

## **QUESTION: Do you think all psychic ability is bad, or can God give people a "gift" that He wants them to use for His purposes?**

**ANSWER:** What is called "psychic ability" in our modern day is called "divination" and "consulting with familiar spirits" in the Bible, and it is always bad, because the power or "ability" is coming from demons. God forbids us from having anything to do with fortune-tellers, astrologers, mediums (those who try to consult the dead), channelers, or any kind of consulting with spirits. Other forms of divination are: the Ouija board, I Ching, palm reading, Tarot cards, numerology, and crystalomancy. **All forms of divination** are forbidden by God (see Deut. 18:9-12; Acts 19:3-20; Deut. 12:29-13:18; II Chron. 33:1-10). Beware of anything that talks about "energy fields" or "energy sources" as well. The Bible recognizes only two sources of energy other than our own human energy, and those are: **God and Satan. There is nothing neutral!** *Feng shui* and other eastern practices or martial arts using "forces of energy" may refer to it as "Qi" or "Chi", but these are NOT neutral or benign forces of the earth or universe, they are DEMONIC forces. New Agers believe that information about the future comes from something they call "the higher consciousness", but it is in reality contacting demons and getting information from evil spirits.

- **Deuteronomy 18:9-22** "There shall NOT be found among you anyone who makes his son or daughter pass through the fire (human sacrifice), or one who uses divination (FORTUNE TELLING), or one who practices WITCHCRAFT, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who casts a spell, or one who CONSULTS with FAMILIAR SPIRITS (psychics or channelers), or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead (mediums, séances). For whoever does these things is DETESTABLE to the Lord...."
- **I Corinthians 10:14-21** "Therefore, my beloved, FLEE from IDOLATRY.....What do I mean then? That a thing **sacrificed to idols** is anything, or that an idol is anything? No, but I say that the things which the Gentiles (non-believers) sacrifice, **they sacrifice to DEMONS, and NOT to God**; and I do not want you to become sharers in DEMONS."

The word "divination" in the Bible is used to refer to ALL kinds of fortune-telling. God forbids His people from having anything to do with fortune-telling and divination of ANY kind **because it is a form of IDOLATRY**, which is forbidden in **the Ten Commandments**. Idolatry is devotion to any other thing other than **the true and living God, as He reveals Himself to us in the Bible**. God also forbids His people from mixing their worship of Him with occult, witchcraft, or religious practices of any kind other than what He has set out in His word, the Bible. God 's word tells us that idolatry and fortune-telling are dangerous, because **they open the person up to demonic activity**. It is demons that give the information to fortune-tellers and psychics, and it is the demons who try to make the things happen that you read and believe in your horoscope or psychic "reading." Why would Satan and his demons be so interested in making things happen in someone's life, just because they read it in their horoscope or heard it from a psychic? Because **they will do ANYTHING they can to keep people from completely TRUSTING in God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ**, and they will do anything in their power to take as many people to hell as possible.

There are several types of people who claim to have psychic powers, and they are:

- 1.)** Those who believe the power comes from their own mental/spiritual abilities, and that it is even a gift from God;
- 2.)** The complete phonies, who make educated guesses, or use hidden microphones and other gadgets;

**3.)** Channelers who know they are consulting with spirits, but who believe their spirits are benevolent beings more highly evolved than humans, and who no longer need a physical body;

**4.)** Satanists and witches who know they are using demons to give them information and carry out their spells, but who believe the demons will not hurt them.

All of these people except for the out-and-out crooks are deceived, but to different degrees and in different ways. In this paper, we will for the most part look at the first category, and see what God's word has to say.

