

SHOULD WE BE WORRIED ABOUT WITCHCRAFT?

<u>1 Peter 1:14</u>: (NASB) As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance...



So, if you are a little kid, it is time for the excitement of "trick or treat" - costumes and candy. If you are older, it is time for parties, horror movies that look and feel so real they make your skin crawl, the undead, dark spells and generally unfettered behavior. Yes, we are talking about Halloween and all of the trimmings that come with it. No matter what age you are, when Halloween comes it is also time for a strong and convincing dose of witchcraft. That is right - no matter what age you are, witchcraft is not only entirely mainstream, it is *enticingly* mainstream and very much within reach. Is this something to be worried about? Are we dealing with some big, dark and deceiving practice or is it all just harmless home-brewed storytelling?



WE BELIEVE THAT WITCHCRAFT, IN ALL FORMS AND IN ALL WAYS, HAS ITS ROOTS IN THE MOST BASIC FORMS OF IDOLATRY. WHILE WITCHES DO NOT WORSHIP SATAN, THEY DO REVERE THE EARTH AND THE ELEMENTS, ALL CREATED BY GOD RATHER THAN REVERENCING GOD HIMSELF.

We will discuss a sincere "Pledge to Pagan Spirituality" in light of the following text, in simple steps:

<u>1 Peter 1:13-16</u>: (NASB) ¹³Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹⁴As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, ¹⁵but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; ¹⁶because it is written, you shall be holy, for I am holy.

Are Christianity and (specifically) Wicca similar in any way? Different in any way? What are the most important aspects of this comparison?

(Source: http://www.crystalinks.com/paganism.html) Paganism has developed alongside mankind for thousands of years; as cultures have changed so has Paganism, yet it is grounded in deep-rooted genetic memories that go back to Neolithic times and before. Thus, Paganism is not just a nature religion but a natural religion.

"Yet it is grounded in deep-rooted genetic memories that go back to Neolithic times" - Where is the proof for this statement?

)) What is Wicca, All About Wicca, Harmony Nice

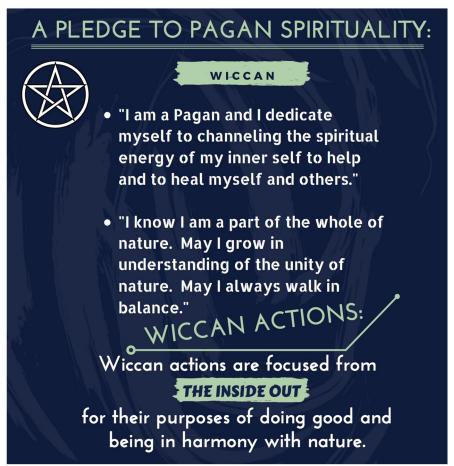
• So, what is Wicca? Wicca is a religion. It is a neo-pagan witchcraft religion. It is a very well-established religion that is based around the old traditions of witchcraft and nature. Wicca is the belief that humans are not superior to nature, they work more alongside with nature than overruling it and thinking that humans are superior to nature, and trying to cause as little destruction as you possibly can. A Wiccan does use magic, not the kind of conventional or



supernatural magic that you kind of hear about like everywhere. We're not crazy. We more use stuff from the natural elements and all of our five senses of our own being to produce extremely, extremely effective results. Just by kind of using these things. Also, a Wiccan is believed to be a strong pacifist. Typically, the rule that wiccans live by is: "If it harms none, do what you will."

<u>1 Peter 1:13</u>: (NASB) Therefore, prepare your minds for action.

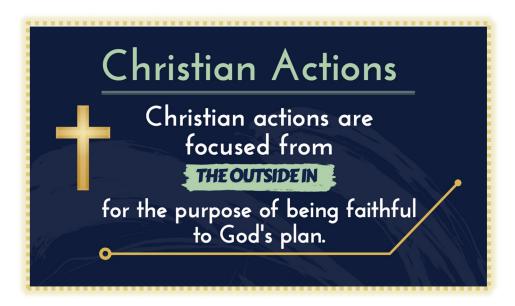
(Source: witchesofthecraft.com)



Not a belief system, What Do Wiccans Believe, Wicca Howcast

• Hi, I'm Phyllis Curott and I'm a Wiccan Priestess and I'm here to talk to you about what Wiccans believe. Wiccans don't believe. Okay, but seriously, Wiccans don't believe. It's not a belief system. I think honestly if it had been I probably would have run for the hills. I'm a lawyer and a skeptic. Wicca is not about believing, it's about experiencing. It's not about believing in a god or a goddess, it's not believing that divinity exists, it's about experiencing. You don't believe in water, you don't believe in air; you drink it, you inhale, you know that it exists. It's still mysterious, which is why science is wonderful because it peels off layers and so we get to learn more and more about the world that we're living in. Wicca is about discovery. It's about knowing. It's about learning. It's a spiritual practice that enables you to experience for yourself the sacredness of the world that you're living in and to learn from that.





