

Are Monitoring Spirits Watching Us?

Ephesians 6:12: *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.*



Our world can be confusing and scary. Sometimes it's hard to know what is true, and sometimes it's hard to know who to trust. For Christians, coping with this uncertainty should always come down to God's word. What principles are we given in Scripture that will shine the sure light of truth on whatever dilemma we perceive to be in our way? Some Christian groups have taken to label much of the rampant darkness of our world as the work of "monitoring spirits." The suggestion here is that these spirits are firmly connected to Satan, and their work is overwhelmingly focused on spying on and disrupting the lives of Jesus' followers. As we look into this belief, we will ask the

same question we always ask: What scriptural basis is there for these conclusions?

What are monitoring spirits?

🔊 **What are they? How to Stop Monitoring Spirits from Monitoring You, Gracely Inspired**

- *Imagine a world where every whisper, every secret, every dream you've ever had is under constant surveillance. A realm where unseen eyes and ears are always listening, always watching, always waiting to use your most private moments against you. This is the world of monitoring spirits, and they are always lurking, gathering intel and working to sabotage God's plans for your life.*
- *In a nutshell, monitoring spirits are demons dispatched by Satan to gather information about you. Their goal is to use anything you carelessly share to disrupt, delay, or even destroy what God wants to do in your life. Now, it's important to understand monitoring spirits are not all-knowing as God is.*
- *Satan and his demons are not omnipresent or omniscient like God, but they possess a cunning ability to network and share information about what they learn and gather. Monitoring spirits thrive on the intelligence they gather about your life, and with this information they feed it back to Satan and his agents.*

These are also referred to as "masquerading spirits" —likely taken from **2 Corinthians 11:14-15** where it is said Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. They are also called "watchers" because allegedly they watch how you do things and who you talk to while awake and in your dreams.

The terms aren't found in the Bible, but we want to bring up the scriptures people are using to make various assumptions, stating them as fact.

How scripturally sound are these assumptions?

The book of Job gives us a sense of the observational and actual power that Satan has. We will suggest this “conversation” between God and Satan in the first chapter of Job is somewhat allegorical. It is a teaching tool that ultimately shows us Job’s faithfulness under great challenge.

We will highlight four major observations.

Satan can see what goes on in the world:



Job 1:6-7: *6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. 7 The LORD said to Satan, From where do you come? Then Satan answered the LORD and said, From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it.*

The *sons of God*, spirit beings, angels, present themselves to God and Satan is with them. Satan is said to have been surveying earth, where he rules. Satan monitors his kingdom with regularity.

Those who warn against monitoring spirits use these texts as “proof.” For example:

(Source: “How to Discern “Monitoring” Spirits and Overcome Them as Believers,” by Emmanuel Abimbola, Nigeria – blog) Job 1:7 - This implies there are spiritual beings constantly observing and reporting back on our lives, just like a spiritual surveillance network.

In **1 Corinthians 4:9**, the Apostle Paul said the apostles were a spectacle to the angels, so we do know spirit beings can see us. But are these texts proof? Let’s continue.

Those whom God deals with are shining examples:



Job 1:8: *The LORD said to Satan, Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil.*

Here God knows Satan is there to challenge God’s authority and not to contribute in a positive way. God will allow this challenge.

Satan wants to discredit God’s blessings given to those who serve Him:



Job 1:9-11: *9 Then Satan answered the LORD, Does Job fear God for nothing? 10 Have You not made a hedge about him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. 11 But put forth Your hand now and touch all that he has; he will surely curse You to Your face.*

Having a godly “hedge of protection” is a wonderful visual! Satan acknowledges this and challenges God to lift the protection. *Job isn’t who you think he is, God. He will turn on You if you just let me at him!*

Satan cannot purposefully meddle in the experiences of God’s faithful anytime or any way. God’s protections cannot be violated by Satan unless God allows it:



Job 1:12: *Then the LORD said to Satan, Behold, all that he has is in your power, only do not put forth your hand on him. So Satan departed from the presence of the LORD.*

Even when God’s sheltering protection may not be evident, for those who follow Him, we have so many assurances, like:

Psalms 32:7: *You are my hiding place; You preserve me from trouble.*

Psalms 91:1: *He who dwells (continuously stays) in the shelter of the Most High (in the hiding place of His presence) will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.*

Psalms 57:1: (KJV) *...in the shadow of Thy wings will I make my refuge...*

Psalms 17:8: *...Hide me in the shadow of Your wings.*

...and many others. If Satan doesn’t have permission, he can’t go there. Satan can knock on the door, but God won’t give him the key! He will not be allowed in without God’s authorization.

In this current Christian age, we still see Satan as this world’s ruler looking to cause trouble for God’s people:

2 Corinthians 11:14: *No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.*

We aren’t given a lot of information about how the spirit world works or the extent of their powers. We believe in—and have a healthy respect for—the powers of darkness that could easily overpower us puny humans. They will absolutely exploit weaknesses and unguarded areas of our lives, which is one of the main reasons we are to have nothing to do with the occult in any way. That would be “peeking over the hedge” and “leaving the protection of God’s wings,” trying to see what’s out there.

This would be “giving Satan the key,” and we don’t want to do that.

