

Be Warned

Purpose: to warn the listeners not to fall into the practices of divination in any form, which will eventually lead to defeat.

It is very easy to fall into the practices of the people that live near us.

Witchcraft and the occult are very popular with the media and television. For example, here are a few titles of articles about witchcraft and magic:

- 9 Myths About Witchcraft That Modern-Day Witches Like Me Are Tired of Hearing
- A Beginner's Guide to Casting Your Own Spells at Home
- How to Read Tarot Cards: A Beginner's Guide to Understanding Their Meanings
- Birth Charts 101: An Astrology Beginner's Guide to Understanding the Planets

Once again, we can learn from the example of Moses. Before entering the promised land, he warned the people not to fall into the practices of the nations around them:

Deu 18:9 - "When you come into the land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations.

Deu 18:10 - There shall not be found among you *anyone* who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, *or one* who practices witchcraft, *or* a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer,

Deu 18:11 - or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead.

Deu 18:12 - For all who do these things *are* an abomination to the LORD, and because of these abominations the LORD your God drives them out from before you.

Deu 18:13 - You shall be blameless before the LORD your God.

Deu 18:14 - For these nations which you will dispossess listened to soothsayers and diviners; but as for you, the LORD your God has not appointed such for you.

Don't follow the practices of the nations:

- Pass through the fire – to false gods (Molech) – (1 Kings 16:3); some actually burned their children in the fire (2 Ch 28:3; Eze 23:37-39)
- Witchcraft/divination – the practice of one who tries to find out the future or control others.
- Soothsayer/fortune teller/observer of times – one who pretends to foretell future events by present occurrences.
- Interprets omens – to hiss, whisper a magic spell, observes signs.
- Sorcerer – a witch
- Conjures spells – someone who uses spells or makes charms.
- Medium – one who calls the dead.
- Spiritist/Wizard – a knowing one, one who knows.
- Necromancer - One who calls up the dead

Here are a few other practices that may seem harmless but will lead you astray:

Astrology and Zodiac Signs – believing in Zodiac signs means that you are using the astrologists' interpretation of stars to determine your personality and your future. We should look to God to know our design and purpose and should seek His will for our lives.

Isaiah 47:13

You are wearied in the multitude of your counsels;
Let now the astrologers, the stargazers,
And the monthly prognosticators
Stand up and save you
From what shall come upon you.

Tarot Card Reading – these are connected to divination, which is the practice of seeking the future by supernatural means. They are a means of fortune telling and are forbidden in the bible. They can also lead to demonic possession or oppression.

Act 16:16 - Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling.

Act 16:17 - This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation."

Act 16:18 - And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour.

Yoga – this practice has deep cultural roots from ancient Indian civilizations and spread to the Far East. The word Yoga means 'yoke' or 'union', and its original purpose was to yoke the human spirit with Hindu gods, or the great 'Universal spirit'. Today's version is mainly a form of exercise, dealing with breathing, moving and meditation. However, it can be an entry into idolatry and demonic influences. Here is a guideline called 'what we do' and 'what we do not do' from a ministry called Grace X Strength:

- *We meditate on Scriptural truths from the Bible*
Php 4:8 - Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.
- *We encourage worship music to be used in your practice*
Col 3:16 - Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.
- We keep our minds fixed on Jesus
Heb 12:2 - looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

- *We believe in de-cluttering our minds*
Eph 4:22 - that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,
Eph 4:23 - and be renewed in the spirit of your mind,
- *We pray to the sovereign God only*
Mat 4:10 - Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND HIM ONLY YOU SHALL SERVE.' "
- We DO NOT empty out our minds in meditation
- We DO NOT chant
- We DO NOT practice awakening to their gods
- We DO NOT seek spiritual enlightenment
- WE DO NOT pray to Hindu gods

What do you do if you have been dabbling in such things?

Act 19:13 - Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "We exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches."

Act 19:14 - Also there were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did so.

Act 19:15 - And the evil spirit answered and said, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?"

Act 19:16 - Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

Act 19:17 - This became known both to all Jews and Greeks dwelling in Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.

Act 19:18 - And many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds.

Act 19:19 - Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned *them* in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and *it* totaled fifty thousand *pieces* of silver.

Act 19:20 - So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.

3 things:

- Repent – change your mind
- Confess – bring it into the open
- Destroy – putting an end to the practice

Conclusion

- These are an abomination to the LORD
- These practices are part of the reason why they were destroyed and driven out of the land.
- Don't fall into any of the practices of the nations around us, lest you end up as them!