

## An Ancient and Deadly Hunger . . .

Just how old is the occult? And what is its appeal? An appetite for supernatural knowledge and power is the same hunger that brought spiritual death to the inhabitants of Eden. As Satan “channeled” his words through a snake, his subtle seduction of Eve exposed the innate attraction we all have for the unknown. Since that fateful day when Adam and Eve ate forbidden fruit, occultism has flourished. Just as the ancient world was fascinated with numerology, astrology, and witchcraft, our contemporary world is enticed by a smorgasbord of horoscopes, fortune-tellers, spirit guides, séances, and witch clubs. Tragically, deluded followers seeking the secrets of supernatural power and knowledge are still being seduced today.

*“I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.”*  
(2 Corinthians 11:3)

**Q:** “How do I handle loyalty to a family member or friend who continually pressures me to become involved in the occult?”

Tell your loved ones that you deeply care about them, but that the Bible forbids such involvement and that you must remain true to the God of the Bible. Don’t shield them from the truth and the consequences. Ask, “Would you like to read what the Bible says?” If the answer is yes, show them the pertinent passages and encourage them to read the Scriptures out loud.

*“If your brother, the son of your mother, or your son or your daughter or the wife you embrace or your friend who is as your own soul entices you secretly, saying, ‘Let us go and serve other gods,’ which neither you nor your fathers have known . . . you shall not yield to him or listen to him, nor shall your eye pity him, nor shall you spare him, nor shall you conceal him.”*  
(Deuteronomy 13:6, 8)

**Q:** “Can Christians be demon possessed?”

No. The Bible never presents even one believer as being possessed by a demon. Christians can be oppressed, but not possessed. Instead, they have been bought by the blood of the Lamb; therefore, their bodies are not their own—they belong to Christ.

*“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.”*  
(1 Corinthians 6:19–20)

## Levels of Occult Involvement

1. **Innocent**—Curiously seeking and experimenting, usually teenagers
  - listening to music with occult lyrics
  - looking to horoscopes and astrological signs for guidance
  - playing psychic games: Ouija boards, Dungeons and Dragons, automatic writing
  - visiting fortune-tellers
  - wearing jewelry with magical powers
2. **Indoctrinated**—Making the decision to adopt an occult worldview
  - relying on astrologers, mediums, spiritualists for information
  - joining organized occult groups, such as a coven
  - making major life decisions based on occult practices
3. **Immersed**—Consciously becoming more deeply involved in black magic and the forces of evil
  - actively joining occult organizations, such as Order Temple Orientalkis (OTO) or the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn or other organizations of like mindedness
  - practicing black magic
  - participating in spiritualism and seeking a personal spirit guide
  - participating in ritualistic sacrifices

*“Test everything; hold fast what is good.  
Abstain from every form of evil.”  
(1 Thessalonians 5:21–22)*

## Signs of Occult Involvement<sup>1</sup>

Those caught in occultism experience a change from normal interests to a preoccupied interest in signs and symbols of evil. They become *obsessed* by an inner craving for several of the following:

**O**ccult material

**B**lack clothing, Gothic attire<sup>2</sup>

**S**exual perversion

**E**xclusivity, extreme secrecy

**S**timulants, drugs

**S**atanic fascination (satanic symbols and items)

**E**vil, violence, and suicide

**D**isdain for biblical truth and authority

*“Why do you boast of evil, O mighty man?  
The steadfast love of God endures all the day.  
Your tongue plots destruction, like a sharp razor,  
you worker of deceit. You love evil more than good,  
and lying more than speaking what is right.”  
(Psalm 52:1–3)*

## Signs of Occult Immersion

Those controlled by occultism often appear to be *possessed* by someone or something unfamiliar. They may exhibit several of the following symptoms:

**P**ersistent headaches

**O**bscene, profane language

**S**leeplessness or extreme sleepiness

**S**uicidal threats or attempts

**E**xtrême fears

**S**atanic indulgence

**S**udden personality changes

**E**xtraordinary supernatural abilities

**D**eeds of violence and desecration

## Key Verse to Memorize

*“Woe to those who call evil good  
and good evil, who put darkness for light  
and light for darkness, who put bitter  
for sweet and sweet for bitter!”  
(Isaiah 5:20)*

## Key Passage to Read and Reread

1 John 4:1–6, 9–10

## Repelling the Deeds of Darkness

To repel means to turn away, fight against, or drive back. You can cover yourself with the blood of Jesus and allow the light of God within you to repel the influences of this world of darkness.

**Renounce** any involvement with the occult.  
(Acts 19:18)

**Remove** all objects related to the occult. (Acts 19:19)

**Refuse** fascination with the occult.  
(Deuteronomy 18:10–14)

**Reside** in close fellowship with believers.  
(2 Corinthians 6:14)

**Read** Scripture for wisdom and knowledge.  
(Proverbs 2:1–6)

**Reap** the benefit of earnest prayer. (James 5:16)

**Remain** clothed in the armor of God.  
(Ephesians 6:10–18)

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## Related Topics . . .

- The Bible: Is It Reliable?  
*Truth on Trial*
- Cults:  
*The Truth Twisters*
- God: Who Is He?  
*Who Do You Say That He Is?*
- New Age Spirituality:  
*A New Mask for an Old Message*
- Satan, Demons & Satanism:  
*A Sinister Reality*
- Spiritual Warfare:  
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### **The Occult:**

*Demystifying the Deeds of Darkness.*

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1. For this section, see Frank York, "Rescuing the Devil's Teenagers," *Focus on the Family Citizen*, October 1989, 7–8.
2. Jason Barker, "Youth and the Occult," *The Watchman Expositor* 15, no. 6 (1998).



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