

# *Ministering to Christians Seeking Spiritual Freedom*



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Dear Life of Freedom Ministries Supporter:

## **Greetings!**

The Christian Church recognizes this season as Lent, preparing for Resurrection Sunday. But is it really March? In February it was warm and the flowers were starting to pop through in the flower bed. The last day of February had severe storms and tornados. This morning we woke up to snow! The snow was pretty, but it seems the weather has been backward. As usual, in Indiana, expect the unexpected. In so many ways, it can be like a ministry session. It doesn't always go as planned.

## **Praises:**

I praise God that I don't need to fear when a session doesn't go as I anticipate. Usually, it means He has done a greater work than I thought would be needed.

I praise God for giving me the stamina for some long days. I never thought that a job where I sit for most of the day would cause me to want to collapse and lay down!

I praise God for ministering to a particular person recently who was certain she was beyond help.

## **Short Report:**

Spiritism, contacting the spirit realm for information and/or power, is often thought to be only in primitive cultures. The reality is that it is also present in the West. Ms. CC's ancestry was filled with involvement in spiritism (sometimes called spiritualism). Ms. CC confessed her ancestors' involvement in spiritism as well as any she could remember she had been forced to do with them. We confronted the spirits, and there was a demon there named Spiritism. His hold was gone and was forced to leave. He had a friend there named Rejection who had to depart as well. The involvement of the family in spiritism led to a great deal of relational issues, causing the sense of rejection for Ms. CC. It was wonderful as the Holy Spirit ministered to her, bringing tears of joy as she knew she was accepted by the Lord.

## **Something to Consider:**

**Deuteronomy 18:9-13**—<sup>9</sup> When you enter the land the LORD your God is giving you, do not learn to imitate the detestable ways of the nations there. <sup>10</sup> Let no one be found among you who sacrifices their son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft,<sup>11</sup> or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. <sup>12</sup> Anyone who does these things is detestable to the LORD; because of these same detestable practices the LORD your God will drive out those nations before you. <sup>13</sup> You must be blameless before the LORD your God.

**1 Samuel 28:3**—<sup>3</sup> Now Samuel was dead, and all Israel had mourned for him and buried him in his own town of Ramah. Saul had expelled the mediums and spiritists from the land.

**1 Corinthians 4:20**—<sup>20</sup> For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power.

I was reminded on more than one occasion recently of how many Christians are not aware of the dangers of the occult. Sadly, they make light of the portrayal of the spirit world found in Hollywood or in books. The reality that I see, often, is that involvement in the occult brings a great deal of trouble to people and their families. In the case of Ms. CC, the occult practice was spiritism.

According to Meriam-Webster, spiritism is where the spirits of the dead communicate with the living, usually through a medium. Spiritism, or spiritualism, also is translated in some Bibles as the word necromancy, which means to conjure spirits of the dead for purposes of magically revealing the future or influencing the course of events. As is written in Deuteronomy 18, such activity is forbidden by God.

Why would God command us to not participate in spiritism? The second passage, 1 Samuel 28, records how King Saul sought out a medium so he could talk with Samuel. Even though Saul knew it was wrong, for he previously worked to expel the mediums for Israel, he was so desperate that he turned to the occult. The result is that he died of suicide. He had rejected God's command, more than once, leading him down a road of darkness to death.

Unfortunately, I see many times the consequences of people and their ancestors participating in spiritism. For whatever reason they initially became involved in spiritism, they are only drawn deeper and deeper into the world of the occult. As I wrote about Ms. CC, the family suffered because the evil spirits led them to reject their children. She had a great deal of hurt and pain, which was also shared with her children.

One thing that attracts people, especially hurting people, is the power of the occult. What is often not seen by these people, and by many Christians as well, is that power is also a part of Christianity. Power does not need to be dramatic. In fact, I much prefer it to not be dramatic. People turning to the occult to deal with pains of life need to see the power of Jesus Christ to bring healing and restoration. For example, it would have been nice for Ms. CC to have ancestors be healed by Jesus instead of looking to a medium. Her own pain would have reduced for sure. We saw in Jesus that where He went, the kingdom of God was present, and people were healed and set free. He did not just talk about the kingdom. He also showed us what the kingdom was like: healed the sick, raised the dead, delivered people, fed thousands, and more. He brought restoration to hurting people, and He still does today. (If you would like read more on this subject, an excellent book on this is James Kallas' *The Significance of the Synoptic Miracles*.)

**Prayer Concerns:**

Please pray for a current case that is more difficult than usual. Often times, cases like these lead to retaliation from the enemy, so please pray for our protection.

Please pray for me to have the wisdom I need for helping in this difficult situation.

Please pray for those who are debating to come for help that they will have the courage to do so. A number have called, asking for more information.

Rescued by Christ Jesus,



Ben Snyder

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