**1.) Those who believe the power comes from their own mental/spiritual abilities, and that it is even a gift from God.**

There is no scientific proof that certain people have psychic abilities, and as we have already said, any so-called psychic powers or "higher consciousness" is **in reality power given to humans by demons**, in order to lead them further away from the True and Living God of the Bible. This is also true of those who practice astral projection - this is also done by demonic power. There is a **"gift of prophecy"** mentioned in the Bible (I Corinthians 12:4-11), but beware of those who come up to you and tell you "God told me to tell you to do such-and-such." Check their "prophecies" against the word of God, the Bible, and just common sense. Some people are **puffed up with PRIDE** and their own conceit, feeling very SELF IMPORTANT by giving so-called messages and prophecies to others. Many Christians have had their lives almost ruined by these FALSE prophets. The purpose, or correct USE of **the gift of prophecy is for edification of the church of Jesus Christ**, not for personal messages. Edification means "building up." I Cor. 14:3 also says it is for "exhortation and consolation," which means encouragement, strengthening, and comfort. The gift of prophecy is "the special ability that God the Holy Spirit gives to certain members of the body of Christ **to reveal God's truth** and proclaim it in a timely and relevant manner for understanding, correction, repentance, or edification. It may or may not pertain to future events." In the Scriptures below, the gift of prophecy seems to be the same as **inspired preaching**, with the congregation judging and checking it out by the written word of God. The Holy Spirit is able to apply what is being preached in a sermon to individual lives and hearts, even though the one speaking does not know in advance what to preach about, or what issues need to be addressed. There are situations, such as mentioned in I Cor. 14:24-25, where people will think the speaker has been "reading their mail" so to speak, because of the way they preach the word of God directly to the issues in their lives.

- **Ephesians 4:11-12** "And He gave some as apostles, and **some as prophets**, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, **for the building up of the body of Christ.**"
- **I Corinthians 14:3** "But **one who prophesies speaks to men for EDIFICATION** and exhortation and consolation."
- **Acts 15:30-32** "...and having **gathered the congregation together**, they delivered the letter. And when they had read it, they rejoiced because of its encouragement. And Judas and Silas, also being **prophets** themselves, **encouraged and strengthened** the brethren with a **lengthy message** (sermon)."
- **I Corinthians 14:29-31** "And let two or three **prophets** speak, and let the others pass judgment..... For you can all **prophecy** one by one, **so that ALL may learn and ALL may be exhorted.**"
- **Acts 17:11** "Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for **they received the word** with great eagerness, **examining the Scriptures** daily, to see whether these things were so."
- **I Corinthians 14:24-25** "But if all **prophecy (preach)**, and an unbeliever or an ungifted man enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all; **the secrets of his heart are revealed**; and so he will fall on his face and worship God, declaring that God is certainly among you."

Some examples of **the gift of prophecy** in the word of God can be found in Acts 13:1-4, Acts 21:10-11, and Acts 11:27-29. Notice how the Holy Spirit gave the same message to several prophets, and they fasted and prayed as a GROUP, and then sent out missionaries. I Corinthians 12:7 says that **ALL spiritual gifts** are for the purpose of **"the common good" of the church**. In Paul's case, even though it was a personal message to him about suffering that he would have to go through, it was all pertaining to the work of the kingdom of God, not Paul's personal life. When Agabus prophesied about the great famine, it was so that **the church as a whole** could be warned, in order to prepare for it, and to send relief to the church in Jerusalem. I just don't see the gift of prophecy being used in the Bible for peoples' selfish, personal, worldly concerns such as "who should I marry?" or "what career moves should I make?" and so forth. That doesn't mean God isn't concerned about those issues in your life, but those things should be a matter of **PRAYER and trusting God** - that's NOT why He put prophets in the church.

## **2.) The complete phonies, who make educated guesses, or use hidden microphones and other gadgets.**

These are really self-explanatory. They are carnival hucksters and so-called magicians who cheat gullible people out of their money by use of tricks. This is usually done by human power and the help of electronics.

## **3.) Channelers who know they are consulting with spirits, but who believe their spirits are benevolent beings more highly evolved than humans, and who no longer need a physical body.**

New Agers believe that by entering an altered state of consciousness (usually going into a trance), they can allow a non-physical being (usually called a "spirit guide") to speak or act through them. To them, this non-physical entity is a super-evolved, higher type of being, and they are usually believed to be benign (harmless, good). However, the Bible calls this **DEALING with "FAMILIAR SPIRITS"**, which are **DEMONS**, and they are "wicked spiritual powers", interested only in our destruction (Ephesians 6:10-12; I Tim. 4:1; see also Deut. 18:9-12; II Chron. 33:1-19; I Chron. 10:13; I Sam. 28:3-19).