We also know that all who serve Satan (both human and spirit) will do the same—try to cause trouble for God’s people:

2 Corinthians 11:15: *Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.*

Satan and his human and spiritual servants seek power to rule and obedience from those they have authority over. We need to be on guard.

Through our dedication to God’s will, we can stand in faith and FIRMLY resist him:

1 Peter 5:7-9: *7 Casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you. 8 Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.*

Our faith in our heavenly Father gives us the resistance necessary to fight off Satan.

(Source: "How to Discern "Monitoring" Spirits and Overcome Them as Believers," by Emmanuel Abimbola, Nigeria – blog) 1 Peter 5:7-9 suggests there are spiritual forces actively seeking opportunities to harm and hinder believers.

We agree. We must be on alert.

Let's continue with another sound bite on how these monitoring spirits supposedly work. Allegedly, it's all about our silence so that they can't gain secret information about God's plans.



Secrecy and revelations, How to Stop Monitoring Spirits From Monitoring You, Gracely Inspired

- *The little bits and pieces they collect become like puzzle pieces that start to reveal what God may be up to in certain situations or through specific people. This is why the power of monitoring spirits lies primarily in the secrets we spill without discretion. Satan cannot pervert something that is completely hidden from him. There must be traces for him to pick up on and piece together. This underscores the importance of learning appropriate times to speak versus times to keep silent. The key to defeating these spirits lies in the power of secrecy.*
- *The Bible tells us in Ecclesiastes 3:7 that there is a time for everything under the heavens, a time to speak and a time to keep silent. This principle is crucial in our battle against monitoring spirits. Just as a military general wouldn't broadcast his plans to the enemy, we must learn to guard the divine revelations entrusted to us.*
- *When God imparts a vision, a dream or a prophetic word, it's not for public consumption. It's a sacred trust that requires protection. Think of it like this: Demons can't read minds or know the future, but they can compare notes. So, when you broadcast plans without discretion, you provide ammunition for their agenda against you.*

The premise is, they want to know what God is up to and they can't read minds, so they are going to be actively listening to hear if we tell others any secrets God has personally revealed to us. If you tell someone of your progress in an area and it all falls apart, that person, it is said, might have a monitoring spirit attached to him/her looking to sabotage you, especially if the person is asking too many questions about your future plans.



Let's check the context to see how the verse should be applied:

Ecclesiastes 3:5-8: (NLT) *5 A time to scatter stones and a time to gather stones. A time to embrace and a time to turn away. 6 A time to search and a time to quit searching. A time to keep and a time to throw away. 7 A time to tear and a time to mend. A time to be quiet and a time to speak. 8 A time to love and a time to hate. A time for war and a time for peace.*

These are all true statements about the seasons of life. We don't see anything here that connects to demons. These verses apply to humanity's experience. There's nothing here about being silent to avoid listening spirits.

While the sound bite did say to take the “principle” of that scripture, we don’t see how taking the context of the everyday life of a human being can be applied to something as far out as the “monitoring spirits” idea.

Satan IS powerful:

2 Corinthians 4:4: *In whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

Satan is a powerful being who does have influence, but remember with Job, Satan required permission. He could not become any more involved than God allowed.

Did this “time to be quiet,” this “time for secrecy” apply to Jesus?

Matthew 4:8-10: *8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; 9 and he said to him, All these things I will give you, if you fall down and worship me. 10 Then Jesus said to him, Go, Satan! For it is written, YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.*

 **If anyone would have a “hedge of protection” around him, it would be Jesus! How was Satan able to get this close to him?**



Jesus made himself vulnerable by going to the wilderness by himself to be with his heavenly Father. We know God’s protection was with him and God’s spirit had just been given to him. Satan was permitted to get close to show the strength of God’s power in Jesus. Satan was allowed to observe and respond to Jesus’ fasting experiences, was ultimately dismissed, and he left.



No matter how you understand it, what we are dealing with here is bigger than any of us. The need for scriptural clarity is evident!

With the basic foundation of understanding what Satan can and cannot do, what is our responsibility regarding speaking up or being secretive?

This really is at the very core of the whole “monitoring spirits” belief system. This teaching emphasizes that we are specifically being spied on so God’s will in our lives will be thwarted and that we have direct control over this. Such a conclusion can be very intimidating. Is this really what the scriptures teach?

In this next sound bite, they allege that not only do we need to keep quiet about God’s plans, but we should keep our blessings to ourselves. Once the demons find out about our blessings, they will attack and steal them away from us.

 **Keep quiet, How to Stop Monitoring Spirits from Monitoring You, Gracely Inspired**

- *Have you never noticed that even those who post about their relationship status a lot on social media hardly end up together? This is because every time you announce things unnecessarily, you are also giving the devil an open invitation to come and attack those blessings. This is not to scare you, but it's just the reality. What blessings, visions or kingdom assignments have you recently received? Consider, until it unfolds, the less said the better.*
- *Satan cannot access encounters, blueprints and blessings until something is spoken which gives him access. God shows us things in confidentiality for a purpose. It's on us to stop demonic interference by keeping our lips sealed.*

We’re also not big fans of all social media, but where do they get their statistics on how posting a relationship dooms it? How can they verify the relationship was thwarted by demons? These are statements without any evidence or ability to prove.