<u>Romans 12:1</u>: (NASB) Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

Christians are looking to do God's will, not our own.



Romans 1:20: (NASB) For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

When we place ourselves in the position of God, it is a mistake.

Wiccans seem to want good, just in a different way. How dedicated are Wiccans to their cause?

One of the most important things to do as we critically review the life philosophy of Wiccans is to avoid judging someone's heart. It is fine to look at



the "what" and the "how" of the Wiccan approach but we always want to leave their heart motivation out of our critical sight.

Origin and growth, Do Wiccans Practice Witchcraft, Howcast

• Wicca has a root that goes back to the earliest religion to Shamanism. It is very modern; it's a kind of modern renaissance of rediscovery of the ancestral wisdom of the British Isles, and to some extent Ireland and Celtic countries as well. It's thoroughly modern, and yet it has a root that is deep in the earth and goes back to the earliest religion - to Shamanism. It's a specific cultural form, British and Celtic, some Irish - a combination of the two along with cultural influences, and now it's very American, and very European. It's also all over Latin America, Brazil, there is a huge Wiccan movement in Brazil. And Columbia and Mexico, Australia, all over, and each place and each era, each generation, brings a new facet, so it's a living religion.

As Christians, we believe the oldest religion is the account of Adam's creation in Genesis when Adam had a direct relationship with God. But we do see Wicca growing significantly in the last decade or so.

(Source: http://www.crystalinks.com/paganism.html) ...To Pagans the four ancient elements, Earth, Air, Fire and Water have special significance. The importance of these is hard to define because they have so many correspondences, for example they are associated with the four directions, north, east, south and west.

<u>1 Peter 1:13</u>: (NASB) Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit...

One Lexicon definition of sober is "dispassionate." We need to be focused based on our privilege of service and sacrifice to following Jesus, not based on any emotional feeling or experience.

Engage and challenge, What Do Wiccans Believe, Howcast

• It's a constant source of engagement. You're expected, unlike most religions, you're expected to ask questions because the questions sort of open up the next path for you. You're not asked to believe, you're asked to learn, to challenge yourself, to challenge the world, to challenge teachers and to make use of the techniques so that you learn for yourself. In the end, what you believe is what you've come to know, what you've come to experience firsthand. It's through experiencing firsthand that you have confidence in what you know. It's a path of personal revelation and it works. It's a system of practices and it's not rooted in suspending your disbelief, it's about using

your disbelief. You challenge yourself, you challenge the world you live in, you challenge your teachers and you challenge the universe. You challenge it to reveal itself to you, and it does.





(Source: Witchesofthecraft.com)

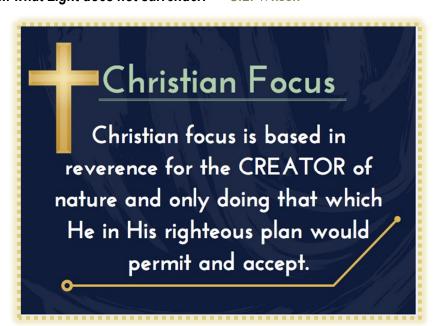


But, what truly guides the spiritual powers that they apply? There is an assumption in white witchcraft that if you are trying to do good, good powers will come to you.

But the Dark cannot claim what Light does not surrender. -C.L. Wilson

Light has a power that rises above darkness. Even though Wicca is called "white" witchcraft, our belief is that its power is not from a light of goodness but of darkness.

Christians go to the source, not what the source produced.





1 John 4:1-6: (NASB) Beloved, do not believe every spirit (every moving influence), but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

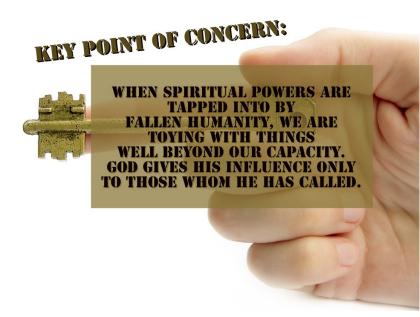
We are obligated to be on guard and this can be construed as being closed-minded and narrow.

