

Spiritual Warfare: Recognizing and Avoiding Charismatic Witchcraft in Our Church and in The Church

Main focus today: Educate us about “Charismatic Witchcraft”—intentional or unintentional sorcery within the charismatic church — especially when high value is given to prophecy and the gift of prophet. Context: preparing for demonic attack through witchcraft on our church as we fuel up for the coming revival. Fact: as God’s Spirit is poured out, demonic infiltration will be attempted, specifically through counterfeited “gifts of the Spirit” – wolves in sheep’s clothing, demons cloaked as “angels of light.” To be forewarned is to be forearmed.

Definition: Charismatic witchcraft (sorcery/divination) is the misuse of the supernatural gifts of the Spirit, especially the gifts of revelation—prophecy, words of knowledge, discerning of spirits, and dream interpretation-- as means to manipulate and control in order to cause others to do the bidding of the controller.

Start: Example personally: Bruce coming to us.

Example at The Barn around the turn of the millennium.

Context for us: The Barn as a charismatic church that highly values the power and gifts of the Spirit—therefore will attract satanic attack through counterfeit. – example from our past – a woman who called herself a “prophetess” – had real spiritual abilities- but was very unsanctified and drew disciples to herself—she spoke God’s revelations to others, who came to her and depended on her personally as being God’s mouthpiece to them—produced control of those people, loss of their ability to hear God for themselves. Timely: as we enter into a time of increasing revival and outpouring, we can expect the enemy to try to sow counterfeits among us too.

Articles—Jennifer LeClaire’s “Shocking Exposure of Charismatic Witchcraft in the Church” and another article from website demonbuster.com – The Curse of Charismatic Witchcraft—God is using her to bring to the attention of the church (particularly the charismatic church) serious abuses of the spiritual power given to us by God. Read portions of her article and other one—“....”

My Understanding, Expanded: Charismatic witchcraft can be unintentional but is still real and to be run from: it is the crossing of a fine but important line between providing to others a sense of you feel God is saying to imposing on others the mandate to do what you feel God is saying.

Charismatic witchcraft is confusing being a messenger with being a ruler—of hearing God **for** others versus hearing God **with** others. It’s moving beyond being a humble spokesperson for God to being God in the lives of others. It is the difference between hearing and presenting your sense of God’s words to a person and compelling that person to obey what you believe God is saying prophetically or through a dream.

Charismatic witchcraft is the imposition of genuine or counterfeit gifts of the Spirit onto the as-yet-unsanctified souls of Christians that contains the fleshly desire to control others, to cause them to make decisions according to the will of the controller. Continuing to practice this work of the flesh attracts demons (which can also come down family lines or be “picked up” from close association).

How This Aspect of the Flesh is Formed: This aspect of flesh flows from inner wounds and personality defects such as parental rejection and control, with the resulting insecurity and lack of a godly identity that produce a powerful need to exercise control on one’s environment and the people in one’s environment to feel safe and significant. Identity is achieved by controlling others to think, feel, and act like the controller

wants them to think, feel, and act—it is an inner compulsion driving the controller to make people do exactly as they want them to do. It is playing God by bending the wills of others to do your will.

More from the articles—“...”

Biblical Teaching on Charismatic Witchcraft--

“witchcraft/sorcery” begins as a work of the flesh – Galatians 5:20—
“sorcery;” Rev. 9:21, 18:23 –“sorceries” – range of meaning—generally,
the use of supernatural power to exert control over others – what this
scripture tells us is that “witchcraft,” the use of supernatural or psychic
power to manipulate and control others and bend them to your will, is
actually “built in” as part of our fallen “flesh”—the part of us as yet
unredeemed even after we are saved. Like all works of the flesh, this
one can be stronger or weaker from person to person; can be inherited
in the family line or developed through imitation in childhood.
Witchcraft can be therefore practiced by those in the world and those
in the church.

Old Testament: best example—Saul calling up the spirit of Samuel

1 Sam. 15:23—“the sin of sorcery—divination” – “rebellion is as the sin
of witchcraft (divination)” – in 1 Sam. 28—Saul consults the “medium”
(witch) of Endor – to engage in necromancy – illicit use of supernatural
power to communicate with the dead – note: there is no indication that
the being “called up” is a demon; the text indicates it is indeed the
departed being of Samuel the prophet. We believe that often demons
impersonate dead persons and appear as “ghosts” (spirits), but this text
indicates that it is possible at least for a dead person’s being to appear
but only in an occult context.

