

The Christian and The Psychic Phenomena

Listen to this statement, “*If I meet a being that I'm not sure of, I say, ‘If you not be a friend of Jesus Christ, be gone!’ See how the feeling changed? There was something unfriendly here.*” Was this a pastor speaking, or an evangelist with a deliverance ministry? Maybe it was a charismatic lay leader. No! The speaker, quoted from an issue of West Coast daily newspaper, was a **psychic**. He was just one of the growing number of people who claim they've developed their psychic powers, powers which they profess, are part of every human being's makeup.

This shadowy realm of psychic phenomena is a bewildering blend of the psychic and spiritualism. It's rapidly becoming a respectable, a catch-all category for explaining the unexplainable. Even the scientific community, which once scorned the psychics, has seen more and more of its members converted to this mysterious religion. Psychics have recently become aggressive in recruiting new believers. Psychics have gained a collective reputation as good natured, good-willed folk with a “*live-and let-live*” philosophy, who look on their craft as a beneficial or, at worse, a harmless supernatural quest.

They occasionally make light of their powers and of themselves, adopting whimsical titles such as, “*Swami Salami;*” “*Guru Goulash;*” or, “*The Psychic Santa.*” Psychics have been called upon to find missing persons, to probe crimes, locate misplaced valuables, and otherwise use their mysterious powers in beneficent ways.

Neither they, nor those who study them, seem quite sure of the exact source of their so-called psychic abilities. Although the study of psychic phenomena has only recently been popularized, its beginnings can be traced back nearly a 100 years. The Society of Psychological Research, founded in London in 1882, was the first organized attempt to use what they called, “*scientific disciplines in the study of supernormal phenomena.*” According to history, the society's original intent was to separate the psychological from the supernatural. However, through the years a marriage, rather than a separation, seems to have taken place. This marriage produced a child called “**Parapsychology.**”

Today the offspring of this questionable child abounds. Some, such as Mental Telepathy - retains an outwardly scientific demeanor. Others, fortune telling; holistic healing and astral projection, to name just a few, smack more of the supernatural than the scientific. Yet all these are classified as types of psychic phenomena.

What is the Christian, or non-Christian who is seeking God, to make of all this? In a world where new religions – new “**truths**” – new ways to God – are announced almost daily the subtle yet powerful influences of para-psychological beliefs seem to present yet one more series of factors in a confusing eternal equation.

One question must be answered, if we are to clear up the confusion once and for all. The question is, “*What is the source?*” Is the mind the source, as many early para-psychologists seemed to believe? Or, is it man's spirit? Does the power come from within or from without? Or, is the ability derived from the unison of inner and outer forces? Do psychics bend coins and move objects through space with brain power or is some other influence enabling them to accomplish these feats? Have they unwittingly tapped a power over which they have no control?

I'm willing to accept the fact that there may exist certain untapped powers of the mind that are mental and not necessarily mystic. There is the possibility of *natural* sensitivity to radiations. One science report stated, "*Some scientific research into telepathy has shown some be natural ability.*" I don't fully understand it all, but I am willing to accept it.

However, the clue in solving the question of "*source*" to this modern psychic phenomena is that, although scientific-sounding names are used to categorize, the tools of the psychic trade are not test tubes and graphs, but tarot cards, astrology charts, pendulums, pyramids and other paraphernalia that, for centuries, have been identified with the occult.

The psychic argues that these things known as "*witchcraft*" are simply manifestations of psychic phenomena, yet most, if not all of them, will readily admit that there is a spirit world and that somehow this unseen realm is linked to their abilities.

One psychic, who likes to entertain curiosity-seekers with his ability to make candle flames dance about in weird patterns, admits that he really has no control over even this relatively mild psychic diversion. "*It comes through me,*" he told one newspaper reporter, "*I just allow it. If I try to control it, the flame just drops back to normal and does nothing.*"

This apparent lack of control of so-called "*paranormal powers*" is not uncommon. Although some professing psychics boast a fair amount of success in, for instance, psychic prophecy (*precognition*) and telepathic comprehension, the psychic reception generally reminds one of a poor radio signal fading in and out with cantankerous unpredictability. This lack of control indicates that some power other than their own is controlling them.

In this psychic world, the outward trappings of the psychic realm, the edge of the forest, so to speak, are often humanistic in nature, focusing on the "*good*" things, such as physical healing, emotional well-being and the development of "*wholeness.*" Man is placed at the center, while God is relegated to the role of an impersonal life-force. The mind and its supposed powers, receive top billing.

For those who is familiar with God's Word this psychic phenomena is packed with danger signs. If one begins to explore the outer forest, he is likely to hear "*voices.*" Psychic "*discoveries*" often involve spiritualistic guidance. Quite unintentionally this psychic phenomena is the "**Broad Path**" that leads from the intellectual realm of "*psychic curiosity*" to the occult world of satanic oppression.

There is an ever-growing interest in our day concerning psychic phenomena. Many sincere searchers after truth have traveled from mind-enlarging groups, from the emotional, or event-oriented fortune telling, to psychological counseling seeking self-development healing methods. Occult book stores have become an attraction to many. Book stores are kept busy trying to cope with the demand for psychic books. Public libraries report that many people are showing a keen interest in books on "*demonology*" and the "*occult.*" This evil scourge of "*occultism*" has trapped many an unwary soul by its bewitching wiles.

The dark practices of occultism are many and varied covering the whole field of astrology; fortune-telling; necromancy (consulting the dead); ghosts; hauntings; spiritualism;

clairvoyance; spirit healing; the magic power of charms; white and black magic; amulet pacts and the unholy blood-pact – selling of one's soul to the devil.

So-called *intelligent* people, whom you would think would completely reject the occult and brand it as superstitious nonsense, have become victims of a rationalistic age and have no understanding concerning the spiritual forces which transcend man's reason.

Not everything that is done in the occult realm is swindle and humbug, as some suppose! Abundant evidence does exist to support the claim that the “*dark powers*” of the occult are indeed real. There is within man a protective barrier sheltering him, to a certain extent, from the baneful influence of demons. However, once a person begins dabbling in the occult this protective fence is broken down. The victim henceforth becomes the prey of wicked spirits forces. People subjected to the occult often confess that it was not too difficult for them to make contact with the spirits.

However, once they become aware of the diabolical nature of the spirit world and sought to renounce this evil, they found, to their dismay, that they could not free themselves from these spirits.

Many, who have tried to break free by their own power, relate that such a decision succeeded only in inflaming the hellish rage of the controlling spirits. When the spirits see that a victim is trying to escape their clutches, they will incessantly torment him until he well nigh loses his life, or, at least, his reason.

Psychology, psychiatry, or medicine may help to bring some relief to those disturbed by occult spirits, but only the power of the Living God can set there poor captives free.

The Bible declares in 1 John.3:8, “*For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, **THAT HE MIGHT DESTROY THE WORKS OF THE DEVIL.**”*

Regardless of what oaths you might have taken, or how deeply you are enmeshed in the occult, Christ died to save your soul. You can be set completely free by the Power of the Risen Savior. Jesus has promised, “*Him that cometh unto Me I will in no wise cast out*” (John.6:37).

The precious shed blood of Christ can cleanse your soul and make you whiter than the driven snow. The Bible declares, “*The blood of Jesus Christ God's son cleanseth us from all sin*” (1John.1:7).

Believe these promises in God's Word; act on them and deliverance and salvation will be yours.