

Biblical Explanations to the Paranormal: A Survey

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A survey of what the Bible has to say concerning some of the biggest questions and topics in the world of paranormal investigation.

This ebook is a condensed version of the full work by Daniel McAdams titled, *Biblical Explanations: The Paranormal*, which is available for purchase on Amazon or through Trilogy Christian Publishing.

Who I Am

Before we go any further, let me introduce myself. You probably have the notion that I am some goody two shoes, holier than thou Bible thumping person who has never really believed in the paranormal in their life. Someone who only believes what religion or church has taught me. Let me stop you there. My first paranormal experience happened when I was seven or eight years old. Fast forward ten years and I was watching a television show about *America's Eight Most Haunted*. I hadn't planned on watching that TV show, but the show I was watching beforehand ended, and as TV stations like to do, *America's Eight Most Haunted* started playing immediately, and before I could grab the remote. I saw a building that I was familiar with in the show intro, so I sat back to see why that building was considered one of America's most haunted. I was hooked. I wanted to experience what I heard in people's stories and eyewitness accounts for myself. I started reading up on and researching the paranormal, and a year later, my best friend Dillon and I discovered that we had a mutual interest in the paranormal and we decided to start our own paranormal investigation team.

Over the course of almost a decade, we were very active in paranormal investigation. We would go out and investigate, hoping to have our own experiences and document evidence and gather data to research these phenomena. We spoke at paranormal conferences and on podcasts. Whilst we both are Christians, we pursued answers to many of the prevalent theories of paranormal investigation. We believe there is a Heaven and Hell, so instead of looking for "life after death" proof, we were more interested in finding out why the spirits of the dead seemed to hang around? How do EVPs work? How are psychics able to communicate with spirits and discover the information they reveal? How are spirits able to talk to us, interact with us and manifest themselves visually for us? Are pets/animals able to see spirits? Among other questions. We committed ourselves to objective research and investigation and focused on making sure we were credible and open minded about all the research and investigation we did. I was so committed to this field, that I even pursued online education in parapsychology, as well as certification as a paranormal investigator, to further my knowledge and credibility in the field. And then in 2019, I decided to pursue theological studies and started going to church again. And when I examined the paranormal from a biblical and theological perspective, I was blown away.

I was shocked to see just how much the Bible has to say concerning the spiritual world and why it is not something to get involved in, beyond just the, "God says it is wrong" answer I had gotten over and over again when I first started. It saddened me to realize that so many pastors, church leaders, and Christians here in America are so ill equipped and lacking in

knowledge concerning what the paranormal world actually is and how to deal with it. Too many Christian and church leaders are quick to blow off any claims about the paranormal as being “just your imagination” or a silly idea. Too many Christians and church leaders don’t know how to sit down and talk to someone about the paranormal and the spiritual world beyond the normal “God says it is wrong so don’t get involved.” These realizations were a driving force behind why I wrote this book. This book isn’t to glorify my stories and experiences nor is it meant to be a spotlight on me and what I was involved in and was saved from. This book is meant to be a resource for non-believers, regular Christians and church leaders alike. This book is solely written to the glory of God and to explain from a biblical perspective the truth behind what the paranormal world really is. I am not here to tell you that none of this is real, because it all is very much real. Just not how you think.

Do Ghosts and Spirits Exist? What Are They?

Let's get started by tackling two of the biggest questions in the field of paranormal investigation. Do ghosts and spirits exist/is there an invisible, spirit world? And if so, what are they? Let's answer that first question first, then the second question after we answer the first question.

The answer to the first question is: yes. There is a spiritual realm that is very much real. That means that spirit beings are real. There is an invisible world that is just as real as the visible world. If the spiritual world of angels and demons is not reality, neither is the Bible. *"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."* Ephesians 6:12, NIV. The heavenly realms in this passage refers to the spiritual world. Flesh and blood are the visible world. If you look in the Old Testament, we see in 2 Kings 6:8-23 an example of the invisible world being revealed to a human. The king of Aram was trying to kill the prophet Elisha and had tracked him down. He had the city Elisha was staying in surrounded. Elisha's servant was afraid for their lives, fearing that they would be captured any moment. But Elisha was calm and unafraid, and he prayed that his servant's eyes might be open to see the reality of God's army. *"So he (Elisha) answered, 'Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.'"* 2 Kings 6:16, NKJV. For a moment, the invisible realm became visible and the servant was in awe as he saw God's heavenly forces ready to fight a supernatural battle for His servants. *"And Elisha prayed, and said, 'Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.' Then the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha."* 2 Kings 6:17, NKJV. The rationalism of the Greco-Roman culture at the time of the New Testament, people who had grown intellectually sophisticated through complicated Greek philosophy and who had grown up in the Roman-era political and social modernization, also believed in the reality of an invisible realm and invisible spirits.