²By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; ³and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.

The spirit of antichrist is any influence that puts itself in the place of Christ. Christ IS the sole conduit of God's eternal plan, so replacing Christ with other influences is yet another form of idolatry. That is what witchcraft does.

⁴You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world. ⁵They are from the world; therefore, they speak as from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error

We are secure in our "narrow" focus, though we will not be popular with it.



What about rules and regulations for Wiccans? Does accessing spiritual power not need guidelines?

We know that access to spiritual power can not only be dangerous but deadly, for Satan himself has control of much of that power. Those who engage in witchcraft do have a sense of the volatility the higher realm can create, and witches do have guidelines. However, in our opinion, their guidelines leave far too much room for disaster.



Do Wiccans believe when using psychic or spiritual powers that they are tapping into specific entities or do they believe it is just the universal power of all creation? Those are two very different things.



Our understanding is both - entities (they have gods and goddesses) as well as the general power of the "force" of the universe.

If you believe you are tapping into a spiritual entity, then that means you believe there is a power somewhere that is a being of some kind that you feel is higher than you. Is that right?

Yes, we will get into that more as we move on.

"And (if) it harms none, do as ye Will" We have not found evidence that this "Rede" (as a whole) pre-dates the 1950's. Here is some of the history we did find:

(Source: religioustolerance.org) Origin of the Wiccan Rede: The original source for at least part of the Wiccan Rede appears to be by a 16th century novelist, François Rabelais.... "DO AS THOU WILT because men that are free, of gentle birth, well-bred and at home in civilized company possess a natural instinct that inclines them to virtue and saves them from vice. This instinct they name their honor."



Tattoo of the Wiccan Rede phrase

Transforming and more powerful, Do Wiccans Practice Witchcraft, Howcast

It's non-dogmatic, and it's a personal spiritual path. So, it's constantly undergoing a kind of transformation. It grows and matures, it discovers new depths, new ways of practicing, and it becomes more sophisticated too, becoming simpler, clearer, and more effective and more powerful with each generation.



Observation: Because Wicca is truly a modern-day religion with ancient roots, we can easily see how the focus on the difference between white and black magic is modern-day as well.

1 Peter 1:13: (NASB) Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Wicca is focused on self-discovery.

As Christians, we are to be lights of the world and an influence for good. We know that the greatest grace of God will be revealed yet in the future to all of humanity. That is what we live and die for! It is something bigger than "me" and requires me not to fulfill myself but with a purpose to become more Christlike.



(Source: witchesofthecraft.com)

A PLEDGE TO PAGAN SPIRITUALITY WICCAN "May I always act in honorable ways: being honest with myself and others, keeping my word whenever I have given it, fulfilling all responsibilities and commitments I have taken on to the best of my ability." • "May I always remember that whatever is sent out always returns magnified to the sender. May the forces of karma move swiftly to remind me of these spiritual commitments when I have begun to falter from them, and may I use this karmic feedback to help myself grow and be more attuned to my inner pagan spirit." WICCAN PRACTICE Wiccan practice is based on awareness of the potential consequences of actions and seeks to learn to always do good as a result of those consequences.

If we take it in a general sense, this is a great concept to say "be aware of consequences," and "seek to do the good things." But the individual here wields the power of choice as to what they decide is good or not, and that is where we differ.

Trust the magic of the universe, How to Use Wiccan Magic, Howcast

• Spells are great. You have to be very careful about your unconscious, tapping into it and having it influence the outcome, which it will do. But, if you open yourself to the magic of the sacred and you allow that to guide you. So, in other words you say, "I need transportation to work." You don't say, "I need a Ferrari." You say, "I need transportation to work." If the universe brings you a bicycle you say, "Thank you," and you get on the bicycle because it turns out that the universe knew that you would be developing coronary heart disease. And with a bicycle you're going to live longer. With the Ferrari, you were going to have an accident. You were going to lose it anyway. So, you learn to trust the universe because there is a greater wisdom at play. And it's a part of your wisdom but it sees a little further down the road than you do. And one of the ways that you learn how to do this, to trust this, to trust the magic of the universe and to make that magic yours, and to make your life magical and to make your life your magic, is by learning how to pay attention to the signs and the messages that the universe sends you.

