just as He speaks to you.

The command of God is very explicit.

*The graven images of their gods shall ye burn with fire: thou shalt not desire the silver or gold that is on them, nor take it unto thee, lest thou be snared therein: for it is an abomination to the LORD thy God. **Neither shalt thou bring an abomination into thine house, lest thou be a cursed thing like it:** but thou shalt utterly detest it, and thou shalt utterly abhor it; for it is a cursed thing.* (Deuteronomy 7:25–26, emphasis added)

OUIJA BOARDS

Ouija boards are not cute playthings. They can be utilized by demons to draw people into a satanic web as dangerous as what a spider uses to trap flies.

A friend of mine, her husband, and another couple decided to experiment with an Ouija board one evening. They asked the power behind the board, “Who are you?”

“You know who I am,” was the answer.

They asked the same question a second time and received the same answer again.

Persistently they inquired the third time, “Who are you?”

The game ended abruptly with the shocking reply, “Go to hell!”

Next they tried levitation. The two couples were able to raise a table by placing their hands flat on the top. But one night the table rose into the air and began dancing

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so violently they couldn't stop it. Frightened, they left the house for a few hours until things calmed down and returned to normal.

These things are not something to mess around with unless you are ready to accept the long-term consequences—life on Satan's terms.

GAMES

Make sure you know what kind of table games and even video games your children are playing. Many of them have occult formats, teachings, and symbolisms. They are now teaching young people how to cast spells and contact spirit guides through these so-called games. Just because it is fun doesn't mean it is wholesome.

CARTOONS AND TOYS

Beware of the occult teaching that is being written into cartoons for younger children. They are being programmed with Eastern mysticism and witchcraft practices. Take time to find out which ones are taboo for your child.

Many of today's cartoons have dolls on the market to represent their main cast of characters. Some of these are demonic in looks and others are not. They invoke the imaginations of the children to live in the occult and even welcome the displacement of God as the real Master of our universe.

REBELLION—STUBBORNNESS

Before I pray with you, let me read a Scripture that is really a study by itself but which does pertain to what we have been discussing in this chapter. *"For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry"* (1 Samuel 15:23).

The basic sin of witchcraft is rebellion against the commandments of God. Instead of choosing God's way, these people accepted an inferior god, Satan, and stubbornly refused to give God His rightful place in their lives. If you rebelliously go about doing your own thing without submitting to authority or consulting God, it is as odious to

God as if you were drinking blood in a witch's coven. God demands to be number one in our lives.

If you haven't accepted Christ as your Savior, simply say, "Lord Jesus Christ, forgive me of my sins and accept me as Your child. I accept You as my personal Savior and promise to follow the instruction of Your Word from this day on. Thank You, Jesus, for saving me from all my sins. Amen."

Now that you are a child of God, according to Matthew 18:18, we are going to bind the strongman, the spirit of divination, and loose the power of the Holy Spirit in your life.

"Father, I come to You in the name of Jesus, thanking You for Your Word and the Holy Spirit that has made me aware of my sin. Forgive me of any past or current involvement in occult activities. I love You, God, and I want to live a life that is pleasing to You.

"Satan, in the name of Jesus, I bind you and the spirit of divination according to Matthew 18:18, which clearly states, *"Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven."* Consider any pact that was made either by me or my family in the past to be broken once and for all. You have no hold on my life or that of my family from now on in the name of Jesus.

"Thank You, Lord Jesus, for freeing me, and I worship You. According to Matthew 18:18, which promises, *"Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven,"* I loose the power of the Holy Spirit in my life to restore and fill me with Your power. Give me a thirst for Your Word. Thank You, Lord, for hearing and answering my prayer. Amen."

Familiar Spirit

Leviticus 19:31

Necromancer

Deuteronomy 18:11; 1 Chronicles 10:13

Medium

1 Samuel 28

Peeping & Muttering

Isaiah 8:19; 29:4; 59:3

Passive Mind States, Dreamers

Jeremiah 23:16, 25, 32; 27:9-10

Drugs (Greek, pharmakos)

Galatians 5:20; Revelation 9:21; 18:23; 21:8; 22:15

Spiritist

1 Samuel 28

Clairvoyant

1 Samuel 28:7-8

Yoga

Jeremiah 29:8

False Prophecy

Isaiah 8:19; 29:4

Roots are
“...works of the flesh.”
—Galatians 5:19-21

“By their fruits ye shall
know them.”
—Matthew 7:20

According to Matthew 18:18...

Bind: Familiar Spirit

Loose: Holy Spirit and Gifts

1 Corinthians 12:9-12