- **I Chronicles 10:13** "So Saul died for his transgression (sin) which he committed AGAINST the LORD, even AGAINST the word of the Lord, which he did not keep, and also for ASKING COUNSEL of a **FAMILIAR SPIRIT**, to inquire of it."
- **Acts 16:16-19** "And it happened that as we were going to the place of prayer, a certain slave girl **having a SPIRIT of divination** met us, who was bringing her masters **much profit by FORTUNE-TELLING**. Following Paul and us, she kept crying out, 'These men are bond servants of the Most High God, who are proclaiming to you the way of salvation.' And she continued doing this for many days. But Paul was greatly annoyed, and turned and **said to the spirit (demon), 'I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her!'** And it came out at that very moment. But when her masters saw that **their hope of profit was gone**, they seized Paul and Silas, and dragged them into the market place before the authorities."

We see here a slave girl who was able to tell people's fortunes, and make a lot of money for her masters by her so-called psychic abilities. When the Apostle Paul cast out **the "spirit of divination"** that was in her (a demon specifically related to fortune-telling), she was no longer able to tell fortunes, and her masters were no longer able to exploit her to make money. Many psychics and channelers will not listen to the truth about these demons, because they are in the process of making money from their so-called psychic abilities. Familiar spirits (familiar means "of the FAMILY") means a demon or demons that will remain in a family, and are passed down from generation to generation. I have talked to people who said that they themselves, and their mother and grandmother all have the same "psychic abilities". All this means is that the same demons have the "right" to work in those family members because of

some ancestor in the past who may have been involved in witchcraft or some other form of the occult.

#### **4.) Satanists and witches who know they are using demons to give them information and carry out their spells, but who believe the demons will not hurt them.**

These poor people are so deceived, and they do not realize that Satan and his demons are only "helping them" cast spells and get information about people until they can destroy them. Demons have one ultimate purpose, and that is to destroy the lives of humans, whom they hate, because we are made in the image of God. Satan is a liar, and the father of lies, and he cannot be trusted. All those who follow him will end up with him in hell.

- **John 8:44** "You are of your father, the DEVIL, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him....for **he is a liar, and the father of lies.**"
- **Acts 19:13-16** "But also some of the Jewish exorcists, who went from place to place, attempted to name over those who had the evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, 'I adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches.' And seven sons of one Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. And the evil spirit answered and said to them, 'I recognize Jesus, and I know about Paul, but who are you?' And the man in whom was **the evil spirit** leaped on them and subdued them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house **naked and wounded.**"
- **Mark 9:20-22** "And they brought the boy to Him (Jesus). And when he saw Him, immediately **the spirit threw him into a convulsion**, and falling to the ground, he began rolling about and foaming at the mouth. And He asked his father, 'How long has this been happening to him?' And he said, 'From childhood, and it has often thrown him both into the fire and into the water **to DESTROY him.**"

**SUMMARY** - The gift of prophecy from God means to declare or prophesy the word of God, and it is always for the purpose of bringing people closer in relationship to the Lord Jesus Christ. Any other type of prophecy or attempts to tell the future are not from God. When you consult or seek advice from a psychic, fortune-teller, so-called "spiritual advisor" or medium (one who supposedly contacts the dead), you are in effect **seeking advice from Satan rather than God the Creator!** God loves you so much, that He came to earth in the person of Jesus Christ, to pay the penalty for your disobedience to His commandments. From the very beginning, with Adam and Eve, Satan has been trying to deceive people into obeying and following him instead of God. Don't be fooled! Don't be deceived! **Trust in the true and living God**, and guard yourself from the devil and his tricks! Reading your horoscope or going to a psychic may seem like such a harmless thing, but **it opens the door to more and more DARKNESS in your life.**