But what does the Bible say about demons? Does it affirm their existence as well? It sure does! When you read in the New Testament, you will often see Jesus and the apostles confronting Satan and demons. In fact, many of the miracles Jesus performed were in direct response to demonic activity and lies. Jesus Himself had many personal interactions with Satan and demons. The demons also always recognized Jesus as the Son of God. They knew who He was, and He knew who they were. Jesus would also not hesitate to accuse false teachers of being under satanic influence. We must keep in mind that all the writers of the New Testament were not

making up any stories. They were writing either firsthand experiences or from eyewitnesses. This very clearly shows us that there is a very real and present invisible world that has influence over our visible world today as it did then.

What does this mean exactly? It means that if you deny the existence of Satan or demons or a spiritual world, you are rejecting the Word of God and Jesus Himself. You are then saying that the Bible made a mistake and is therefore not trustworthy. To impose our own viewpoint or beliefs on what the Bible says is to be claiming, whether we intend to or not, that we know better than God. Sadly, many Christians today try to impose a naturalistic worldview on the Bible, and in doing so, are granting small victories to Satan and his demons.

There is very much a real invisible world. The spiritual world is alive and active and full of entities. But what are these entities? These entities consist of angels, demons and even Satan himself. Now that we have answered the first question, let's answer the second one, "What are they?" I am going to venture to say that 99.9% of interactions that paranormal investigators and ghost hunters have with spirits are encounters and interactions with demons. This includes intelligent and residual hauntings, poltergeists, and everything else. Why do I say that basically all spirits encountered on ghost hunts are demons and not angels? Because angels are supernatural beings created to do God's will. They are His messengers and are sent at His command. There is no biblical evidence that would support a claim that angels can decide on their own volition when, where and how they are going to show up to humankind. And I am pretty certain that knocking on walls, throwing things around, opening and closing doors, making footsteps, speaking through EVP or spirit boxes and all the other paranormal phenomena we encounter are not on God's "to-do list" for His will. "*Praise the Lord, you his angels, you mighty ones who do His bidding, who obey His word.*" Psalms 103:20, NIV. An angel is not going to try to make us think that there is life after death or ways to talk to our deceased friends and loved ones or discern historical facts or details about a location or particular spirit, as those are all contrary to God's will. Demons on the other hand, their entire goal is to get people to turn from God and to destroy humans as we are created in God's image. "*So, God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.*" Genesis 1:27, NIV. Satan and his demons want to destroy those who believe in God and blind those who don't. If this means causing a believer to stumble and question God and truth by looking into the occult and believing in ghosts and spirits, then perfect. If this means causing a non-believer to be blind to God and truth by making them believe or look for life after death through interactions with spirits and ghosts, then perfect, mission accomplished.

Even though there are many non-believers and many scientists and educated persons who are quick to dismiss any notion of the paranormal being real, we need to remember that the idea

of disembodied spirits and ghosts wandering around is not a new thing. All throughout history there are recordings of occult manifestations and paranormal happenings. In the Old Testament, the Bible often talks about Israel adopting and undertaking occult practices, rituals, and beliefs as they strayed from God. Cultural groups and peoples across the world and across the ages of history have all reported very similar stories and sightings of ghosts and strange happenings. And when a person has an extraordinary experience with a paranormal phenomenon, it can have powerful consequences and change a person's worldview and idea of what is actually real. And sadly, in today's age, even though the idea and belief in ghosts is not new, the paranormal and spiritual world is portrayed by the media as fun, harmless, and exciting.

Wow. There you have it. We have answered two of the biggest questions in the field of paranormal research. Are ghosts and spirits real/is there a spirit world? And if so, what are they? Let's move on and take a look now at what the Bible says about death and life after death.

Death and Life After Death

"The dead know not anything, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten. Also, their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion forever in anything that is done under the sun...For there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave."

-Ecclesiastes 9:5-6, 10 (NKJV)

For many paranormal investigators, their main mission in the field is to figure out if there is "life after death." How silly for a Christian to pursue this! For we know that there is life after death, and you either end up in Heaven if you are a follower of God, or you will spend eternity in Hell.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

-John 3:16 (NKJV)

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life."

-John 5:24 NKJV

Right there, Jesus tells us that there is life after death. The age old question that so many paranormal investigators pursue is answered! *But wait*, you say, what about the fact that so many ghost hunters and psychics and even lay people who try to communicate with the dead, how come they get pertinent responses from people who have passed over? How is it that a psychic or an EVP will convey a voice or answers that sounds exactly like the person who has died? Isn't that proof that people still hang around on this Earth even after they die? The answer is rather simple. Demonic trickery to get us to think that death is not final. And if death is not final, then there is no need for us to have to believe in God or Heaven or Hell.

Demons have the power to perform minor wonders and signs in order to deceive us. They have superhuman and supernatural ability that goes beyond what we humans can comprehend or understand. Though a discussion for another time, the book of Revelation tells us this: *"It performs great signs, even making fire come down from heaven to Earth in front of people, and by the signs that it is allowed to work in the presence of the beast it deceives those who dwell on Earth..."* Revelation 13:13-14a (ESV). Though this passage speaks of the end times, it still

shows us that Satan and his demons have the ability to perform “miracles,” signs and wonders that will blow our minds and that we would call supernatural, for even a minor wonder or sign performed by a demon would be beyond anything we humans could ever comprehend or do on our own, making it a great sign and wonder to us of their power as they attempt to deceive us from the truth found in the Bible. Thus, it is not unreasonable to believe that they can mimic and trick us into believing that we are talking to a deceased friend or loved one, or a deceased person who used to reside in or around whatever location we are investigating. Demons have superhuman knowledge, which makes it perfectly sensible that they are aware of the habits and sayings of our loved ones and friends. It also makes sense that they know their history (they have been around since the beginning) and thus, can pretend to be a “person” who used to frequent, or live in, or built, or had some sort of connection to a location that a paranormal investigator goes to investigate. The Bible teaches us that we only die once. And that death is final. Therefore, it is impossible for us to be able to contact a deceased loved one or friend or for us to be talking to a historic deceased person at a haunted location.

“...it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment,” Hebrews 9:27, ESV.

Looking into the Biblical foundation behind this further, we find that death is referred to as a place of silence. That means that no “spirits of the dead” will be making noises or talking to us during an investigation.

“The dead do not praise the Lord, Nor any who go down into silence.” Psalms 115:17, NKJV.

Let’s take a look at how another version translation of that verse to make it clearer:

“It is not the dead who praise the Lord, nor any of those descending into the silence of death.” Psalms 115:17, CSB.

Whoa! Let’s dig deeper and look at some cross references, shall we?

“For Sheol cannot thank You, Death cannot praise You; Those who go down to the pit cannot hope for Your truth.” Isaiah 38:18, NKJV.

“For in death there is no remembrance of You; In the grave who will give You thanks?” Psalms 6:5, NKJV.

Sheol, to clear up any confusion, is the Hebrew word used to refer to the realm or abode of the dead. It is described as being totally silent, gloomy and devoid of light, with no remembrance and nobody can ever hope to escape it (*“before I go--and I shall not return-- to the land of darkness and deep shadow,”* Job 10:21, ESV).

There is a powerful parable that Jesus tells us that touches on the afterlife. This parable is unique in that Jesus names two of the people in the parable, something that doesn’t happen in any other parable. This leads some commentators and scholars to believe that Jesus is talking about two real people, not just two people He “made up” for the sake of the parable. If this is true that Jesus is talking about what happened to two real people, then this parable contains eye opening truth concerning what happens when we die. Let’s take a look:

“There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted

sumptuously every day. And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.' And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house— for I have five brothers— so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.' But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.'"

-Luke 16:19-31 (ESV)

This is a powerful passage that has a lot of truth for us to dig into. This parable makes clear that once we die, we will immediately be aware of where we are. We will be consciously aware that we are either in Heaven or in Hell. There is no middle ground, nor will we be back on Earth in spirit form. This is why the rich man requested merely to be comforted as well as to have a warning sent to his brothers. He was no longer able to interact with the world of the living on Earth.

