

MIXING CHRISTIAN AND OCCULT

By Steve Stutzman

I was headed to work several weeks ago and the secretary texted me, "How are we going to respond to Charlie?" Charlie who? That conversation led to a little educational reading for me, on the latest fad of the moment, a game called Charlie-Charlie. At first, I declined to comment as much as possible, even though I was tagged multiple times on venues either for or against the game, by folks seeking opinions. Maybe it is just a 'bury-your-head-in-the-sand' approach, but I was kinda hoping it would quickly subside, and we could ignore it and go on with life. However, when the one website promoting the game exploded into the millions of hits, I knew it had crossed a line into a real phenomenon.

Last night, after another round of questions, I decided to go ahead and lay it out as I see it...

First of all, I suppose it is no shock to you if I am basing my concepts off of the Bible. The title should have made that clear enough. 2 Cor 6:13-18 contains a bit of the perspective of God on the subject, especially in these lines: "*for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial?*"

Charlie/Charlie is a game, or a challenge, where yes and no words are written on a paper, pencils arranged in a T form, one across another, and then 'charlie' is summoned to answer questions. Questions are asked, and the pencil turns, unaided, toward the 'correct' answer. The practice and experimentation of this 'game' has exploded across the US and Canada, shared extensively through social media.

This practice of seeking answers, from an unknown source, by mysterious powers that are not explainable scientifically, is part definition of the word, occult. (Merriam -Webster....." matters regarded as involving the action or influence of supernatural or supernormal powers or some secret knowledge of them —used with *the*"

Involvement in the occult, in the pursuit of information, entertainment, healing, and manipulation of others, is an open door to the world of the demonic. It is very important to understand that witchcraft and occultism do NOT require the knowledge of the participant; in other words, your ACTIONS in a specific venue, give the demonic world certain rights to your soul, and access to your mind and body, whether you have any knowledge of what you are doing, or not. This access may or may not be exploited immediately. In some cases, nothing is felt or noticed at all, giving the individual involved the notion that no ill is coming, and prompting them to repeat the activity, thus strengthening the actual hold and influence of the demons on the mind and life of the individual. This is one of the reasons in the above Scripture, that God urges His people to separate themselves from all the demonic, so that He can be a Father to them..... "*Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean (demonic) thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.*"

Many, many, people today suffer untold damages in their spiritual walk, their emotional health, and even their physical well-being, because of having given ground in their soul to the demonic realm. (Please do NOT read, "All sickness comes from witchcraft".... That is not said or implied) I work with these people day after day. Some come to freedom: some never do. It has birthed in me, not fear, but a pretty severe consciousness of what the effects of witchcraft can be on a person.

If a person faces the horror of child sexual abuse-- ONCE-- the damage is done. Much pain and emotion surrounds the event, and the memory. 25 years later, many of them still writhe and weep over the pain and torment that one moment instilled. Witchcraft is similar- only it carries with it little or no feeling. The damage, emotionally, mentally, spiritually, is awful; but the person involved, sits in my office and has no recollection of the moment whatsoever. We search, pray, ask, look, seek, comb through the memories seeking the event, the involvement, that opened the door to the damage I see lived out in front of me. Sometimes, we find it, and through repentance, the door springs open, and folks walk away profoundly changed, freed from the demons that bound them.

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The ability of witchcraft and occult involvements to hide themselves, is one of the reasons this Cha/cha thing bugs me so badly. Thousands... Millions of children, in the last few weeks, experimented with a "silly game" that opened a doorway to demons, right into their lives. Many of them have already passed it off as nothing, and headed on in to life..... a life that will be increasingly influenced by the dark side. As they grow, the Bible, Christianity, Creation and God may seem increasingly foolish to them. (blinded minds, 2 Cor. 4:4) The farther they go, the more they will come to agree with the culture and society that hates God; gay marriage will seem normal, trees will be more important than God is, parents will seem stupid, and rebellion-wise, understanding will return to third-world levels, etc. (for a more complete list, see Romans 1:25-32, note esp. 'darkened heart') Relationships will become disastrous, and drug use and suicide among this group will continue to climb. Meanwhile, folks will flounder around like drunks in the dark, trying to instigate policies to correct a problem no one can see, and most don't even remember.

The basis of the game, Charlie/Charlie, is an attempt to access unknown sources of power, for information. In Scripture, this is called *divination*. There are hundreds of forms of it in today's world. It is essentially, witchcraft; seeking to the demonic world for information. Man has always been curious about the world he cannot see, and God has always forbade him to seek how to enter it. De 18:9 " *When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. 10 There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, 11 Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. 12 For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee.* " Opening these doorways in the OT had a death penalty attached; today, it is mocked by Christians as meaningless, but then they, and their children, and grandchildren, get to pay a price no one seems to understand.

