

Dangers of Occultism: Superstitions

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In previous studies we saw that Occultism is gaining knowledge & power thru the supernatural; we saw that it is ancient pagan symbols and sayings. We also saw that it is all around us in common things and that it is utterly opposed to the ideas of God in Christ. Now we turn our thoughts to the occult idea of being superstitious.

Superstition has often been confused with Faith. Consider the words of Festus in Acts 25:19 as an example. Using a dictionary (Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 10th ed, pg 1183) we define superstition as:

- 1 a: a belief or practice resulting from ignorance, fear of the unknown, trust in magic or chance, or a false conception of causation
- b: an irrational abject attitude of mind toward the supernatural, nature, or God resulting from superstition
- 2: a notion maintained despite evidence to the contrary

In contrast to this, we know that Faith is:

1. The substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. (Hebrews 11:1)
2. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (Romans 10:17)

When contrasting the differences of Faith and Superstition, we might compare them by noting that faith results from understanding while superstition results from ignorance. We might also say that faith comes from a source while superstition comes from the mind or heart. Faith and superstition are not the same thing; in fact they represent total opposites in regards to the knowledge they claim. To be fair, even Christians confuse superstition with faith. Paul warned Timothy in 1 Timothy 6:20-21 of the dangers of thinking that could be described as superstitious .

How do we avoid this mistake? Since we have confirmed that faith comes from the Word of God, we must also conclude that what does not come from the Word is not faith (*..whatever is not from faith is sin* - Romans 14:23b). Paul told the Corinthians "not to exceed what is written" in 1 Corinthians 4:6. Ultimately, what is written is all we know about God; beyond that it is superstition (2 Corinthians 1:13). What about those who want MORE than this? Jesus' condemnation in Matthew 16:4 gins true then and now for those who want signs from God.

In contrast, superstition comes from coincidences and happenstances which, according to Ecclesiastes 9:11 may have no relevance in discerning anything. Superstition comes from feelings and intuition, which the Bible says is dangerous for deceitfulness (Jeremiah 17:9). Superstition comes from false teachers and teachings, which are a constant danger around us (Matthew 7:15). Finally, superstitions come from worldly philosophies (such as evolution, etc) which are mere speculations by godless men (1 Corinthians 2:14).

Christians need to reject superstition as a source of spiritual discernment. We must avoid the temptation of superstition instead making up our minds to act by faith. We need to compel our feelings to follow understanding. Finally, we need to ignore circumstances that are random or cannot be attributed to consequential actions in our lives.