

# **MEDIUMSHIP AND THE BIBLE**

## ***BETWEEN ACCOUNTS, WARNINGS, AND SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT***

The pursuit of contact with the spiritual world has accompanied humanity since ancient times. Across different cultures, mediumistic practices have been used as a way to obtain guidance, apparent comfort, or hidden knowledge. However, when we turn to the Holy Scriptures, we find a firm, consistent, and often counterintuitive approach to modern thinking: the Bible acknowledges the existence of these practices but does not legitimize them; rather, it confronts and strongly condemns them.

This article examines the subject in light of Scripture, considering biblical accounts, doctrinal teachings, and practical implications for the Christian faith.

### **BIBLICAL ACCOUNTS: THE REALITY OF THE PHENOMENON**

The Bible does not ignore the existence of mediumistic practices. On the contrary, it records episodes that reveal human contact with the spiritual world outside of God's direction.

One of the most emblematic cases is that of King Saul. In 1 Samuel 28:3–25, having distanced himself from God and receiving no answers through legitimate means, he seeks a medium in En-Dor to summon the prophet Samuel. The episode is tense and revealing. Saul, who had previously expelled necromancers from the land, now turns to exactly what God had forbidden.

The result is not comfort, but judgment: the message he receives announces his defeat and imminent death. The text does not validate the practice; rather, it presents it as evidence of Saul's spiritual collapse.

Another significant episode occurs in the New Testament. In Acts 16:16–18, the apostle Paul encounters a young woman possessed by a “*spirit of divination*,” which brought profit to her masters. Although her words seemingly acknowledged the servants of God, Paul discerns the spiritual origin of the manifestation and commands the spirit to leave her, which happens immediately.

This account is crucial: it demonstrates that not every spiritual manifestation, even if it contains elements of truth, comes from God.

## **THE BIBLICAL POSITION: CLEAR AND DIRECT PROHIBITION**

The Law of Moses establishes an unequivocal prohibition regarding mediumistic practices. In Deuteronomy 18:10–12, we read: “*There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices divination, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. For all who do these things are an abomination to the Lord.*”

The language is strong: “*abomination.*” This indicates not merely disapproval, but total rejection.

This prohibition is not arbitrary. It is grounded in deep theological principles that structure biblical faith.

### **WHY DOES THE BIBLE REJECT MEDIUMSHIP?**

#### **1. God Determines How He Reveals Himself**

Scripture affirms that God communicates with humanity intentionally and sovereignly. In the Old Testament, through the prophets; in the New Testament, fully through Christ.

Seeking spiritual guidance outside these means is, essentially, a rejection of divine authority.

#### **2. The Danger of Spiritual Deception**

The Bible repeatedly warns about deceptive spiritual forces. In 2 Corinthians 11:14, we read that Satan “disguises himself as an angel of light.”

This means that spiritual experiences may appear legitimate, true, and even edifying, yet still not originate from God.

The case of the young woman in Acts 16 reinforces this point: her statements were correct in content, but the source was spiritually corrupted.

### **3. The Separation Between the Living and the Dead**

The account in Luke 16:19–31, involving the rich man and Lazarus, presents a clear principle: there is an unbridgeable separation between the world of the living and the dead.

According to Jesus' teaching, there is no free movement or communication between these realms.

#### **DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MEDIUMSHIP AND SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

It is important to make a fundamental distinction. The Bible does not deny the supernatural; it redefines it.

In 1 Corinthians 12, we find the spiritual gifts:

- prophecy
- discernment of spirits
- word of knowledge

However, these gifts have specific characteristics:

- they are granted by the Holy Spirit
- they operate under God's control
- they have an edifying purpose
- they do not involve contact with the dead

Therefore, this is not a form of "Christian mediumship," but rather the sovereign activity of God among His people.

#### **SPIRITUAL WARFARE AND THE ARMOR OF GOD (Eph 6:10–18)**

When addressing the reality of the spiritual world, the apostle Paul further expands the believer's understanding by affirming that the Christian life exists within a context of spiritual warfare.

In Ephesians 6:10–12, he declares: "***For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.***"

This passage is essential to the subject, as it establishes three key truths:

## **1. The spiritual world is real, but it is also a battlefield**

The Bible does not present the spiritual realm as neutral or harmless. There is an ongoing war, and human beings are not spectators, but participants.

This means that practices such as mediumship are not merely “alternative spiritual experiences,” but potential points of exposure to harmful influences.

## **2. Protection comes not from techniques, but from God**

Paul does not teach believers to “explore” the spiritual world, but to be protected within it.

The armor of God includes:

- truth
- righteousness
- the gospel of peace
- faith
- salvation
- the Word of God
- prayer

In other words, spiritual security is not found in accessing the unseen, but in standing firm in God.

## **3. The believer’s posture is resistance, not curiosity**

The final instruction is clear: “*stand firm in the evil day.*”

Unlike mediumistic practices, which seek contact and interaction with the spiritual realm, biblical teaching calls the believer to:

- vigilance
- sobriety
- dependence on God

## **IMPLICATIONS FOR TODAY**

In a world where interest in the spiritual continues to grow, the biblical message remains both relevant and necessary.

Mediumistic practices, though common and often presented as harmless, are treated in Scripture as spiritually dangerous. The issue is not merely moral, but ontological: it concerns the source of revelation and the nature of the spiritual forces involved.

Saul's experience serves as a warning: when a person abandons God's direction, they tend to seek answers from the wrong sources. In contrast, the example of the apostle Paul shows the correct path: discernment, spiritual authority, and faithfulness to the truth.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Bible acknowledges the existence of spiritual phenomena beyond human understanding, but it establishes clear boundaries regarding how believers should relate to them.

Mediumship, in its various forms, is not presented as a legitimate means of accessing the spiritual world. On the contrary, it is associated with disobedience, deception, and separation from God.

In light of Ephesians 6, we understand that the spiritual realm is not a territory for exploration, but a domain in which the believer must remain protected, vigilant, and grounded in truth.

Therefore, the biblical guidance is direct: seek God, trust His Word, and exercise spiritual discernment.

In times of spiritual confusion, this is not merely a theological position, it is a matter of the soul's safety.

### **Author's Note:**

*I wrote this article to provide clear biblical guidance on spiritual practices that may expose individuals to deception and emotional instability, thereby contributing to the promotion of mental health through discernment, spiritual security, and a faith grounded in truth.*

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