We aren’t quoting these things to scare anyone. We want to confront these allegations head on because the most successful lies have elements of truth. But God hasn’t given us the *spirit of fear*, according to **2 Timothy 1:7**, and we will talk about that more in a bit.

Our purpose here is to confront this way of looking at things by going back to Scripture. Those who believe in this concept are proposing a massive individual responsibility! We are given this great light, this knowledge, but we are supposed to keep it hidden so demons cannot steal it from us? Is this true?

Did Jesus ever speak out prophetically? Many times. One small example:

Luke 10:17-18: *17 The seventy returned with joy, saying, Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name. 18 And he said to them, I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning.*

Here he proclaimed the defeat of Satan long before Satan was defeated. Jesus was fearless! He did not shy away from revealing what needed to be revealed.

What did Jesus teach US to do? This small part of the Sermon on the Mount directly addresses our responsibilities as spokespeople for Christ. With each point we ask, is Jesus teaching us to respond with secretive silence or outward demonstrations of Christianity?



We ARE supposed to be persecuted. We ARE supposed to be falsely accused:

Matthew 5:11-12: *11 Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

If we are persecuted for being a Christian, does that mean God opened up that hedge of protection? Are we no longer *hidden under His wings*?

No, we are still protected. Being persecuted as a Christian is a reward—that sounds odd—but it is a reward for faithfulness. The hard times build our spiritual strength and stimulate our character development.

Persecutions are not God withdrawing protection. They indicate He is protecting us by teaching us how to grow more strongly into Christ. Our protection lies in our relationship with God through Jesus.



We ARE important to the world around us as a preserving agent in the world:

Matthew 5:13: *You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men.*

Our message of the gospel is a preserving agent to the principle of life and its sanctity. Salt was an important commodity back then and now. To be the “salt of the earth” is to be a person of exceptional, godly character—a person who witnesses as a living sermon. This kind of character has a preserving, stabilizing effect. If we hide or hold back the witness of the Christianity within us, we lose the ability to be a stabilizing effect on those around us. It is the driving force that propels our life—we shouldn’t be able to hold it back.



We ARE on display to the world as the light of the world:

Matthew 5:14-16: *14 You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; 15 nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.*

To be the *light of the world* is to be a source of light and truth.

Being a light means not only revealing what is in dark places, but also being a beacon of hope and direction. We are to “be the light” by reflecting the light of God.

It’s pretty obvious that Christians are to be proclaiming God’s plan of the gospel message whenever and wherever they can!

But what about all those times Jesus told those around him to keep quiet about what was happening? Was he worried about monitoring spirits?

Example After cleansing a leper, Jesus warned him to not speak about it. Why?

Crowd control!

Mark 1:42-45: *42 Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed. 43 And he sternly warned him and immediately sent him away, 44 and he said to him, See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, as a testimony to them. 45 But he went out and began to proclaim it freely and to spread the news around, to such an extent that Jesus could no longer publicly enter a city, but stayed out in unpopulated areas; and they were coming to him from everywhere.*

Jesus wanted him to be quiet because he knew if the man shared his joy, Jesus would not be able to continue his preaching within the city. The man, of course, proclaimed *it freely and...spread the news around*. Jesus knew the man would do this and it would make his ministry in that area more difficult. Why did he heal this man, then? Because Jesus was so compassionate. We can see the beauty of God's power working in him. He couldn't control the crowds, so he had to go to the outskirts of the city. This made his preaching more of a challenge, but he did it anyway.

Example After Peter proclaimed Jesus as Messiah, he urged silence. Why?

Reaction control! Jesus wanted to control how he was proclaimed as Messiah among the Jewish people:

Matthew 16:20: *Then he warned the disciples that they should tell no one that he was the Christ.*

Timing was everything with Jesus' ministry. He disclosed who he was deliberately and over time to a greater extent as his ministry progressed. Revealing who he was too early could result in his death taking place sooner than it was supposed to.

Jesus was cognizant of time as he went through his life. He knew when the announcement that he was the Messiah came out, the clock had to be at the right time. He was not trying to hide from anything. Jesus knew the Father had a designated period for him to announce his Messiahship. He paced his ministry to meet God's timetable.

But what about with demons?

Example After casting out demons Jesus told them to not reveal who he was. Why?

Association control! Jesus did not want his Messiahship to have any connection to the demon world:

Mark 3:11-12: *11 Whenever the unclean spirits saw him, they would fall down before him and shout, You are the son of God! 12 And he earnestly warned them not to tell who he was.*

Jesus could speak for himself. He didn't need evil spirits confusing matters, so he banned them to silence!

In these three examples, Jesus looked for silence not because he was afraid, but because the timing and content of his ministry, was measured according to his Father's plan. Jesus could handle these situations, but the timing for them was not yet at the right point.

He knew God's timing. We don't. He didn't hide. He worked through his three-and-a-half-year ministry with perfection, understanding when and how knowledge should be revealed.

Did the Apostle Paul teach us to be secretive or outspoken?