We see in this passage that the rich man even asks for Lazarus to be sent back to his brothers, who were still alive on Earth, in order for Lazarus to warn them about hell. And his request was denied. *"If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets (that is, if they do not believe what the Bible tells them), neither will they be convinced if someone should rise up from the dead."* (Luke 16:31, ESV) was the response. Wow. In that one sentence, Jesus tells us that we have all the answers we need to understand and know what happens after we die right here in our Bibles. While Jesus was making a reference to His future death and resurrection here, I also believe that verse has even more implication and meaning for today. In today's age, people are very much "need-to-see-it-to-believe-it" and "instant gratification" people. "If someone actually comes back and tells me heaven and hell is real, I'll believe it." But in our age, as I've explored so much in this book, if someone were to appear who had died, we would more likely than not be apt to say, "Oh! I see a ghost! Ghosts are real!" and we would miss the point of what the person came back to say because of what society has taught us about ghosts. We would then set out to tell our amazing ghost story to anyone who would listen and dive into trying to document more proof of that ghosts exist to further support what you encountered. This story shows us that death is it, there is no coming back and interacting with the living once we die.

Death is final. The dead are no longer connected to or in communication with this world. There is no “unfinished business” that they need to take care of. There is no “attached to this place” or “died so suddenly they don’t know they are dead” to explain why a “spirit” is still hanging around a location. Demons look to prey on people and places of suffering and great or sudden pain make perfect locations for them to hang around. What better way to deceive people than to make us think that they are the spirits of the deceased still hanging around? We humans are stubborn and born with an innate desire to run away from God. If demons can convince us that death is not final, then there is no need for us to turn to God or read His Word. That, my friends, is a major victory for the Enemy and his demons. Think of it this way: If we are able to “stick around” and hangout as spirits on the Earth after we die, then we have more or less “defeated” death. And that waters down if not entirely negates Jesus’s death on the Cross and victory over death and the grave when He rose alive three days later! Not to mention it negates the need for Heaven or Hell if we can just stick around on Earth. But get this, if we were all just to die and become spirits, why is the world not stuffed with spirits of the dead? Why is George Washington or Michelangelo or Alexander the Great not still hanging around? And an even bigger question is, if we can hang around as spirits after we die, where are all the ghosts of former paranormal investigators? Why are they not hanging around and helping us from the afterlife? Don’t you think helping living paranormal investigators learn about the afterlife would qualify as “unfinished business?” See how when we deviate from what the Bible tells us, we end up with so many more questions than answers? If there was a “spiritual in between” or if we actually did “stick around” as spirits after we died, don’t you think the Bible would tell us about it? Instead, the Bible tells us that death is final and that the spirits of the dead are unable to talk to the living.

Who Do Psychics and Mediums Talk To?

Psychics and mediums gain their information through channeling. That is, they are reaching out and contacting a spirit and having that spirit “speak” or convey information to and through the psychic or medium. Channeling can be categorized as divination, which also includes the likes of astrology, horoscopes, tarot cards, palm reading, crystal gazing, seances and other such occult communication practices. These practices are based on the concept that there are spirit beings (spirit guides, familiars, gods, angels, deceased friends or loved ones, etc.) who can communicate with us about the future or about our lives or that hidden information can be divined from certain patterns in nature. Unfortunately, these spirits are all demons and all the patterns in nature are nothing more than coincidences and mankind's attempt to circumvent following and listening to God. As we have seen in the previous sections, any person who dies is no longer able to contact the living. Furthermore, demons use divination as bait to steer a Christian away from God and to entrap a non-Christian into believing that there are benevolent “spirit beings” that can give them guidance *without* having to rely on or believe in God.

Any spirit that responds to a psychic or medium is demonic, and thus the demons aim is to deceive and control the person into following what they say. This is why it is an abomination to God, for we are to seek Him alone for truth and wisdom. Very few people have a true grasp of the deceptive nature and power of spiritism and the dangers that result in partaking in it. While many who “try it out” do not believe it to be real and are just “curious” as they say, they sadly open themselves to the demonic influence, nevertheless. But if one dabbles in spiritism and falls victim to the awe and wonder of it, it is near impossible to break them away from the demonic entanglement they have given themselves over to. Nothing short of earnest prayer and the power of God will be able to bring them out, as Satan and his minions do not lightly let go a prize that they possess.