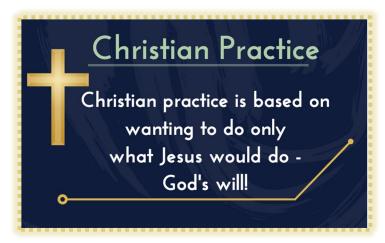


"Opening yourself up to the universe" is such a general statement, where you could be opening yourself up to darkness, evil, deception and corruption. The amount of light you can get is miniscule compared to the darkness you can get.

The battle line between good and evil runs through the heart of every man.

- Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

This is why <u>1 Peter 1:13</u> we quoted is so important. Be prepared to take a stand! Keep sober, keep focused, fix your hope, know where you are going. Have these things in place so your Christian practice can be on target with God's will and not your own.



This is the only way to get true spirituality with the end result of godliness.

James 4:13-17: (NASB) ¹³Come now, you who say, Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit. ¹⁴Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. ¹⁵Instead, you ought to say, If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that. ¹⁶But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil. ¹⁷Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin.

Your primary responsibility is looking outside of yourself to find the will of God. You do not find the will of God by asking the universe something. You find that through the word of God and the principles He has given us in Scripture. That always give us a powerful answer for both goodness and true spirituality.

If the Lord wills - this is not directing the power of God in our lives, it is asking for the direction of the power of God in our lives. This is a big difference between the Wiccan approach and the Christian approach.





It is great to want to do good and to support other people. We know some very kind Wiccans, but opening yourself up to this kind of nebulous "spirituality" makes your life subject to so much darkness because it is not filtered out. Who do we think we are that we can access spiritual power for good just because we want to do good? Satan is much smarter than us.

So far, we have looked at Wicca - white witchcraft. What about black witchcraft? What is the difference?

Just as there are stark differences in Christianity, there are stark differences in witchcraft as well. There is an important and glaring point of differentiation: All of Christianity has its basis in its pure and easily-traceable form, it comes from Jesus actually and personally teaching it, whereas all of witchcraft has its origin in a combination of some "light" and a lot of dark and mystical history.



A comment from our live Chat Room: I did not realize that Wiccans do not worship Satan. I'm sure Satan likes to be worshipped, but it seems like his bottom line is to REPLACE the majesty of God and the power of the sacrifice of Jesus in whatever form of 'antichrist' he can create for the purpose of blinding delusion.





(Source: www.awakethewitch.com/black-and-white-witchcraft.html)

- Practitioners perform acts which are spiteful and provide harm to others.
- They utilize unnatural acts which inflict danger to a number of people. With this, their enemies can be washed away or banished in a certain place.
- They conduct negative acts in order to punish spiteful enemies for their selfish gain.
- Practitioners use black magic. Nonetheless, black magic is not solely used for negative sense. It can also provide best hopes to those people who are hurt and need to regain strength through fighting back.
- People do not take black magic lightly. They tend to fear the practitioners of black witchcraft.
- The magic used in this kind of witchcraft is a common source of misconception.
- Practitioners sometimes fear the negative consequences of black magic.

These are dramatic differences from what we have seen of Wicca. Remember, much of this is mixed into the history from which Wicca came.

The sad truth is that most evil is done by people who never make up their minds to be good or evil. — Hannah Arendt

- (1))Allowed to heal and harm, Are You a White Witch or a Black Witch, MrShadowbwoy
 - There is very much this idea of white magic and black magic. For one night, I will be doing white magic and I will be the white witch, and one night I will be doing black magic and I will be the black witch. I don't particularly see a problem in that. Ultimately the way I see it, if you're a witch, not to heal and harm and those are the two of the traits of the witch. And if you are to identify with the term white witch wholly, then you're going to neglect the darker aspect of witchcraft. You're not really getting into, you're not really experiencing witchcraft as a practice to its fullest. And vice versa, somebody who is working a lot more darker, or black magics, who doesn't experience white magic, healing and cleansing and stuff like that. It goes very much hand-in-hand. You get the idea that in order to cause an illness, you have to know what can cure it, what can avoid that from happening.

He is saying that if you do not practice both sides, then you are not practicing what witchcraft really is. You are allowed to heal and to harm because it is wielding spiritual power for a specific purpose. If you are not practicing both sides, you are not accessing all of what witchcraft has to offer.