Paul is speaking to Timothy, his spiritual son, whom he's entrusting to carry on the work after Paul dies:

2 Timothy 4:1-2: *1 I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: 2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.*

The Apostle Paul did not tell Timothy to be quiet or secretive. Rather, he told Timothy to be unafraid in spreading the gospel work. These are admonitions for us as well: *Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season*—always be ready to share the gospel.

Peter urged us to be open in our behavior among all people:

1 Peter 2:11-12: *11 Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul. 12 Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.*

The day of visitation is the Day of Judgment, when humanity looks back and remembers their treatment of Christ's followers. The Apostle Peter warns us that we will be slandered by the unbelievers (the Gentiles) for the righteous things we say and do. In the Day of Judgment, the day of reconciliation, they will remember our witnessing and will look on that example and glorify God. It is not about silence at all either in voice or behavior.

It is about living up to, standing up for and speaking out these truths.

Paul reminded us that it is the minds of unbelievers that are veiled, and to preach the gospel clearly:

2 Corinthians 4:3-6: *3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 5 For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who said, Light shall shine out of darkness, is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.*

Our gospel is veiled (hidden, not clear) to those who are perishing. It does not say we shouldn't speak of it, only that it will not be understood because the god of this world (Satan) has blinded the minds of the unbelieving. Even if they do not understand, we are to speak it—not whisper it—anyway. For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord.



Jesus made sure the timing of his ministry was in full accord with the Father's plans.

Our understanding on whether to be silent or speak up for the gospel must be based within the context of Scripture alone. A clear scriptural perspective is now beginning to emerge. Stand openly and firmly for the gospel under God's mighty and protective providence!

The warnings against monitoring spirits are strong. As we counter them, how can we be sure we are not missing something really important?

This is an important question as we want to hold all of scripture up as the one true and powerful light for our path. Moving forward, we will see a few scriptures that may bring questions. We will also see some very specific scriptural teachings that put this whole discussion into a clearly understandable perspective.

 Use discernment, How to Stop Monitoring Spirits from Monitoring You, Gracely Inspired

- *Doesn't sharing testimonies mutually encourage the brethren? Yes. Spiritual mentors, pastors and mature believers can help nurture you in new seasons. But we must exercise discretion to avoid casting pearls to swine or giving information to the wrong spirits.*
- *You see, not everyone celebrates your victory. Through jealousy, ignorance or wrong associations, people can speak words that give your blessing over to the enemy's manipulation. When God first speaks to you, avoid chatter that reduces holy things to the mundane. Don't broadcast every dream or spiritual encounter without discernment. Protect what is precious until the appointed time.*

(The demons somehow can't hear when we talk to spiritual mentors, pastors and mature believers, but they can hear when we talk to others? It doesn't make sense.)

This next caution from the sound bite is specifically related to dreams and spiritual encounters. Previously, the warning was in the context of prophecy and messages from God. We will get to these soon.

What about casting pearls before swine?

Matthew 7:4-6: *4 Or how can you say to your brother, Let me take the speck out of your eye, and behold, the log is in your own eye? 5 You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye. 6 Do not give what is*



holy to dogs, and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.

Rick

A “Rick opinion” - This is a tough Scripture to understand, possibly because of the order in which it is written. The thought here is to not feed a dog *holy things* when they want raw meat, lest they *turn and tear you to pieces*. The *tear you to pieces* seems to belong with the dogs.

Don't throw *pearls of great price* to pigs when they are looking for food. They are not going to recognize the pearls as being of great price; they don't want them. They are just going to trample them and bury them in the mud. Why would we give *holy things* and *pearls of great price* to those who just don't care—who want something entirely different?

In other words, be smart, cautious and protective. Don't waste your time with people who have no interest in heavenly things, but are self-seekers, devourers, wanting only to ridicule that which they do not understand or appreciate.

Jesus wanted his apostles to realize the value of the message they were proclaiming and the urgency of getting the message to those who would respond. They were to avoid the waste of time trying to convince those who opposed them.

The Apostle Peter builds on Jesus' example of *pearls before swine* with a pointed interpretation.

In these next verses, Peter is describing those sinful false teachers who are driven by sensuality and greed:

2 Peter 2:21-22: *21 For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment handed on to them. 22 It has happened to them according to the true proverb, A DOG RETURNS TO ITS OWN VOMIT, and, A sow, after washing, returns to wallowing in the mire.*

The symbols of dogs and swine are of people who are not interested in holy or spiritual things but are only interested in things of the earth. Spirituality just does not mix with deep-seated sensuality and worldly thinking. However, we don't see this as a ban against any preaching the word to those who are unaccepting. Jesus is saying, *Be careful*. He is not saying, *Do not preach*.