But just how real is this? How do psychics and mediums seem to be able to give such solid, accurate, credible answers to our questions? If it isn't our loved ones and friends contacting us through the psychic, who is? Many so called “psychics” and “mediums” glean information about a customer through information they can find doing an internet search (friends, family, date of birth, interests, etc.). But what about the ones who know things that should be impossible for them to know? Well, they have gone beyond the stage gimmicks and are dealing with Satan and his demons. *“And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.”* 2 Corinthians 11:14-15, NIV. This passage clearly states that

Satan and his servants “masquerade as angels of light.” What does this mean exactly? It means that Satan and his demons will pretend to be friendly entities that are bearers of truth. Satan deceived Eve and has continued to try to deceive humans ever since. Satan himself is known as “The Deceiver” and the “Father of Lies.” Thus, it is no stretch to see that he wants nothing more than to deceive people.

So, then, how does all this work? How do demons give information to psychics and mediums? Well, I have a theory about how this all works. There are too many demons to count, myriads of these buggers all over the world. How do we know this? These Bible passages help us see this, *“But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly,”*
-Hebrews 12:22, NIV.

“Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands,”

-Revelation 5:11a, NKJV.

Demons are fallen angels. We see this in the following passage where one third of all the angels in heaven rebelled against God alongside Satan.

“Then another sign appeared in heaven: There was a great fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on its heads were seven crowns. Its tail swept away a third of the stars in heaven and hurled them to the Earth...Then war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon. The dragon and his angels also fought, but he could not prevail, and there was no place for them in heaven any longer. So, the great dragon was thrown out—the ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the one who deceives the whole world. He was thrown to Earth, and his angels with him.”

-Revelation 12:3-4a, 7-9 (CSB)

The dragon in this passage is Satan. Angels are sometimes referred to as “stars” and thus this is seen as a reference to the fall of Satan when he and his hosts rebelled against God. Thus, we can safely infer from this passage that 1/3 of the angelic beings sided with Satan and are now what we know as demons. Whilst the war and casting out are to happen in the future, this passage is another clear depiction of the spiritual warfare that rages today and will continue to rage until the return of Jesus.

Well, how many demons are there? The Bible doesn’t tell us exactly how many angels or demons there are. Depending on the translation, descriptions that try to express the number of

angelic beings include “a multitude”, “myriads upon myriads”, “multitudes upon multitudes” or “ten thousand times ten thousand.” Even though one translation states “ten thousand times ten thousand,” that is not an exact number. Instead, that is the author’s way of expressing, “Hey guys, look, there are a lot of angelic beings. Like, a lot a lot. Try to imagine, say, ten thousand times ten thousand of them.” Thus, they are considered an “innumerable source.” And one third of an innumerable source is still a lot, like, a lot a lot.

With so many demons around, this is my theory. When a psychic or medium reaches out to contact a deceased loved one or friend, a demon connects with the psychic or medium and pretends to be the person being reached out to. Though demons are not omniscient—that is, all knowing—the demon can reach out to other demons who had information about that person and therefore can relay information back through the psychic or medium that would make it seem that they had connected with the spirit of the deceased person. Since demons possess superhuman and supernatural abilities, it really isn’t that “far out” to believe that they can figure out and communicate information at amazingly fast rates to relay through a psychic or medium. This theory holds true for psychic detectives as well. If a psychic takes on an unsolved case, they reach out to their “familiar” for information concerning the persons involved. Their “familiar” will oftentimes get back to the psychic with a fairly cryptic or riddle-like response that includes information about the case. To do this, I believe the demon, or demons, who are the psychics’ “familiar” reach out through the demonic network to any of their counterparts who have information regarding the crime and then pass it along to the psychic detective. Through all of this, the “familiar demons” dig their claws deeper into the psychic or medium and keep them focused on the spirit world and not on God. The psychic or medium becomes so entranced and reliant on their “spirit guides” or “familiar” that instead of turning to God for guidance and advice, they seek the advice of their spirit counterparts who, unknown to the psychic or medium, are demons masquerading as friendly, helpful spirits.

But why are people so quick to seek out psychics, mediums, and other forms of divination? There are many reasons. Some are seeking guidance. Some are unsure of their future and want to know what is in store for them, and while demons are not omniscient (only God is omniscient) and do not know the future, due to their experience and knowledge of the world they can make educated guesses concerning the future. Some people are grieving and struggling with the loss of a friend or loved one and can’t let go, thus when it seems like a psychic or medium is able to contact and communicate with the deceased friend or loved one, the person feels some relief. But sadly, it is a false comfort and demonic deception. Some are scared of death. Some are hoping for some advice that gets them rich quick. There is a common joke that says, “If psychics are real, why don’t they win the lottery?”

Let's touch on one more thing concerning psychics and mediums and take a look in the Old Testament at Isaiah 8:18-20. This is how the CSB renders the text,

“Here I am with the children the Lord has given me to be signs and wonders in Israel from the Lord of Armies who dwells on Mount Zion. When they say to you, ‘Inquire of the mediums and the spiritists who chirp and mutter,’ shouldn’t a people inquire of their God? Should they inquire of the dead on behalf of the living? Go to God’s instruction and testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, there will be no dawn for them.”

This is a really interesting passage of Scripture that answers one big paranormal question for us and also contrasts how mediums provide information with how the Bible provides information. Should people inquire of the dead on behalf of the living? The Bible gives a solid and irrefutable answer. No. We should go to God’s instruction and testimony, that is, the Bible. It is also an interesting comparison to see how the Bible describes the way psychics and mediums and how the spirits involved convey their information. It is described as “who chirp and mutter.” While this seems to be an odd set of wording, it tells us that the information is not clear, is conveyed quietly and hidden. This is completely opposite of God’s instruction and testimony which is clear and distinct.

Sadly, we are seeing a huge increase in spiritism and psychics in recent years. As America gets more secular, people are turning more away from God and seeking a humanistic answer to life’s questions. While there is a God who created everything and knows the beginning and the end, people are turning to a dark side of supernatural forces in their search for answers. With tarot cards, psychics, crystals, fortune tellers and more, people are opening themselves up to demonic influence and pushing God out of the equation. And what is sad is that the answers that people are so desperately seeking are all right there in the truth of the Bible. How then does God want us to go about discerning His will for our lives? The answer is a simple one, and powerful. Read your Bible and pray for wisdom.

“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.”

-James 1:5, CSB.

More About Demons

Ask any paranormal investigator about demons and they will tell you that you have nothing to be afraid of and that demonic hauntings are rare. They'll tell you that the majority of the spirits out there that you'll come into contact with are friendly, benevolent spirits of deceased souls and that while you'll occasionally come across a malevolent or mean spirit, that you will probably never come across a demonic haunting. Watch any of the TV shows or online ghost hunting videos and they'll use "demonic hauntings" to get the ratings and make that particular episode seem more extreme. The paranormal community, while it accepts that demons are real, does not like to think about actually having to interact with them. Sadly, they have been deceived. Every spirit or entity they come in contact with is just that, a demon.

Throughout the sections above, we have clearly identified the source of paranormal activity. This source is demons. This is not what any ghost hunter, paranormal investigator, parapsychologist, or psychic wants to hear. "But we have proof that we are talking to the spirit of a dead person, not a demon!" you'll hear them say, and I've claimed that myself before, too. "99% percent of the spirits we come in contact with are nice and don't have a single harmful bone in their body! Wait...ghosts don't have bones...no harmful side to them!" they'll cry out in their defense. But sadly, this is all caused by demonic deception. Demons disguising themselves as benevolent, friendly spirits and masquerading as the "spirit of a dead person" on Earth. But the more you investigate the Bible and the more you consider demons as the answer to the questions and theories that persist in the world of paranormal investigation, the more answers you'll discover are becoming answered.

Are all demons evil? If all ghosts and spirits are demons, why then do all these paranormal investigators insist that the majority of hauntings are from benevolent, harmless entities? Throughout the New Testament, we are warned about Satan and his demons. Mark 1:27 refers to demons as "unclean spirits." 1 Kings 22:23 refers to demons as "deceiving spirits." Ephesians 6:12, CSB states concerning demons, "*For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this darkness, against evil, spiritual forces in the heavens.*" It is made clear in the Bible that demons are not benevolent, friendly spirits. But they will sure pretend to be to keep people interested and involved in ghost hunting. Why? Because who would want to believe in ghosts and go ghost hunting if all that happened was dark and evil activity? That would be very counterproductive.