This gives us the sense of a justification for reaching into the dark spiritual realm to harm. You cannot harm someone if you do not know what is going to heal them - you have to study what is going to heal them to make sure you do not do that. Who is to say that the witchcraft this person practices only has what is good in mind?

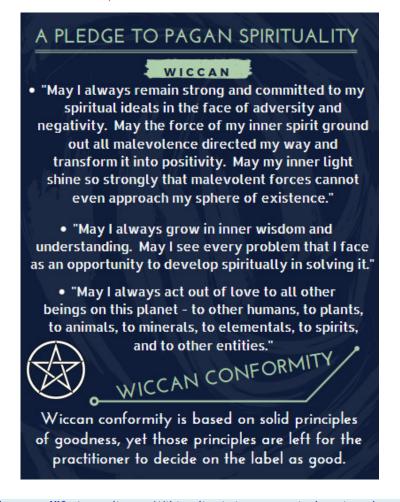
For us, the "good" has to be godly, not just good, nice or exhilarating. Anything less than that is idolatry.

<u>1 Peter 1:13-14</u>: (NASB) 13 Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.



¹⁴As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance.

(Source: witchesofthecraft.com)





What is an "elemental"? According to Wikipedia, it is any magical entity who embodies/ personifies a force of nature and therefore possess the powers of elemental cognizance, elemental detection, elemental generation, elemental manipulation, elemental self-transmutation, elemental expungement and elemental immunity; these powers are usually exclusive to the elemental's own unique element. Elementals were described in occult and alchemical works from around the time of the European Renaissance and particularly elaborated in the 16th century works of Paracelsus. Classical categories from him are gnomes, undines (a mermaid, for example, is a type of undine), sylphs and salamanders. Classical elements of antiquity are earth, water, air and fire.

Satan is the *prince of this world* (John 14:30) and has many fallen angels under his command to try to mess up God's plan and His will.

Wiccan conformity puts the practitioner in the position of God. When you are the one who decides what is "good" and "not good," and it is not based on godliness, YOU have become God, the decider. When you have become the decider, inevitably your decisions will turn dark.

The Walt Disney Company is a powerful force and has been in the lives of children for generations. Every one of us can quote from a Disney movie, but Disney does have a dark side. The song clip we are going to play is from a movie called *Descendants* 2, which premiered in July, 2017.



Both the first and second films have an interesting plot twist - they are live action musicals with popular young Disney television stars as the teenage sons and daughters of Disney villains - Maleficent (Sleeping Beauty), the Evil Queen (Snow White), Jafar (Aladdin) and Cruella de Vil (101 Dalmations). They interact with the teenagers from their "good" counterparts.

Both movies have huge song and dance numbers with charismatic stars - very appealing - focusing on the next generation of traditional Disney heroes and villains. Here is just a small sample of the catchy music (the YouTube video has over 130 million views at this time). This takes the dark arts of witchcraft and makes it mainstream, aimed at children, singing "There are so many ways to be wicked."

"Ways to be Wicked," Descendants 2 (Disney) Official Video

Wicked ways beneath the skin, all who taste it now join in.

We got all the ways to be

W-I-C-K-E-D

We got all the ways to be

W-I-C-K-E-D

Come on!

Hey, hey, hey, hey

Hey, hey, hey, hey

Christian Conformity

Christian conformity is actually
transformation based on a
higher and well-defined image of
not only goodness, but of sacrifice
and loyalty to a cause which
will bring all of humanity back into
harmony with God.

Romans 12:2-3: (NASB) ²And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. ³For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.





We have mentioned using spiritual power several times. What are some Wiccan examples?

It is obvious by now that we see the use of spiritual power as a very dangerous but enticing practice. Satan is all too willing to lull anyone into a sense of comfort as they seek to do good and as they call upon the spirit realm for guidance. Satan's guidance WILL answer - his power WILL prevail! Like it or not, know about it or not, care about it or not, that is what happens. This is why we have to be on our guard in this day and age with regards to witchcraft. This is why white witchcraft is so dangerous - it poses as something it is not, because you are accessing power beyond your control.

(Source: Copyright ©1997-99 The Celtic Connection, wicca.com. All rights reserved.) Divination and Scrying: If you are unfamiliar with the term, Divination is simply the use of an object or objects to ascertain answers to questions or to see an event or events which are not perceptible to the average person. ...Witches and Pagans have always been credited with having special powers, with being able to see the unseen. This is merely a result of our ability to work with our "Spirit Guides" or "Spirit Twins" to obtain answers to the questions we seek.