Offer the word of the Lord wherever we go and then evaluate the reaction:

Matthew 10:11-15: *11 And whatever city or village you enter, inquire who is worthy in it, and stay at his house until you leave that city. 12 As you enter the house, give it your greeting. 13 If the house is worthy, give it your blessing of peace. But if it is not worthy, take back your blessing of peace. 14 Whoever does not receive you, nor heed your words, as you go out of that house or that city, shake the dust off your feet. 15 Truly I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city.*

Shake the dust off your feet is a Hebrew idiom meaning to have nothing to do with them. Leave them alone. You're going to meet people who aren't interested. Move on. Their rejection of the message won't be without consequences, but it is not an eternal judgment against them—that's what the Day of Judgment day is for. We know that will be the day of reconciliation. These scriptures do not say not to preach to them. Rather, *Okay, that was the result, so move along. Don't waste any more time with them.*

The Apostle Paul stepped directly into Athens, the heartland of paganism, and preached:

Acts 17:22-24,32: *22 So Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, Men of Athens, I observe that you are very religious in all respects. 23 For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore what you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you. 24 The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; 32 now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some began to sneer, but others said, We shall hear you again concerning this.*

He could have just yelled, "Yikes! Dogs and swine everywhere! I'm out of here!" but he saw an opening for the gospel message even though he was surrounded by darkness and idolatry. Paul was a master at knowing his audience and tailoring his message just to them. If there was any hope of convincing someone, he was going to find it.



How did he do this? He found the kernel of truth in what was important to them and expanded on it. He did not blow up their whole belief system. He just said, "Let me explain this piece to you," and many wanted to hear more.

He found a way to preach in a place where most of us would be uncomfortable even walking down the street. Instead, the Apostle Paul saw an opportunity. This is a great example of NOT being silent and secretive, afraid of monitoring spirits. Instead, he was looking for an opportunity to advance truth among the pagans.

This monitoring spirits perspective has a second theme running through the whole teaching. It seems to be firmly connected to gifts of the spirit, specifically the idea that revelations are coming through visions, dreams or some other direct communication from God. Christians of all types are being exposed to this idea of monitoring spirits, but it is especially popular with the "Charismatic" movement. This is a type of Pentecostal theology that teaches that the gifts of the spirit given to the apostles are still accessible today. They are used as evidence, they say, of having received the holy spirit.

One text some used to "prove" these monitoring spirits exist:

1 Corinthians 12:10: (KJV) *To another [is given] the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits...*


Does this mean some were allowed to recognize the presence and nature of different spiritual influences, such as monitoring spirits in comparison to some other kind?



We understand this to mean being able to read the heart intention of others. Jesus did this with the Pharisees and others. Peter did this with Ananias and Sapphira (**Acts 5:1-11**). Jesus could read the heart; we cannot. This was a gift of the spirit.

We only see these gifts passed on to others in the presence of an apostle—there is no evidence anyone else could pass along these gifts:

Acts 10:44, 46: (NRSV) *44 While Peter was still speaking, the holy spirit fell upon all who heard the word. 46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God...*

Acts 19:6: (NRSV) *When Paul had laid his hands on them, the holy spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.*

Why don't we have any account, evidence or permission of anyone other than an apostle passing these gifts along? It is because these gifts were used to spread the gospel quickly beyond the natural landscape of the Jewish language and scope! They were a tool for the beginning stages of the gospel work. They were not needed after the apostles passed away. How do we know this?

What was prophesied to happen to these gifts?

1 Corinthians 13:8-9: *8 Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part.*

These gifts cease! Note which gifts are listed here: *Tongues, prophecy and knowledge.* (*Knowledge here means having miraculous insight. It doesn't mean acquiring an education through natural means of study.*)

These miraculously given gifts were used to communicate, teach and preview the gospel plan. They sustained the new churches when the apostles had to move on.

1 Corinthians 13:10: *But when the perfect (complete) comes, the partial will be done away.*

When that which is complete comes—when the apostles through whom these gifts were given have finished their work and written down the gospel message, the gospel would no longer be at that beginning stage but would now be able to be passed on without miracles!

Why? Because now it was in writing! It could be copied and spread to multiple countries, translated into multiple languages as the complete gospel message. The gospel is in the Bible; it is complete. Once the "complete" is available, the gifts (the partial or incomplete) were no longer needed to establish and sustain the early church. The gospel message in the written Bible has now carried through for 2,000+ years to nurture the growing church.

1 Corinthians 13:11: *When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things.*

The Apostle Paul, who had the gifts, is looking at them as being childish! He understood they were a temporary growing tool for the church.

The gospel in its infancy was spoken through “tongues” via a miracle. The early Christians could speak each other’s language and communicate, even though they were from different countries. It was a miracle!

The gospel was understood miraculously without studying. Spiritual knowledge was instantaneous with some and shared to build up the understanding of others. Individuals were able to speak prophecies and interpret them for others in their congregations. This was a miracle!

But the gospel grew up—the apostles died, having written the books and epistles of the New Testament. All that was needed to continue to grow the church in the coming years would now be found in God’s Holy Word. The gifts of the spirit, needed in infancy, were no longer needed.

Q If someone is practicing these gifts that aren't valid in Christianity today, where do these gifts come from?



Some may not like this answer, but we are going to suggest two possible places from where these “gifts” may originate:

1. Humanity has a great capacity for imagination. We might imagine we are having a vision, dream or a prophecy from God because it fits what we are being told to look for. Or, it fits a need to have a special communication with God.
2. These manifestations might come from a spiritual power. But we know it could not be a godly power because God’s gifts have passed away since the church no longer needs “childish” helps to nurture it. If they are originating from something other than God’s power, then we must stay away, run away and go the other direction. True Christians want nothing but God’s true spiritual power!