Divination often "works". Because it does, some folks assume it is legitimate. Along with that, there are things many people do NOT understand that work, legitimately (like radio waves, electricity). This creates an easy seedbed for the demonic world to operate in. They tickle folks with curiosity, use the experimentation to slide in, then take over the controls of the life, via emotions. All the while, the whole scene is hidden from view. Christians get involved, and the devils laugh, staking claim to areas of the soul (and body). Because people FEEL nothing, they assume it is nothing; but the mind and the heart are systematically darkened, leading to a whole host of evils, lies and problems. The vast majority of dysfunctions of the mind are directly related to witchcraft, which remains hidden under blankets of "I forgot", and "I didn't know".

People often say to me, "But how can a Christian have a demon?" Perhaps a better question is, "What happens when a demon has a Christian?" Paul says, that "*to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey;*". In 2 Tim. 2, he instructs Timothy on how to help people "*recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will*". Simon the sorcerer, upon meeting up with his past in front of Peter, was told that he was in the "*bond of iniquity*". For simplicity's sake, that means "present chains of past sin". The Christians in Ephesus, saved for 1-2 entire years, still had these books and objects of curious arts (things that work, but no one knows how) in their houses. They were greatly hindered by it, (unknowingly) but they repented when 7 Jewish stinkers hit the streets. (Acts 19) They got together and burned it all, completely collapsing the hold of demonic idolatry on the region. "*So grew the WORD OF GOD, and prevailed.*"

There should be a natural repulsion to this kind of thing, especially among believers. In today's world, honestly, I tremble just a bit. We have entered a time where the desire for witchcraft is unprecedented in civilized history. 75% of high-school girls have tried casting spells by graduation. 30% have been approached by some 'evangelist' from the dark side. Satan is an incrementalist; he takes as small of

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steps as necessary, to suck people from one position to another, then another, and so on. Young people are being drawn to movies, books, music, and events that portray and glorify Satanism, the occult, séances, spells, magic, and vampires. Every song, every movie, every scene, releases the lock on the door of the mind, opens the latch.... propels us one step closer to something like Charlie/Charlie, which is in simple terms, an open invitation to a demon. The demon, in turn, propels us back to the music, to the movies about the occult, the horror, the paranormal, the demonic. Even so-called "Christian" movies, portraying the supernatural underworld in fiction, open door a little in minds, drawing us to the next step.

I realize there are a thousand opinions about all this stuff. There is no kind of witchcraft, anywhere that I know of, that is not defended by at least some "christian", somewhere. I am not interested in a truckload of opinions, especially emotional ones, dumped on me about this stuff; If someone has a well-researched, valid, life-experience backed notion, that may be helpful. But over-all, I hate witchcraft: I am not in the least fascinated by it, and I tend to resent any time that I have to waste, examining it. Paul wanted believers "wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil." I concur. But all the preaching, all the rhetoric, all the symbolism, all the motions, do very little to penetrate a mind and heart darkened by the demonic. And tho folks may be Christians, as in Simon's case, or Acts 19, they are still often troubled, and even dangerous to the Kingdom, because of this influence and involvement.

The bottom line is, I want folks to be free. I want people to connect with the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior and LORD. I want the glorious gospel of Christ to explode around us, then in us, then out of us to others. I want the Kingdom to surge forward in power, with freedom, love and miracles leaking out all over the place. I want the "Word of God to grow mightily, and prevail", both in our lives, and all around us. But I am acutely aware that this is unlikely to be a reality where involvements with witchcraft exist. Light and darkness don't mix well. God, for all the Love that He is, will not compromise His Holiness, and promises to destroy those that defile the temple. 1Co 3:16-17 *"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are."* This is not, mind you, an angry God trying to hurt folks; this is the natural results of choosing to turn to His enemy. God has a natural negative attitude toward the demonic world. When He puts His Life and Nature in us, it follows that we should have a similar attitude. We have enough to deal with, in our own selves, and in the fallen world around us, without reaching into the dark underworld for kicks and giggles, or for any other reason. Christ is to be our "all in all", not our 'some in some'. There is no room in Christ for these agreements with devils.

If you have been bamboozled into the Charlie-Charlie game, Ouija boards, up-table, 8-ball, light-as-a-feather, pendulums, or any of the other hundred things out there connected to the occult, I urge you to seek freedom. On our website, www.stutzmansingers.com, we carry a book **Gripped By a Dark Hand**, by Paul Weaver, that describes and defines much of the occult that has crept into the plain culture and circles. If you doubt the existence of any of this, as a reality at all, we have a book entitled, **When Pigs Move In**, by Don Dickerman, or you can order it directly from his website:

<http://ddmmin.tripod.com/dondickerman/store.html>

If something you were involved with was brought to your attention, whatever you do, please do not ignore it. Having God point out things like this in our lives, is a notable gift from Heaven, do not despise the gift. Find someone to pray with you, through the issue at hand. Repent of it, with all involvements and sin it brought. Carry it to the cross, and renounce it. Then have the friend involved, take authority over any spirits using that sin as an invitation, to leave, in the Name of Jesus Christ. If you, or your friend, are uncomfortable with this scene, we have a prayer format we will e-mail you to use free of charge.....(info@stutzmansingers.com) no magic words, just repentance and clear addressing of the demonic in Jesus Name.
Live Free.

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