"Sin has the devil for its father, shame for its companion, and death for its wages."

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Prayer Study #554II

Occult Practices and Participation in Cultic Religions

THE OCCULT

The Prophet's Dctionary defines the occult as hidden, concealed, and secretive, mysterious arts and practices and unlawful access to, and appropriation of, the powers and forces of the supernatural for godless purposes. So the occult is simply plugging into the powers of the kingdom of darkness , usually to control and manipulate others in an evil way.

CULTS

Hobart Freeman in his excellent book *Every Wind of Doctrine* defines cults as unscriptural religious movements, false doctrines, and occult practices. The most common cults that we deal with are Jevhovah Witnesses and the Mormon religion.

Jehovah Witnesses deny the deity of Christ. They believe that Jesus in reality is the archangel Michael, a created being. They believe that Jesus is not God nor equal with God. (See, however, Micah 5:2; John 1:1; 10:30; and Philippians 2:5-7.) They also believe that the Holy Spirit is not a personal being, and not God, but the "active force" of God. (See in refutation: Zechariah 4:6; John 16:7-15' Acts 5:3-4; 1st Corinthians 3:16.) They falsely believe that Jesus did not bodily resurrect, but only His spirit resurrected.

(See, however, Luke 24:36-46; Acts 2:23-32; 1st Corinthians 15.) Jehovah Witnesses believe there is no Hell and no eternal punishment of the wicked. Those in this category are simply annihilated because the soul if not immortal. (See Isaiah 66:24; Matthew 25:46; Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 145:9-11; 19:2-3; 20:10-15.) Finally, they believe that Christ has already returned invisibly. (See Matthew 24:23-30 and Acts 1:10-11.)

Mormons believe there are many gods (polytheism). God, our Father, has a body of flesh and bones and was once a man just like us. Likewise Mormons will also become gods and with their wives will raise up celestial children. (See, however, Isaiah 44:6; Romans 5:12; 1st Corinthians 15:22; Genesis 1-3; Numbers 23:19; 1st Corinthians 15:45-47; and John 14:6.) Mormons believe in the pre-existence of the soul. All humans have pre-existed as "spiritual children," whom the gods produced through their celestial wives. These "spiritual children" must wait for earthly men to produce bodies for them through union with their earthly wives. That is why Mormons stress polygamy. (See Genesis 1:26-27 and 2:7; Genesis 1:28 with 12:5 and 46:26; Hebrews 7:9-10.) As already noted, Mormons believe the more wives Mormon men have, the more righteous they are. Joseph Smith had many wives, and Brigham Young took 25 himself. Young taught that Jesus also was a polygamist, taking Mary and Martha and Mary Magdalene as wives. (See Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:3-6; Exodus 21:10-11; Deuteronomy 21:15; Deuteronomy 17:17; Leviticus 18:18.) Young taught that Jesus was not begotten by the Holy Spirit but by Adam in the flesh in the Garden of Eden through sexual relations

with Mary. (See Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-35; Philippians 2:5-8.) Mormons believe you are not justified by faith, but by works and that baptism is also necessary for salvation. (See Ephesians 2:8-9; Galatians 2-3; Romans 1:17; 3:20-21, 28). Mormons believe the *Book of Mormon* (a book filled with historical inaccuracies, such as Jesus was born in Jerusalem) is on equal authority with the Holy Bible.

All forms of fortune telling, spiritism, magic practices and any involvement in false religious cults are absolutely forbidden by Scripture. Both practice and participation in them are condemned by God.

Exodus 22:18
Zechariah 10:2
Leviticus 19:26, 19:31, 20:6, 20:27
Malachi 3:5
Deuteronomy 18:9-12
Acts 8:9-13, 16:16-18, 19:19
1st Chronicles 10:13-14
Galatians 5:16-21
Isaiah 8:19
Revelation 21:6, 22:14-15
Jeremiah 27:9-10

Those who practice such things usually end up with one or more of the following symptoms: inability to read and study the Bible; uncontrollable evil thoughts; blasphemous thoughts about God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit; excessive self-pity; overwhelming and continuing fear; uncontrollable

emotions; resistance to spiritual things; religious delusions; depression; compulsive thoughts of suicide.

Some of these practices include fortune telling, Ouija boards, horoscopes, astrology, hypnotism, yoga, séances, Dungeons and Dragons, psychic healers, magic, Christian Science, New Age, clairvoyance, levitation, charms, automatic writing, use of mind altering drugs, witchcraft, and Wicca. Cultic religions and practices include Mormons who believe that there are many gods and that Adam is God the Father, and it was Adam who impregnated Mary from which union Jesus was born; Jehovah Witnesses who believe that Jesus is not God, but a created being who, in reality, is the archangel Michael and who did not resurrect in the physical but only in the spirit, and they believe that Jesus has already returned, and they deny the existence of hell; and finally Freemasons who believe that all religions are but different paths to the same goal.

Methods of Deliverance (from Women's Aglow International)

1. Confess your faith in Christ: *Lord Jesus, I accept you as the Son of God. I know that your blood was shed that I might be set free from all of Satan's power. Thank you, Jesus, for your blood that sets me free. I accept you as my Savior and Lord.* Even if you have already done this once in your life, reaffirm your confession of faith at this time.
2. Confess any participation in the occult. All occult involvement must be confessed as sin if liberation is to be realized. Make a confession similar to the

following: *Father, in Jesus' name, I confess that I have sinned against you and your word by consulting a fortune teller, by attending a séance, or spiritualist meeting, etc.* Do this by confessing individual occult or cultic areas you have been involved in.

3. Renounce Satan and command him to depart. This should be a direct command to Satan himself. For example, *Satan, I hereby renounce you and all your works in my life. I command you to go in Jesus' name. By an act of my will, I close the door to you forever.*
4. Ask the Lord to break any occult bondage or oppression in your family history and to free you, your family and your future generations from occult influence through the blood of Jesus.
5. Accept God's forgiveness (1st John 1:9) and be released from guilt.
6. Commit all areas of your life to God. For example, *Lord Jesus, I commit my entire being to you: body, soul, and spirit. Jesus, I choose to make you Lord over every area of my being that I may follow you in completeness.*