One of the main things we see this “cautioning against monitoring spirits” is related to are the gifts of the spirit.

The fundamental problem is these gifts ceased long ago! Essentially, those warning against monitoring spirits are trying to protect what is NO LONGER scripturally sanctioned.

Talk about revealing! Not only are we to stand firmly and openly regarding the Gospel, we must be careful not to protect that which is not from God!

Now that we are seeing much more of the big picture, what about protectiveness regarding dreams?

This is actually a big part of this whole monitoring spirits teaching. This teaching includes breaking down dreams by subject matter as a way to interpret what these monitoring spirits are trying to steal from you. We will sum up this portion of the teaching by reviewing just two types of dreams that they say are clear evidence of demon interference.

You can see how all of this “being watched” could lead to paranoia, especially if someone’s brain chemistry is already altered by drug use or mental health challenges. We strongly caution against focusing in any way on demonology—the study of demons and the beliefs surrounding them. We know there are spiritual battles going on, and in **1 Peter 5:8-9**, we are admonished to *be alert, resist the devil, stand firm in faith*.

There is a lot of discussion on the internet trying to explain how to know you are being monitored. Remember, though, this is not scriptural; it’s fictional. It’s a little like the vague, phony answers fortune tellers give. For example, in the blog we’ve been quoting, it says you may be monitored if you have “prolonged challenges that don’t go away,” “patterns of repeated failures and setbacks,” “persistent negative thoughts and feelings.” Other articles include, “if prosperity eludes you,” or, “if you are not reaching your full potential.” These are very vague issues we all have at one point or another and certainly are not indications that monitoring spirits are interfering in our lives.

This next person purports to be an authority on these spirits with no source for their knowledge of this information.



Vague images, Seven Dreams Exposing the Presence of Monitoring Spirits, Mumbi Inspired

- Dream #1 is seeing vague images. You had a dream, it's still bothering you even now, but you can't remember. Many of you are already there. This is what the enemy does. He hides that information from you so that you are walking without knowing. You can just stumble on things and life will be falling apart without knowing that it's that dream. A vague dream. You try to remember but you don't know. You have a feeling that there were people in this dream or something happened in this dream, but it was so vague, it was so unclear that you cannot even take anything from there. Those are monitoring spirits. They are hiding things from you. They are taking information and covering you with blindness so that you don't know what is happening.*

Obviously, this is a broad description with no proof offered. Everyone has dreams we don’t remember. We are exposed to so much during the day that it is impossible to predict what will influence us and show up jumbled together in a dream (or nightmare). Our dreams might reflect anything from feeling stressed over a recent experience, to sadness from someone close to us dying or just our brain’s chemical reaction to that sandwich we ate before bed.

This “monitoring spirits” teaching is unsettling, and some use the following text as further evidence to be secretive to avoid trouble.

In this text, Jesus IS teaching us to be wary:

Matthew 10:16: (NLT) *Look, I am sending you out as sheep among wolves. So be as shrewd as snakes and harmless as doves.*

Shrewd here means “keen in sense perception; having far-sighted judgment.”

Let’s finish the context. Our wariness is not for the purpose of hiding but to be wise in how we stand.

Jesus begins to tell his apostles what they might expect in the way of experiences with those who opposed their message:

Matthew 10:17-20: (NLT) *17 But beware! For you will be handed over to the courts and will be flogged with whips in the synagogues. 18 You will stand trial before governors and kings because you are my followers. But this will be your opportunity to tell the rulers and other unbelievers about me. 19 When you are arrested, don’t worry about how to respond or what to say. God will give you the right words at the right time. 20 For it is not you who will be speaking—it will be the spirit of your Father speaking through you.*

Jesus is reminding his apostles that even though they had been willing to receive him and believe his message, they should not expect the same from a majority of those they would be preaching to.

He assured them that if they were brought before the authorities, they should go ahead and witness to their beliefs. They wouldn’t need an elaborate preparation for their defense of the message, as the spirit of the Father dwelling in them would give them the words to speak.

This was the same reassurance God had given to



Moses (Exodus 4:12),
Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1:7),
David (2 Samuel 23:2)
and Paul (2 Timothy 4:17).

If we are living in faith, we truly have nothing to fear!

This is our last sound bite. Supposedly, not remembering our dream is an indication we have monitoring spirits in our lives. The implication is they “took the information” from us. Additional indicators allegedly include people in a dream who don’t speak, dreaming about dead loved ones, or that someone in our dream is imitating us. Here is another:



Being robbed, Seven Dreams Exposing the Presence of Monitoring Spirits, Mumbi Inspired

- #6: *This is seeing yourself being robbed, being robbed in the dream. The meaning there is that the enemy has sent people, has sent monitoring spirits to come and get whatever is good in your life. And in the physical urgency of the enemy, that can be in your family, at workplace, anywhere, because of jealousy, envy, and not liking you, they go to that extent of wanting to see your life go down and even appear in the dream. And in the physical, you find things start to fall apart. They’ve robbed your finances spiritually. And*

this then manifests as maybe sickness, so that you go and pay for doctors and you go and buy medicine. Sometimes, maybe an accident or a car just breaks down from nowhere. Something big in the car just breaks down and you don't know why it happened. You think it's normal. It's because the enemy has robbed you of the finances. The money has already been taken. So, it has to manifest in the physical. Something has to go wrong for that money to be taken away from you. And you find yourself fixing the car. You pay a huge amount. That is how they steal.