- **Exodus 20:3-5** "You shall have NO other gods BESIDES ME. You shall not make for yourselves **an IDOL, or any likeness of what is in the heaven above (zodiac)**, or on the earth beneath, or in the water under the earth. You shall not BOW DOWN yourselves to them, or serve them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God..."
- **Isaiah 8:19** "And when they say to you, 'Consult the **mediums and the wizards** who whisper and mutter,' **should not a people consult their God?** Should they consult the dead on behalf of the living?"
- **Psalms 106:37-38** "They served their idols, which became a snare to them. **They even sacrificed their sons and their daughters to DEMONS**, and shed innocent blood, even the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed **to the IDOLS** of Canaan..."
- **I John 5:19-21** "We know that we are of God, and **the whole world lies in the POWER of the evil one (Satan)**. And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding, in order that we might know Him who is true, and we are in Him who is true, **in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the TRUE GOD and ETERNAL LIFE.** Little children, guard yourselves from IDOLS."

If you have been involved in any of these things, follow these steps to be set free: **1. REPENT of ANY participation in Satan's activities** (confess it as being wrong, and be willing to turn away from it). **CONFESS it as SIN.** I John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to **FORGIVE us our sins**, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

**2. ACCEPT what Jesus Christ did for you on the CROSS. Jesus DIED to pay the penalty for YOUR SINS.** If you have never trusted in Jesus Christ as your Savior, you **MUST** give your life completely to Jesus, and make a commitment to follow Him and serve Him only. Only the blood of Jesus, which He shed on the cross to pay the penalty for your sins, can bring you forgiveness and **set you free from Satan's power.**

- **Colossians 1:12-14** "Giving thanks unto **the Father**, who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light; **who has DELIVERED us from the POWER of DARKNESS (Satan's kingdom)**, and has translated us into the kingdom of **His dear Son** (Jesus); in whom we have redemption through His blood, even the **FORGIVENESS** of sins."

Pray this prayer and receive Jesus Christ as your personal Savior today: **Almighty God, I come to You in the Name of Jesus, recognizing that I am a sinner. You said in Your word, "....If you shall confess with your mouth that Jesus is LORD, and shall believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, YOU SHALL be SAVED" (Romans 10:9). I believe in my heart that JESUS is the CHRIST, the SON of the LIVING GOD. I believe that JESUS, the sinless Son of God, PAID the PENALTY on the CROSS for MY SINS, that HE was RAISED from the DEAD, and I accept Him as my Lord and Savior. Lord Jesus, come into my heart and take control of my life!**

If you have prayed this prayer **sincerely from your heart**, then the Bible says you are now a child of God, you have been **born again**, and your sins are forgiven. It is your faith in the **PERSON of Jesus Christ** that saves you, **not** any religious works of your own or good deeds you may do. Ephesians 2:8-9 says, "For by **GRACE** are you saved through **FAITH**; and that **NOT** of yourselves, it is the **GIFT OF GOD, NOT of WORKS**, lest any man should boast." Welcome to the family of God! God is now your heavenly Father.

- **Romans 8:15** "For you did not receive the SPIRIT of bondage again to FEAR, but you received the Spirit of ADOPTION by whom we cry out, 'Abba, Father.' The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that **we are children of God.**" **Galatians 3:26** "For you are all children of God THROUGH faith in CHRIST JESUS."

**3. COMMAND all demons to leave you in the NAME OF JESUS!** John 8:32 "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you FREE." Tell Satan and his demons that you belong to Jesus, and he has no right to attack you or oppress you. Tell Satan he cannot deceive you any longer, because **you know the truth**, and the truth has made you free. He is no longer your master - Jesus is your Lord! Just say, "**In the name of Jesus**, I close the door that may have been opened to allow Satan into my life through my participation in \_\_\_\_\_ (Name the sin) \_\_\_\_\_. I ask You, Lord, to keep the door closed with the precious blood of Jesus."