See the Bonus Material for more about "scrying." Spirit Guides/Spirit Twins - Here we have the pinpointing of entities in the spirit realm.

How the divine speaks, How to Use Wiccan Magic, Howcast

• That's why it's important to study runes, tarot. There's a whole vocabulary. We call it the Table of Correspondences which is the Wiccan way of making sense out of these relationships. The divine speaks to us in words but it speaks most often in symbols and languages of pictures and imagery. And when you begin to understand what they're about, you can decipher the meaning. There's a wonderful old Greek term. It's called a claden. And it's a message. It's a message from the sacred. And it's usually delivered in the voice of a small child. You're at the supermarket and you're depressed and you've broken up with your boyfriend, you don't know what to do with yourself, and suddenly you hear piping up this little voice and it's like, "I believe in love, Mommy. I believe in love because you Mommy and Daddy found each other and you made me." It's a claden. It's a message. Nobody else heard it, nobody else noted it. You heard it. You heard it. And it's a sign from the universe.



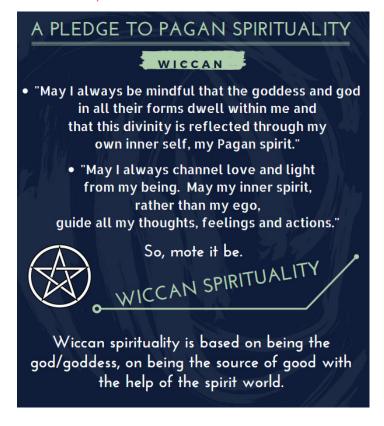
A lot of times people have experiences where they will be given an answer to a plaguing question in their lives through their personal experiences. If you pay attention, you probably will hear things that will help you - we agree. This is not the universe speaking to you; this is the experience of life unfolding before you, and you have the opportunity to make use of it. It does not matter if you are a witch, a Christian or an atheist. The voices in your life *can* give you guidance.

As Christians, we believe in God's overruling providence in our lives if He gives us His spirit to work with. He is guiding our ability to think through things.

<u>1 Peter 1:13-16</u>: (NASB) ¹³Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹⁴As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, ¹⁵but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; ¹⁶because it is written, you shall be holy, for I am holy.

The conclusion of these small steps in dealing with the enticement of white witchcraft is to *be holy yourselves*. To be holy is to be set apart from the rest, for your purpose is a godly one. Being holy is not to give in to what I like or want; it is to be subjected to the will of God, putting my will aside. (Notice it does not say "be spiritual;" it says *be holy*.)

(Source: witchesofthecraft.com)

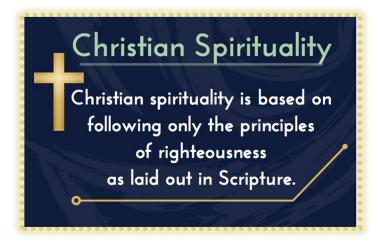


Witchcraft is founded in idolatry, proclaiming that I am the god/goddess. When God gave Israel the Ten Commandments, the first four were all about honoring Him. The next six Commandments - how we treat each other - fall apart without the first four.



I believe the root of all evil is abuse of power. — Patricia Cornwell

What about the abuse of the spiritual power of witchcraft? By and large the power being tapped into is dark.



What do the Scriptures say about "seeing" the future?

<u>Luke 10:23-24</u>: (NKJV) ²³Then he turned to his disciples and said privately, Blessed are the eyes which see the things you see; ²⁴for I tell you that many prophets and kings have desired to see what you see, and have not seen it, and to hear what you hear, and have not heard it.

What were they seeing? The teachings of Jesus. How were they seeing? He was standing in front of them. What did they do as a result of what they saw? They wrote it down so we could understand it. We "see" through the written word of prophecy and education of the life and sacrifice of Jesus.

The only scriptural evidence of seeing the future is when a prophecy was given of God or a message was delivered of God. Even if we desire to "see" things, it may not be appropriate. Daniel, for example, was given incredible prophecies of the future and was told to seal the book so it could not be read until the appointed time for understanding.

What about this idea of spirit guides and spirit twins? Satan's followers' present condition:

<u>2 Corinthians 11:14-15</u>: (KJV) ¹⁴And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. ¹⁵Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

Satan does not deliver true light. When we talk to our "spirit guides," there are many spirit powers beyond our comprehension. They are not for the purpose of godliness; they are spirits of Satan.



All in all, we are sufficiently warned against pagan practice and belief - Wicca or otherwise.



When we take the Creator out of the picture, it is a simple equation. There is only one thing that is left - great spiritual power that is in support of Satan's usurpation of the authority of the earth. That spiritual power is that of darkness.

As nice as Wicca and witchcraft sounds, it is all based in satanic thinking. Do not allow yourself to be fooled. Be careful! Be true to the word of God.



So, should we be worried about witchcraft? For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!

And now <u>even more</u> to think about... only in the Full Edition of CQ Rewind!

Our place in God's creation:

Genesis 1:26-28: (KJV) ²⁶And God said, let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. ²⁷So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. ²⁸And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.



Observations:

- Man was the culmination of God's earthly creation.
- Man was created "in God's likeness" with the ability for dominion and reason.
- God gave his earthly children His blessing.
- God was (and is) intentional.

The first biblical mention of witches:

Sorcerers: Strongs #3784 properly, to whisper a spell, i.e. to inchant or practice magic

Exodus 7:8-11: (NRSV) ⁸The LORD said to Moses and Aaron, ⁹When Pharaoh says to you, perform a wonder, then you shall say to Aaron, take your staff and throw it down before Pharaoh, and it will become a snake. ¹⁰So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and did as the LORD had commanded; Aaron threw down his staff before Pharaoh and his officials, and it became a



snake. ¹¹Then Pharaoh summoned the wise men and the sorcerers <**3784**>; and they also, the magicians of Egypt, did the same by their secret arts.

The use of witchcraft, based on the worship of multiple gods (Paganism) was rampant in Egypt.

Israel was easily and often tempted to pick up these dark practices:

<u>2 Chronicles 33:1-6</u>: (NASB) ¹Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem. ²He did evil in the sight of the LORD according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD dispossessed before the sons of Israel. ³For he rebuilt the high places which Hezekiah his father had broken down; he also erected altars for the Baals and made Asherim, and worshiped all the host of heaven and served them... ⁶He made his sons pass through the fire in the valley of Ben-hinnom; and he practiced witchcraft, used divination, practiced sorcery and dealt with mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the sight of the LORD, provoking Him to anger.

Even though they were clearly warned against it:

<u>Deuteronomy 18:9-12</u>: (NASB) ⁹When you enter the land which the LORD your God gives you, you shall not learn to imitate the detestable things of those nations. ¹⁰There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, one who uses divination, one who practices witchcraft, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, ¹¹or one who casts a spell, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. ¹²For whoever does these things is detestable to the LORD; and because of these detestable things the LORD your God will drive them out before you.

(Source: http://www.scryingmirror.com/whatis.html) What is Scrying? Scrying is the ancient act of divination for the purpose of clairvoyance. It is usually achieved by concentrating on or staring (gazing) at an object having a shiny surface until a vision appears. Scrying is one of the earliest forms of Divination in recorded history, appearing in China in 3000 BC, Egypt in 2500 BC, and Ancient Greece around 2000 BC. Scrying comes from the English word "descry" which means "to make out dimly" or "to reveal." There have been and are many purposes for the activity: to see into the future, to find lost objects or persons, and track criminals, among others. Although the object used for scrying usually has a shiny surface, such as a pool of water, innumerable objects have been used for the practice over the centuries. Mirrors are often used. Nostradamus is said to have used a black obsidian mirror. Many such means have been employed to see visions, read mystical signs and divine the future. Most scrying is done at night in order to receive better psychic vibrations. As a general rule, most scryers work at night in order to avoid the excessive psychic vibrations that are generated in the day due to the confusion of everyday living. The methods of scrying differ but after a period of concentration on the speculum, visions, mental images, or impressions appear. Frequently the visions are symbolic and the scryer must meditate on their visions to interpret their meanings.

Another level of all this is Shamanism and in many ways, it seems to be embedded in the Wiccan culture:

(Source: Wikipedia) Shamanism (/□□□: mən/ SHAH-mən or / ʃeɪ mən/ SHAY-mən) is a practice that involves a practitioner reaching altered states of consciousness in order to encounter and interact with the spirit world and channel these transcendental energies into this world. A shaman is a person regarded as having access to, and influence in, the world of benevolent and malevolent spirits, who typically enters into a trance state during a ritual, and practices divination and healing.