Once again, we see a fear of loss. Fear (in this case of illness or financial insecurity) is a tool Satan uses to slow or pause our Christian walk. God does not use fear as a motivation for faithfulness. This concept of monitoring spirits obstructs Christian growth. It brings its adherents into spiritual darkness by creating fear, anxiety, confusion and a sense of specialness and ego—I have something so big I can't speak it, or the demons will take it. The principle is good: avoid Satan. But don't spend time on the mythology built around him.

From a human standpoint, it's understandable that people want to make sense of why bad things happen to them and why they aren't rich and healthy and popular, but this is really just satanic superstition with no scriptural basis. And because this is made up, it can't be proven or disproven. People blog and post videos on the topic with points that don't make sense and aren't in agreement with each other. Some start merging with New Age and white witchcraft ideology by using crystals, sage, insects—it quickly gets far away from biblical principles. It's best to stay away.



The Scriptures are clear about our relationship with trials—they are welcome teachers:

1 Peter 4:12-16: *12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; 13 but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of his glory you may rejoice with exultation.*

Fiery ordeal among you—difficult, hard, traumatic trials. These are not because some monitoring spirit stole our thoughts in our dreams. These are because God is working through us to become Christlike and to teach us what we need to learn.

14 If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory and of God rests on you. 15 Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler; 16 but if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name.

What is a troublesome meddler? Someone who meddles in the affairs of others in an ungodly way. Consider this: isn't it meddling in the thoughts of others to say, "Don't say

this; be secretive about that...”? Perhaps those spreading lies about monitoring spirits are in this category.

Our Christian trials and suffering build us into followers of Jesus! They are necessary for our growth.

What can we take away from all of this?

Be wise:

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

Know the power of who we stand for and what we are given:

James 2:19: *You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.*

God has the ultimate and unlimited power. Yes, those in the spiritual realm have power well beyond human abilities, and we need to have a healthy respect for this. But God has the final say in their limits in scope and time. They can knock on the door, but God doesn't give them the key!

2 Timothy 1:7: (KJV) *For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*

The Greek word for *fear* here is a helpless kind of fear. This is the only place it's found in the Bible. *Sound mind* here means discipline, self-control.

Remember, prayer brings us peace and protection:

Philippians 4:6-7: *6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

So, if your car breaks down, it's not evidence that your faith isn't strong enough or that demons have taken your money. You are having a difficult experience and can be grateful for God's providence to lead you through that experience. Watch for the blessings and watch for the lessons.

Cars do break down! Parts wear out! These are just a part of the trials of life.

Know that Satan's reign of evil is temporary:

Hebrews 2:14: *Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death he might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.*

Think about rendering Satan powerless! This is what the ransom price of Jesus will accomplish. Satan's reign is terminal.

Realize that all of the pieces must be in place for our stand against Satan to be successful. Humility, trust, alertness, steadfastness, undying loyalty:

1 Peter 5:6-11:

Verse 6 (Humility:) Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time,

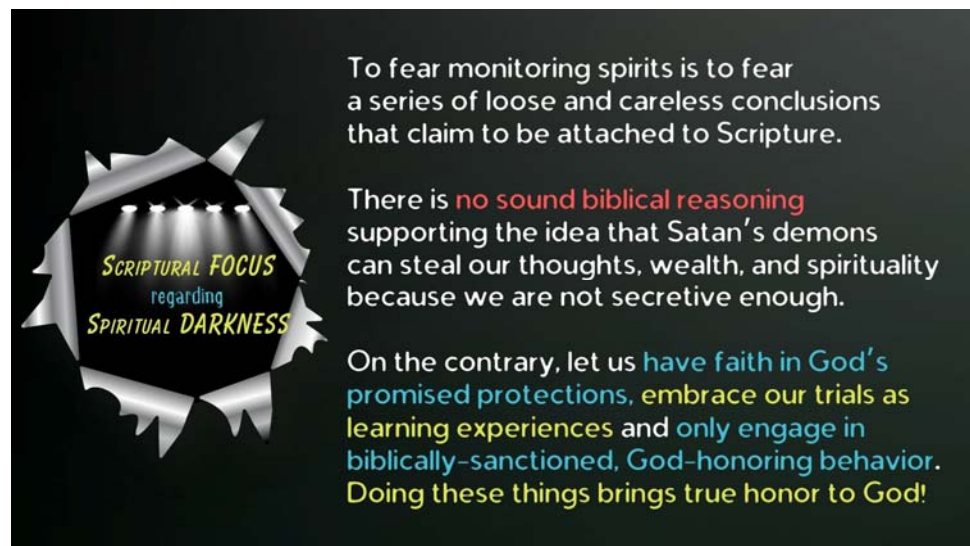
Verse 7 (Trust:) casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.

Verse 8 (Alertness:) Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Verse 9 (Steadfastness:) But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.

Verse 10 (Undying Loyalty:) After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you. 11 To Him be dominion forever and ever. Amen.

We don't have to spend our time and our mental and emotional energy worrying about monitoring spirits when we have the protection of God Almighty through Christ, and if we apply what is taught in **1 Peter 5:6-11**.



Make sure our belief system has a sound scriptural basis.

Ephesians 4:29: *Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.*

The idea of monitoring spirits is damaging to true Christian faith. It has no scriptural basis. It is built upon the imaginations of some. These thoughts can bring us down dark roads that lead away from God. These are satanic thoughts. We are to stay firm in what God teaches us in the Bible.

**So, are monitoring spirits watching us?
For Rick, Jonathan, Julie and Christian Questions...
...Think about it!**

All scriptures cited are from the NASB1995 translation unless otherwise noted.



Next episode

Episode 1335: What is the Broad Road that Leads to Destruction? (Listener Q&A Series)



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<https://christianquestions.com/doctrine/1305-demons/>

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Parents and Bible class teachers, continue your studies on this topic with these short, animated videos for kids at ChristianQuestions.com/YouTube:

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- **What did Jesus teach?**

<https://christianquestions.com/cq-videos/videos-cq-kids/what-did-jesus-teach-us/>

In New Testament times, there were those who seriously practiced pagan rituals and spells, yet were dramatically converted to Christianity:

Acts 19:18-20: *18 Many also of those who had believed kept coming, confessing and disclosing their practices. 19 And many of those who practiced magic brought their books together and began burning them in the sight of everyone; and they counted up the price of them and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. 20 So the word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing.*

How did this startling conversion happen?

By Paul's constant and extreme exposure of the gospel to these sinful people:

Acts 19:8-10: *8 And he entered the synagogue and continued speaking out boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God. 9 But when some were becoming hardened and disobedient, speaking evil of the way before the people, he withdrew from them and took away the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus. 10 This took place for two years, so that all who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.*

Psalms 40:6-10: *6 Sacrifice and meal offering You have not desired; My ears You have opened; Burnt offering and sin offering You have not required. 7 Then I said, Behold, I come; In the scroll of the book it is written of me. 8 I delight to do Your will, O my God; Your Law is within my heart. 9 I have proclaimed glad tidings of righteousness in the great congregation; Behold, I will not restrain my lips, O LORD, You know. 10 I have not hidden Your righteousness within my heart; I have spoken of Your faithfulness and Your salvation; I have not concealed Your lovingkindness and Your truth from the great congregation.*

2 Corinthians 4:7-11: *7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves; 8 we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; 10 always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. 11 For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.*

Study QUESTIONS

Ep.1334: Are Monitoring Spirits Watching Us?

<https://christianquestions.com/program/1334-monitoring-spirits/>

See:  CQRewind
SHOW NOTES

1. What is a “monitoring spirit?” Is this term found in the Bible? What does 2 Corinthians tell us about Satan and his servants? Explain the discussion between Satan and God about Job. What does this show us about Satan’s abilities and God’s “hedge of protection?” How do we know we can rely on God’s protection? (Job 1:6-12, Psalm 17:8, 32:7, 57:1, 91:1, 1 Corinthians 4:9, 1 Peter 5:7-9)
2. Are we supposed to hide our blessings and knowledge away from others so demons cannot hear about them and work to take them away from us? What does the Sermon on the Mount tell us to expect in our lives? Why are faithful followers of Jesus described as “salt”? In what two ways are we supposed to be light unto the world? Do these two illustrations Jesus gave indicate we should keep silent? (Matthew 5:11-16)
3. Did Jesus warn us to not speak of the gospel? Explain Mark 1:42-45, Matthew 16:20 and Mark 3:11-12 in the context of Jesus telling others not to speak. Why would he do this? What did the Apostle Paul do about preaching the word of God? (2 Timothy 4:1-2, 1 Peter 2:11-12, 2 Corinthians 4:3-6)
4. What does “casting pearls before swine” mean? Why does Jesus warn his disciples against this? What is the meaning of the symbols of dogs and swine? How should we treat people who are not interested in the gospel message? What was the Apostle Paul’s example in pagan surroundings? What technique did he use to get through to his audience? (Matthew 7:6, 2 Peter 2:21-22, Matthew 10:11-15, Acts 17:22-24)
5. How were some in the early church able to prove monitoring spirits existed? How did someone receive in the early church receive the gifts of the spirit? What was the purpose of these gifts? Why shouldn’t we look for these gifts in our lives? (1 Corinthians 12:10, 13:8-10, Acts 5:1-11, 10:44,46, 19:6)
6. Are we to be wary of the devil? What should we expect when out preaching the gospel message? How does Satan use fear? How should we view our trials? (1 Peter 4:12-16, 5:8-9, Matthew 10:16-20)
7. What are our “take-aways” from this? What points from the following do you remember?
 - a. 1 John 4:1, James 2:19, 2 Timothy 1:7
 - b. Philippians 4:6-7
 - c. Hebrews 2:14
 - d. 1 Peter 5:6-11 (be thorough on this one)
8. Above all, how should we act and react after reading Ephesians 4:29? How do you feel God’s protection in your life? Please share some of your experiences.