

Acts 19:11-20 Dabbling In The Supernatural Aug 26 2009

Intro: Growing focus on the supernatural as part of our entertainment.
Harry Potter, Merlin, Medium, Fringe

1. The Reality of Supernatural Power.

Acts 19:11-12 (ESV) ¹¹ And God was doing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, ¹² so that even handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched his skin were carried away to the sick, and their diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them.

Acts 16:16-19 (ESV) ¹⁶ As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling.

¹⁷ She followed Paul and us, crying out, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation."

¹⁸ And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.

¹⁹ But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the rulers.

1 John 4:4 (ESV) ⁴ Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

Note: Angels are mentioned in 17 OT books a total of 108 times.

Angels are mentioned in 17 NT books a total of 165 times.

2. The Risk of Secondary Power.

Acts 19:13-16 (ESV) ¹³ Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists undertook to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "I adjure you by the Jesus, whom Paul proclaims."

¹⁴ Seven sons of a Jewish high priest named Sceva were doing this.

¹⁵ But the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?"

¹⁶ And the man in whom was the evil spirit leaped on them, mastered all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

2 Timothy 3:5 (ESV) ⁵ having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.

Matthew 7:21-23 (ESV) ²¹ "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

²² On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?'

²³ And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

3. The Recognition of how Serious This Is To Go.

Leviticus 20:27 (ESV) ²⁷ "A man or a woman who is a medium or a wizard shall surely be put to death. They shall be stoned with stones; their blood shall be upon them."

Exodus 22:18 (ESV) ¹⁸ "You shall not permit a sorceress to live.

Deuteronomy 18:14-22 (ESV) ¹⁴ for these nations, which you are about to dispossess, listen to fortune-tellers and to diviners. But as for you, the Lord your God has not allowed you to do this.

¹⁵ "The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—

¹⁶ just as you desired of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.'

¹⁷ And the Lord said to me, 'They are right in what they have spoken.

¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.

¹⁹ And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.

²⁰ But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.'

²¹ And if you say in your heart, 'How may we know the word that the Lord has not spoken?'—

²² when a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the word does not come

to pass or come true, that is a word that the Lord has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously. You need not be afraid of him.

3. The Right Way To Start Over.

Acts 19:17-20 (ESV) ¹⁷ And this became known to all the residents of Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks. And fear fell upon them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was extolled.

¹⁸ Also many of those who were now believers came, confessing and divulging their practices.

¹⁹ And a number of those who had practiced magic arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted the value of them and found it came to fifty thousand pieces of silver.

²⁰ So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily.

Taking care as a parent – perhaps a little extreme as a parent; but we have sought to limit our children’s exposure to the pervasive teaching that “magic can be good or bad, and it is OK to use it for good.” For example, while my children have been growing up, they haven’t been part of the Harry Potter craze. I don’t trust the author and didn’t want the influence.

Not Just Getting Rid Of; But Replacing With What Is Best!

Galatians 5:19-23 (ESV)

¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality,

²⁰ **idolatry, sorcery**, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

²² But the **fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Invitation: