



Deliverance from the Spell of Superstition

Dear Andrew,*

Today, we want to think about an area, which only few know about, and this ignorance can be extremely disastrous! Only God's Word can give us clarity on this topic. Superstition with all its accompanying effects isn't something of the past, but is widespread in our age of technology and higher education.

PART 1: THE BACKGROUND OF SUPERSTITION

Many modern people daily look into esoteric and thoughts from the world of superstition and spiritualism. Hiding behind this is God's opponent. He has spread a thick fog over these areas so that many don't even suspect that they are dealing with Satan. Under no circumstances is this harmless. Many people in all social classes suffer from mental, physical, and spiritual burdens, because they have gotten involved in occult and esoteric offers. However, even those who have unintentionally come in contact with it, can be negatively affected.

Even occult activities of someone's ancestors can lead to someone being negatively affected. Often the person concerned doesn't even know where their distress is coming from. The central question is: **How can a person be freed from occult burdens?**

We will take a short look at the different practices and their resulting problems and then go into more depth on the way of deliverance. Whoever takes this path is starting a "new life". Anyone can experience this, who enters a personal friendship with God.

The Great Controversy between Christ and Satan

The Bible informs us in Revelation 12:7-9 about the "war" between Christ and the devil:

"And war broke out in heaven: Michael (Christ) and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him." (NKJV)

* Andrew according to the biblical Andrew in John 1:41-42..

Thus, the war was brought to this earth. What is happening in our times? “Satan has long been preparing for his final effort to deceive the world.” (Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 561.2) Since the climax of this deception is developing now, it is highly advisable to inform oneself by reading chapter 29 in *The Great Controversy: The Origin of Evil*.

Profile: Devil, Satan, Lucifer, Demon

Jesus Himself, who knows him the best, gave us a description. We can find it in John 8:44:

“... He (the devil) was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.” (NKJV)

What comes from the devil? Lies and murder! What does this mean? He wants to ruin my life and skillfully hides this. He uses a cunning method. He mixes enough truth into his lies, so that the lies are believed.

A Masterful Disguise

The devil is a master of hide and seek. In 2 Corinthians 11:14 it says: *“And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.”* (NIV) With the expression “angel of light”, Paul wants to say that the devil pretends to be a benefactor for humanity. This is a brilliant disguise, behind which the enemy is hardly recognizable. As an “angel of light” or a “benefactor for humanity” the devil evidently makes us glamorous and tempting offers.

The Cost

When God helps you and you take advantage of His offer, it doesn't cost you anything! When you accept the help of the devil, consciously or unconsciously, you have to pay dearly. When God helps us, He does it because He loves us. Love cannot be bought. Love gives for free. The devil does not love us, on the contrary, he hates us. When I accept his help, which he offers me as a seeming benefactor, then I have to pay a price. The devil wants to ruin me. He demands a high price ...

A disguised offer of help

“... There shall not be found among you anyone ... who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. For all who do these things are an abomination to the LORD, and because of these abominations the LORD your God drives them out from before you. You shall be blameless before the LORD your God ...” (Deuteronomy 18:9-13 NKJV)

Especially Grave Sins

When the Bible speaks about “abominable customs” or “abomination” then these are especially grave sins with severe consequences. These are not harmless “trivialities”. God was so clear because He wants to protect us from making ourselves and our families unhappy and causing severe harm. These abominable sins are some of the masks, which the devil is hiding behind.

PART 2: OVERVIEW OF THE TEMPTATIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

The devil's masks or Satan's gateways

What doors can a person open to the dark, satanic powers? And what consequences does it have? God commanded the Israelites before He led them to Canaan: "... *you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations.*" (Deuteronomy 18:9 NKJV) But exactly that is being practiced around the whole world today. The results are occult burdens and even demon possession! Thank God: Jesus can set us free!

Now, we want to take a look at the gateways. Occult powers can tempt people to become active in these devilish areas and become more and more entangled in things, which God has forbidden and aren't good for them.

Satan's Gateways

1. Occultism and spiritualism
2. Drugs
3. Practicing child abuse
4. Fornication
5. Raping
6. Incest
7. Homosexual and lesbian practices
8. Looking at pornography one time doesn't result in an occult burden. But the question is if the person can break away from it. Satan tries to make people addicted.
- Just as it is in other areas.
9. Hypnosis and esoteric
10. "Emptying" mind, senses and inmost
11. Sinful pleasures and amusements
12. Life in sin

13. Occult books, films, videos, occult children's games, occult computer games, horror films, etc.
14. Rock music

The Bible divides Satan's gateways into three major categories: fortune-telling (divination), magic (witchcraft) and spiritualism (communicating with the dead).

Fortune-telling (divination)

1. Astrology
2. Clairvoyance, clairsentience, clairaudience
3. Palm reading
4. Horoscope
5. Card/tarot reading
6. Pendulum
7. Dowsing
8. Dream interpretation
9. Graphology
10. Soothsaying (reading tea leaves, lead-pouring, moon phase calendar, black cats)
11. Reincarnation therapy
12. Telepathy

Magic (witchcraft)

1. Amulets
2. Charms (e.g. horseshoe, clover leaf, icons)
3. Healing magnetism
4. Heavenly letters, occult chain letters
5. (Self) hypnosis
6. Holy stones / pyramids
7. White magic
8. Black magic

9. Conjuring magic
10. Magical wart removal
11. Magical faith healings/ conjuring
12. Writ of protection
13. Protective spells
14. Magic books (burn – Acts 19:19)
15. Meditation
16. Laying on of hands by an occult burdened person
17. Films with spiritistic contents
18. Tarot cards, angel cards
19. Eastern martial arts
20. Spiritist parties, rock music parties or rave parties
21. Mandalas, fantasy trips
22. Buddha-bands, Buddha-statues
23. Occult computer games
24. Fantasy books, games, films and pictures
25. Spiritistic pictures
26. Meditation music / New Age music
27. Aura teaching, Feng-Shui
28. Freemasonry
29. Hallucinogenic drugs
30. Horror films
31. Shamanic dream catchers
32. UFOs
33. Family constellation, family board

Spiritualism (communicating with the dead)

1. Table-turning
2. Glass-moving
3. Mediums
4. Speaking in a trance
5. Appearance of the dead
6. Conversing with the dead
7. Contact with ghosts/spirits

8. Contact with the dead
9. Rapping noises
10. Automatic writing

In the media there is an increasing amount of occult elements and they are influencing our thinking. They are sometimes small things, remarks or scenes, which convey unbiblical contents

Many new computer games have occult elements, are a negative influence and are addictive. Many movies and videos in social media convey that people are in heaven after they die and that they are looking down on us from above and thus we can also contact the dead. This contradicts the clear statements of the Bible about the state of the dead.

Occult Influences in Modern Media

1. Children's films and books with witchcraft and magic
2. Examples:
 - some Walt Disney movies
 - Frozen – Elsa performs magic and bewitches
 - Harry Potter
 - The Chronicles of Narnia
 - Grimm's fairy tales and other fairy tales
3. All movies and books with witchcraft, magic and spooks, e.g. The Lord of the Rings, etc.

Occult Healing Methods

1. Faith healers
2. Holy water from Lourdes
3. Reiki

4. Removing warts by magic spells, or putting out fires
5. Mesmerism (= healing magnetism)
6. Bach flower therapy
7. Hypnosis
8. Acupuncture, acupressure
9. Mindfulness
10. Yoga, autogenesis training
11. Homeopathy
12. Esoteric massage
13. Rune stones
14. Kinesiology (parascience)
15. Ayurveda

Even in Christian circles, there are nice sounding practices, which clearly belong to the realm of occult. Following is a representative list of these practices:

Christian practices with an Occult Potential

1. Prayer labyrinth
2. Praying to icons
3. Breath prayer
4. Rosary prayers and similar repetitive prayers
5. Unbiblical baptism by the spirit and supernatural gifts of the spirit (speaking in tongues, signs and miracles)
6. Laying on of hands by an occult burdened person
7. Lectio Divina
8. Contemplative prayer
9. Mantra prayers
10. Jesus and prayer of the heart prayers (constantly calling Jesus – orthodox)
11. Praying with feelings and no words
12. Occult church services (where people fall to the ground)

Results of Occult Burdens

Occult burdens can be experienced spiritually, however also mentally or physically. Following is an overview of the most common occult burdens:

Results of Occult Burdens Spiritually

- › Unbelief
- › Difficulties in faith (e.g. mentally absent during biblical topics, difficulty in making a decision for Jesus and many more)
- › No desire to read the Bible
- › Stubbornness towards God
- › Half converted
- › False revival
- › Spiritual pride
- › Permanent doubt about the Bible, promises, salvation
- › Religious excesses

These spiritual results also appear today amongst young people growing up in a Christian home. This can result in them eventually leaving the church and no longer being interested in God or spiritual matters.

Results of Occult Burdens Mentally

1. Irreconcilability
2. Obstinacy
3. Violent temper
4. Vengefulness
5. Quarrelsomeness
6. Miserliness
7. Kleptomania
8. Inner resistance to partner
9. Inexplicable anxiety attacks
10. Depression

11. Negative character changes
12. Paranoia
13. Alcohol and nicotine addiction
14. Moonstruck (Matthew 17:15)
15. Insanity
16. Compulsive cursing
17. Nightmares
18. Inner voices

All of these things can also be caused by something other than an occult burden. However, if multiple traits appear together and cannot be medically explained or influenced, then there is a high probability that an occult burden is the cause.

Satan can inflict people with great suffering, but he can also give them special abilities (psychic) like dowsing or clairvoyance, which they didn't have before.

Results of Occult Burdens **Physically**

1. Nerve disorder
2. Precordial anxiety
3. Epilepsy
4. Paralysis
5. Fainting fits
6. Bodily diseases
7. Stuttering
8. Dumbness
9. Impulse degeneration
10. Miscarriages
11. Brutality
12. Damage to organs
13. Demonic possession

Results of Occult Burdens in the **Home**

- › Apparitions
- › Figures appear
- › Knocking noises
- › Objects move or float in a room

These occurrences can even happen when the current residents or their ancestors weren't or aren't occult burdened. In this case, the cause is the occult or spiritualist practices of the **previous homeowners**. These apparitions can be oppressive or frightening. But Jesus is the victor! If you should experience such phenomena, then seek help from Christians, who are closely connected to Jesus Christ. They can pray for you and place you under God's protection.

This is only a short overview of this topic.

PART 3: **THE WAY TO DELIVERANCE THROUGH JESUS CHRIST**

The first two steps are fundamentally important for a personal relationship with God, the third only for a prayer of deliverance.

1. **Make a comprehensive and complete confession of all your known and deliberate sins to Jesus.**

Confess your sins individually and aloud. *"He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy."* (Proverbs 28:13 NKJV) In your personal confession of sins, confess all the sins you have done and haven't confessed yet. Prepare yourself for this prayer by writing down the key words on a piece

of paper so that you can confess them to Jesus Christ. When praying, ask for God's forgiveness for each sin specifically. **Since occult sins are a secret, it is important to confess them aloud in order to break this sin secrecy.** Seeing as our sins aren't anyone else's business, pray this prayer alone.

An exception of a person closely connected with God being present should only be made when the person concerned wants to be sure that they have "correctly" prayed according to God's will. A better way is to pray a general prayer of confession together with someone after having confessed your sins alone. It can be started by saying: "I have confessed my sins by name to You."

It is important to prepare yourself for your prayer of confession in order to confess all the sins you have committed and haven't confessed yet.

You can jot down keywords as you go through the list of Satan's gateways, which were listed previously. You will probably add other sins, which aren't mentioned on any of the lists. Some people may be reminded of something in the short or long example prayers.

Example Prayer for Confession of Sins

Dear Lord Jesus Christ, I want to thank You with my whole heart for Your indescribable sacrifice on the cross at Golgotha, which was done for all my guilt and sins. When You cried on the cross: "It is finished!" You accomplished the great plan of salvation and conquered Satan. You won this victory for me!

Dear Lord Jesus, I have done a lot of wrong things in my life and this pains me greatly! I have committed so many sins and I deeply regret them! In addition, I have opened myself up to the powers of darkness. Now, I am suffering greatly and have come under its sway!

At this moment, I am claiming the merits of Your blood, which You, Lord Jesus Christ, shed for me on the cross at Golgotha. I entreat You to cleanse me of all my sins and free me from all the powers of darkness!

2. Surrender your life completely to Jesus Christ

Surrender everything you are and have to Jesus Christ, then you are a true child of God. Jesus wants to be the sole Lord of your life. Jesus is the best Lord and your best friend. There is no better Lord and friend. Jesus deserves your complete trust. He will never disappoint you! He is acquainted with your situation. I encourage you to accept Jesus' invitation. He said to you: *"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."* (Matthew 11:28-30 NKJV)

Isn't Jesus' expectation that I surrender my life to Him going too far?

It is an expectation based on love. The Bible compares our relationship with Jesus to a marriage. No one would marry a person, who wanted to reserve one day a week for another person. Love gives itself completely and expects the same thing from the partner. Jesus gave Himself completely for us. He expects the same thing from us so that He can make us happy in this life and for eternity. I surrendered myself completely to Jesus in prayer many years ago. I maintain my relationship with Jesus by praying every morning: "I surrender myself to You with all that I am and have." By doing this and also daily asking for the Holy Spirit (Luke 11:13) we abide in Him (1 John 5:14) and have Jesus (1 John 5:12).

Example Prayer of Surrender

Father in heaven, I thank You for Your great love. I have come to realize that You can only give me this great love and can only accompany me through life, when I also love You and completely surrender my life to You.

Since You are love, I gladly entrust myself to You with my whole heart. Thank You that this is the way You want to bless me and make me happy. Thank You that by surrendering my life to You my life is simplified and You make me into a new person.

Please help me to unreservedly surrender my life to You daily and to follow You in all things through the divine power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(See Letter to Andrew 14: Life in God's Strength – How?)

3. Pray a prayer of deliverance

As a child of God terminate the contract with the devil. In the name of Jesus make a conclusive rejection of the devil. Pray a prayer of renunciation. When you take the path of deliverance with Jesus **here and now**, then Jesus will give you victory **here and now**.

Jesus Christ is the great victor.

Before praying the prayer of deliverance, it is very important for the occult burdened person to carefully go over the lists of Satan's gateways to subsequently confess all of the practiced sins and to ask Jesus Christ for deliverance! (See previous lists). Following is an example prayer.

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, I have watched occult films and videos, watched pornographic films, carried out homosexual/ lesbian practices, listened to rock music. Please forgive me and break the ban of the power of darkness over my life. I was in the disco and I deeply regret it. I was also involved in ...

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus Christ, my beloved Savior and Redeemer. At this moment, I want to completely surrender to You my old, dirty life and plead that You cleanse me from all my sins and breaks the ban of all the powers of darkness in my life.

Please, Lord Jesus Christ, also cleanse all my thoughts from all filthiness and please take control of my thoughts and my will so that from now on I can live according to Your holy will. I want to be able to say with my whole heart: "I delight to do Your will, O my God, and Your law is within my heart." (Psalms 40:8 NKJV)

Dear God, please lead me with Your Holy Spirit in all truth when I read the Bible. Please guide me on the narrow path, which leads to eternal life. In addition, lead me to Your true church. I want to thank You in advance that You have answered my prayer.

Dear Lord Jesus Christ, please show me clearly now what I should remove from my home and what doesn't belong to a life with You. Whether it be books, magazines, music, statues, crystals, immodest clothing, dream catchers, occult objects, energy stones, good luck charms, films, videos, records, cassettes, CDs and DVDs. Please show me what I should delete on my computer, USB flash drive, external drives, tablet, cellphone and smartphone. Please hold me tightly in Your hand and help me never to separate myself from You again. I thank You for answering my prayer!

Trust or Feelings

Don't wait for blissful feelings. Trust Jesus!

He answered your prayer and has freed you. Faith and trust rely on what God said.

What happens when I rely on my feelings? Roger J. Morneau, who God saved from a church of Satan, wrote: "The (demonic) spirits would encourage people to listen to their feelings instead of the word of Christ and His prophets. In so surer way could the spirits obtain control of people's lives without the individuals realizing what was happening." (Roger J. Morneau, *A Trip into the Supernatural*, p. 43)

The Best Way to Start the Day

Start every day with a personal prayer of dedication and reading the gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John) in the Bible. Attend church services at a Bible-believing church, for example the Seventh-Day-Adventist Church. There ask church members, who are anchored in Jesus Christ, for Bible studies on a victorious life with Jesus.

Abide in Jesus

Desire of Jesus said: "*Abide in me, and I in you ...*" (John 15:4 NKJV). It is very important to abide in Jesus and to grow in this relationship. How can I abide in Jesus? Through "... a constant receiving of His Spirit, a life of unreserved surrender to His service." (Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 676.2)

Jesus warned in Luke 11:24-26: "*When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when he comes, he finds it swept and put in order. Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first.*" (NKJV)

It is wonderful to trust Jesus and to remain under His protection and shelter (see 1 John 5:18).

Conduct after a Prayer of Deliverance

1. Don't speak about the wrong things you have done. You don't want to advertise for Satan, because you now belong to Jesus Christ and want to honor Him.
2. Destroy, throw away or burn all objects, which do not belong in a Christian home or which have a curse from Satan.
3. Do not reminisce about these practices.

Deliverance from TV Addiction, Depression and Eating Disorders

"Since then I have become a different and happy person. God freed me from my bondage, under which I greatly suffered. This was TV addiction, depression and uncontrolled eating behavior – bulimia. Only someone who has experienced this knows how terrible it can be. I want to share my story of deliverance to God's glory." R. O. in E

“I was laying in the hospital and was very discouraged. My pastor brought me the book “Zauber des Aberglaubens” (The Spell of Superstition). While reading my eyes were opened about my situation. I took the path of deliverance, which was described in the book. I also prayed the suggested prayers.”

Dear Andrew,

I am glad that I could give you new insight on an important, but largely unknown area. May our wonderful God continually safeguard you. *“We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him.”* (1 John 5:18 NKJV)

With warm greetings and blessings,

Helmut