As 2 Corinthians 11:14b, CSB tells us, *“And no wonder! For Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.”*

But what harm can they really do? As we have seen in the New Testament, Jesus spent much of His time on Earth performing miracles of healing on people who were demon possessed. We see that demons caused a range of physical ailments from going mad to being blind and mute. But beyond physical ailments, demons can cause significant spiritual harm to humans. What can Satan and his demons do?

-Satan and his demons can blind the minds of unbelievers from the Gospel. *“In their case, the god of this age has blinded the minds of the unbelievers to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”* 2 Corinthians 4:4, CSB.

-Satan and his demons promote false doctrine to deceive both believers and unbelievers. *“Now the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will depart from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and the teachings of demons, through the hypocrisy of liars whose consciences are seared.”* -1 Timothy 4:1-2, CSB.

-Satan and his demons can perform signs and wonders to deceive us. *“Then I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming from the dragon’s mouth, from the beast’s mouth, and from the mouth of the false prophet. For they are demonic spirits performing signs, who travel to the kings of the whole world to assemble them for the battle on the great day of God, the Almighty.”* -Revelation 16:13-14, CSB.

And while that passage is speaking about the future and the end times, with what we have explored in this book, it is clear that demons can perform signs and wonders today to deceive us and they will continue to do so up until Satan and his demons are defeated and thrown into the lake of fire in the end times.

How, then can you stand up to and defend yourself from demons? The answer is by turning to Jesus, putting your faith in Him and accepting Him as your Lord and Savior. By spending time in the Bible and in communion with God, you are building up your defenses against Satan and his demonic attacks. *“Therefore, submit to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”* -James 4:7, CSB. A very encouraging statement is made in the book of Colossians concerning our spiritual warfare. *“He disarmed the rulers and authorities and disgraced them publicly; He triumphed over them in Him.”* -Colossians 2:15 CSB. Through His death on the cross, Jesus triumphed over Satan and his demons, and now through Him, we too share in that victory.

As a Christian, put on the full armor of God and you will be equipping yourself to stand firm against Satan and his demons in their attempt to sway you from your walk with God.

“Finally, be strengthened by the Lord and by his vast strength. Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this darkness, against evil, spiritual forces in the heavens.” -Ephesians 6:10-12, CSB. We fight against spiritual forces in the heavens. Satan and his demons are real. The spirit world is real. Sadly, so many have already been deceived and believe that demons don't exist or that they can “work with” and/or “control” demons. Demons have tricked many into believing that the dead still roam the Earth and that we can communicate with them. They have even blinded many Christians with this false doctrine as well.

How then, do some Christians and non-Christians alike become so involved in ghost hunting and the paranormal? One way demons gain influence over a person is through that person actively seeking involvement. Some Christians foolishly believe that since they abide in Christ, that they can actively go out and “control” demons. They try to use “the power of Christ” to compel demons to submit to them or to exorcise the demon from a place. Nowhere in Scripture do we find support for us as Christians to actively seek out and confront demons. Rather, we are to confront the forces of darkness by sharing the Gospel and living godly lives. And sadly, once a Christian starts to actively seek out the demonic, they will slowly start to head down a path that leads away from the Bible and become a pawn of Satan, whether they intend to or not. Many non-Christians get involved with the demonic through the belief that they could cast a certain spell or bind the demon using the demon's name. Sadly, this is not the case and in an ironic twist, the person attempting to control the demon becomes themselves controlled and influenced by the demon. Others may not believe that demons are real but are curious about having their own paranormal experiences or seeing whether a Ouija board or other form of divination actually works. And once they get a taste of it, they get sucked in before they ever realize what happened.

Probably the most common cause of demonic influence is sin. Sin is active spiritual rebellion against God. If we know what He wants and what His will is, yet we refuse to submit to Him, we are siding with the spiritual forces who also are actively opposing God, Satan and his demons. By choosing to ignore God and live a life of sin or pursue a sinful activity, we are making a clear statement that we are opposing God and thus open ourselves up to more demonic influence.

I conclude this section with a heavy word of warning. Demons are no joke and not to be trifled with. No matter how smart you think you are, how strong you think you are or how brave you think you are, demons are more so. They are supernatural beings that have been around long

before you were born. When the Bible says to stay away from occult activities and that they are detestable to God, it is not because God is trying to be a killjoy. Rather, He is trying to protect you and keep your focus on Him. Trying to have some “innocent fun” by going on a ghost hunt or playing with a divination tool is no excuse. These activities, as harmless and fun as they may sound, have a direct link to the dark forces that exist in our world. The adrenaline rush might seem cool at the time, and the stories you tell of your experiences might seem cool to tell others, but it is not worth it.

I got involved in the paranormal thinking I was innocently trying to find scientific answers to what was happening. I had no intentions to let my involvement lead me away from God. But the more I got involved, the less time I was spending focusing on God and in the Bible. Inadvertently, I ended up getting heavily involved in New Age spirituality and believing things that were contradictory to the Bible. Towards the end of my paranormal investigation career, I noticed myself becoming more and more intrigued by and interested demons. I would tell people I wasn't afraid of demons because I knew how to handle the situation. Sadly, I was blind to the fact that it was actually the demons who had a handle on me and were influencing me to lead others into the paranormal and therefore, away from God.

Conclusion

For years I had deceived myself into believing a lie. I was a Christian and believed in Heaven and Hell but still thought that the spirits of the dead roamed the Earth. I even thought that the Bible backed up my claim. I mean, Jesus's disciples saw Him walking on water and thought He was a ghost! In Jesus's time, it was a common held belief that if a person were to die on the sea, that their "ghost" or "spirit" would hover over the water at the site of their death. After His death and resurrection, He appeared to them in a locked room and they were frightened and thought they were seeing a ghost. Again, there was a widespread belief amongst the Gentiles and some of the Jews in Jesus's time that ghosts existed, even though that ironically contradicted the Jewish belief and teachings concerning the afterlife. And it is not recorded that He rebuked them for believing that ghosts were real, nor was it recorded that Jesus ever said they weren't real. That right there was my golden ticket, I thought, to back up what I was doing with the Bible. I also thought that I was going about paranormal investigation in a way that wasn't condemned by the Bible. I thought I was just going out to try to document proof that a location was indeed haunted and to try to gather data and documentation to help study and figure out what these entities were and how they operated. I wasn't trying to uncover hidden information through divination. I wasn't trying to gain supernatural gifts or powers or be like God. I wasn't involved with or trying to become a medium or psychic. And I wasn't using horoscopes or astrology or any other ways and methods that were strictly forbidden by the Bible. But I was not getting anywhere with what I was doing. Whenever I would "kind of" get an answer to a question or theory, many more questions would pop up.

I often found myself answering other people's inquiries and questions with vague, speculative answers, stating that we didn't know the answer yet, but that is why we were in the field, we were trying to find out the answer. But by finally looking at what the Bible says about the spirit world, I see that I was absolutely deceived. When you consider what the Bible says and view paranormal questions and theories with the viewpoint of demons as the answer, so many questions and theories that are out there are answered.

I am shocked by this battle that went on in my life as I turned to the Bible and came to realize that the paranormal world was ruled by demons. The more I would turn to God, the more

would happen in the paranormal world to try to keep my attention there. The deeper and more incredible experiences I would have in my walk with God and my faith, the greater the magnitude of incredibility we would experience with the paranormal. Satan and his demons were fighting hard to inflate my pride and ego, to keep my attention focused on the paranormal and to keep me blinded to the truth. Well, I am going to close with this. Those of you who have talked with me about the paranormal or who have heard me speak at conventions about the paranormal, you will know that one of my driving mottos in paranormal investigation was:

“I am married to finding the truth. I am not married to the idea of proving whether ghosts and the paranormal are real. I am not married to the idea of proving that they don’t exist. I am married to the pursuit of finding the truth.”

Well, my friends, I have found the truth. And this is it.

God bless!

Soli Deo gloria

-Daniel McAdams-

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Daniel is a former paranormal investigator turned theology student. He holds a Diploma in Radio and Television Broadcasting from Colorado Media School and a Diploma in Biblical Studies from Online Bible College. He is currently pursuing his Bachelor of Divinity at Christian Leaders Institute. Because of his experience in paranormal investigation, Daniel feels uniquely called by God to minister and reach out to those who are currently involved in that pursuit, as well as to those who have been affected by paranormal experiences. His focus is on God and he desires to help anyone, and everyone, turn their focus to God and find victory in Jesus. He lives in Jefferson City, MO and is a member of Concord Baptist Church. He is married to his wonderful wife, Kayli, and has two amazing daughters.