New Testament: two examples--

1. **Acts 8:4-25**—example of sorcery/witchcraft in action through a non-Christian “shaman” or “great man”—Simon. Simon “bewitched” (translated “astonished”) the entire city of Samaria, who “gave heed to” (listen and do—obeyed) him; Simon the Sorcerer/Magus (the Great) in Acts 8:4-23—Simon is a “witch” or sorcerer-- .09 and .11 – “bewitched” (amazed/astonished) why? – because he moved in the spiritual realm of demonic revelation and power -- .10—the people’s response: they “gave heed” to him – meaning they listened to in order to obey – **Simon was the controlling spiritual source of the city of Samaria** – in spiritual mapping circles, he functioned as the controlling demonic center that needed to be dethroned, which occurred when Peter rebuked him and refused his admission into the church in Samaria
2. **and Acts 16:16**-- the slave girl—who used a counterfeit gift of prophecy empowered by “a spirit of divination”(more than witchcraft in her flesh, this was witchcraft fueled by a demon) — to discover things about the future through supernatural means – attached herself to Paul’s apostolic team – infiltration—in order to bring supernatural “mixture” into Paul’s mission and discredit it; in this case, since a demon was the source, Paul cast it out so the infiltration attempt ceased

More on “Witchcraft” – Greek *pharmakeia*—“sorcery” – use of drugs or other material or spiritual means (spells, drugs—poisons-- charms, magic) to manipulate and control the thinking and behavior of others. “Use of supernatural power of others assisted by spirits.”

Witchcraft (manipulation and control of others) is a “work of the flesh” that, when engaged in strongly, attracts demons that energize and increase the effects of the witchcraft behavior and attitudes—example: the slave girl in Acts 16:16—had “a spirit of divination (telling the future; prophesying) –that is, it is one aspect of the fallen nature of

humans that shows itself as the desire to bring others into submission to your own will.

Can be in the world and can be in the church—in the world—in any institution: education, business, government, entertainment, sports--it is manifested through use of personality traits and relationship methods designed to cause others to bend their wills to the one engaged in the witchcraft (sexual or financial exploitation is often the result). Examples would be use of rage, rejection, intimidation, threats and even occult means like mind control techniques to cause others to do what the controller desires. Example: Don't say or do or talk about this or that, it will enrage so-and-so and you will be punished. – parents, bosses, co-workers, siblings – evidence of fleshly and possibly demonic sorcery in the flesh of the controller.

Me personally: my dad moved in this need to control others around him, particularly those in his family; very dangerous consequences—three wives, two died of cancer, one died in a farm accident. His desire and attempts to control me were very destructive—I had to break free in order to survive—I call this “righteous rebellion” by God's grace. He tried to control my thoughts, my feelings, and all my actions.

In the non-charismatic side of the church, can be manifested in spiritual contexts—controlling Bible study leaders who force others to see scripture exactly as they do or a price will be paid, controlling pastors – example—the shepherding/discipleship movement of the 70's, 80's – extreme submission to leaders produced rigid control over members in all things

In the charismatic side of the church, can be manifested in the misuse of spiritual gifts—particularly gifts of revelation such as prophecy, dreams, gifts of discerning of spirits—to control others by being God to them instead of being God's messenger.

What to Do About C. W. – Cleansing the Church/ Preparing the Church

If you are prophetic and move in the revelatory gifts--

1. Avoid using revelatory gifts to force people to obey what you say—
2. Always honor their will to decide on their own—don't make the decision for them
3. Prophecy in such a way that you do not seem to be infallible in what you say—remind people that they must test and evaluate

If you are receiving prophecy:

1. Know that **prophecy can be inaccurate** –Jer. 29:8,9—“Do not let your prophets and your diviners in your midst deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams they have about you. For they prophesy falsely to you in my name. I have not sent them.”
2. Therefore we are commanded to **test prophetic words** given to us, especially when they deal with major issues like marriage or finances or careers or church affiliation, etc. – separate out, for ourselves, what is of God and what is not—if control from the prophetic speaker is present, run!

1 Thess. 5:20-22: “Do not despise prophecies. Test (judge, evaluate) all things. Hold tightly to what is good. But abstain from every form of evil.” – Context—prophetic words can be a mixture of what is of God and what is not of God. MIXTURE! **Run from the evil of control, however, even if the prophetic word is true!**

1 Co. 14:29—“Let 2 or 3 prophets speak, and let the others judge.” --.33: “For God is not the author of confusion, but of

peace.” – a benchmark for receiving prophecy – if it produces confusion, do not receive it, but test it and get clarity and confirmation – if it is controlling, expel it as you would expel and demon!

3. **If one who prophesies to you tries to force you to obey that prophecy, run!** – if you do obey, you will form a soul tie with that person and develop spiritual passivity, and become the spiritual prisoner of that person’s desire to control your life through spiritual revelations. Get ministry to sever soul ties and break any curses from association with the charismatic witch.
4. **Report the controlling influence** to your church leaders to be dealt with appropriately for the protection on the church