

Witchcraft It's More Common Than You Think

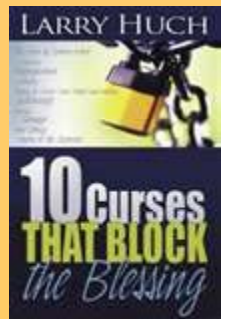
From The Book: 10 Curses That Block the Blessing
By: Larry Huch



So tell them, 'As surely as I live, declares the Lord, I will do to you the very things I heard you say: Numbers 14:28

Rev. Sam Davis, Pastor/Facilitator
Beulah Grove Baptist Church
1434 Poplar Street
Augusta, GA 30901

All Scriptural references are from the NIV Bible unless otherwise noted.

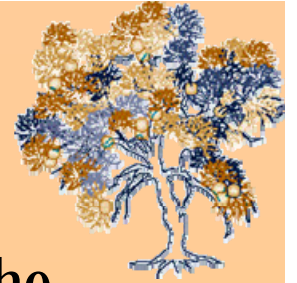




Discerning Spirit

- What is a discerning spirit?
- Discerning of spirits is the supernatural ability given by the Holy Spirit to perceive the source of a spiritual manifestation and determine whether it is of God (Acts 10:30-35), of the devil (Acts 16:16-18), of man (Acts 8:18-23), or of the world. It is not mind reading, psychic phenomena, or the ability to criticize and find fault.
- Discerning of spirits must be done by the power of the Holy Spirit; He bears witness with our spirit when something is or is not of God. The gift of discerning of spirits is the supernatural power to detect the realm of the spirits and their activities. It implies the power of spiritual insight - the supernatural revelation of plans and purposes of the enemy and his forces. It is a gift which protects and guards you.

Discerning Spirit



- You can discern or test whether or not a spirit is of God by the following three ways:
 - **1** Observing what a person does. In Matthew 7:15-20, Jesus explains that false prophets are known by their fruit - by their conduct and actions.
 - ***"Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.***

Testing Discerning Spirit

- You can discern or test whether or not a spirit is of God by the following three ways:
 - 2. Observing whether or not a person exalts Jesus Christ as the Son of God and as Lord and Saviour (I Corinthians 12:3).
 - ***Therefore I tell you that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.***
 - **3** By listening to what a person says (I John 4:1-3). Does their confession line up with the truth of God's Word?
 - ***Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have⁴ heard is coming and even now is already in the world.***

Witchcraft

- I know it's difficult for many people to accept that somebody can put a curse on us, but it's true if you allow it! Words hold the power of life and death, especially if those people are in a position of authority.
- Strong's concordance defines *witchcraft* as "medication, magic, sorcery---a druggist, a poisoner."
- "A poisoner," someone who poisoned you. If someone gave you poison, you would spit it out. Has someone poisoned your marriage, money, children, job? Spit it out!



Receive God's Truth

- Galatians 5:19-20

The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions

- *The truth is, God wants you to be successful, not a failure. The truth is your marriage, your children, your business, your career will make it! But we are to receive the truth of God's Word and reject anyone's words that don't match it.*



Mark 11:12-14, 20-21

- The next day as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry. Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to find out if it had any fruit. When he reached it, he found nothing but leaves, because it was not the season for figs. Then he said to the tree, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard him say it. In the morning, as they went along, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots. Peter remembered and said to Jesus, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree you cursed has withered!"*



Power In Prayer



- Jesus could have easily prayed for the fig tree to live and produce fruit. This helps us to understand this Scripture is a great lesson on the power we have in prayer:

Matthew 21:18-21

- ***Early in the morning, as he was on his way back to the city, he was hungry. Seeing a fig tree by the road, he went up to it but found nothing on it except leaves. Then he said to it, "May you never bear fruit again!" Immediately the tree withered. When the disciples saw this, they were amazed. "How did the fig tree wither so quickly?" they asked. Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and it will be done.***

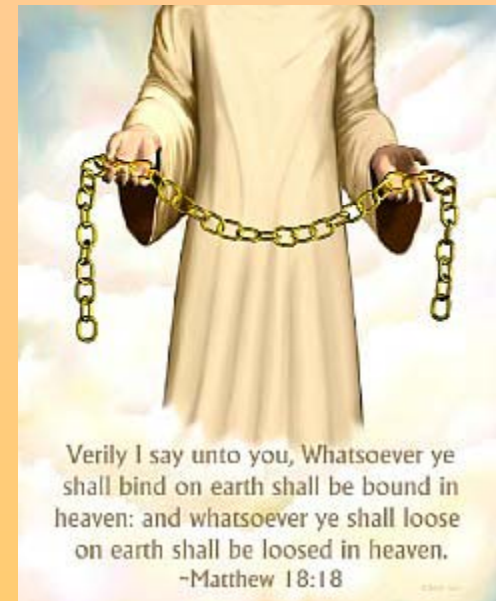
You Have The Power

- Jesus showed us two sides of the same coin. “Life and death” are in the power of the tongue. Instead of speaking life He spoke death; instead of blessing, a curse.
- We all readily acknowledge the power of positive words and positive prayer, but we also need to understand the power of our words to curse and bring death.
- Jesus through the parable of the fig tree was trying to remind us that you and I, who are made in the ***image*** of God, have the ability to speak a blessing, but we also have the ability to speak a curse.



Bind Up

- ***And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.*** Matthew 16:19
- We need to be sure we don't "bind up" our finances, our healings, our marriages, or our children by words that we say. We need to be equally aware that we can't let others bind us up by the words that they say over us.
- You must also understand when you bind something you must loose something.



Acts 8:9-11

- I can't tell you how many people are functioning under a curse because even pastors have spoken a curse over their lives. "If you leave this church or this denomination, God will make you pay. Your kids will backslide, you'll get cancer, your marriage or business will fail." That's witchcraft, plain and simple!"
- ***Now for some time a man named Simon had practiced sorcery in the city and amazed all the people of Samaria. He boasted that he was someone great, and all the people, both high and low, gave him their attention and exclaimed, "This man is the divine power known as the Great Power." They followed him because he had amazed them for a long time with his magic.***

False Prophets

- There is another area we need to look at for a moment...prophecy
- I believe that the closer we get to the second coming of Christ, the greater God will pour out His Spirit and anointing. God has called men and women to speak spiritually into other people's lives. However, you should be careful and not allow everyone to prophesy over you just because they say they are prophetic. There are **false teachers/prophets** walking around claiming and professing to be sent of God.
- ***Indeed, I am against those who prophesy false dreams," declares the Lord. "They tell them and lead my people astray with their reckless lies, yet I did not send or appoint them. They do not benefit these people in the least," declares the Lord. Jeremiah 23:32***
- **NOTE:** A prophecy is not something that redirects you but it is a confirmation of a direction that God has already given you.

The Enemy In The House

- ***Turn your steps toward these everlasting ruins, all this destruction the enemy has brought on the sanctuary. Your foes roared in the place where you met with us; they set up their standards as signs. They burned your sanctuary to the ground; they defiled the dwelling place of your Name. Psalms 73:3-4, 7***



- These verses prove that it is possible for the enemies of the gospel to come into God's house and set up their operations

Who Is Real?

- ***"Among my people are wicked men who lie in wait like men who snare birds and like those who set traps to catch men."***
Jeremiah 5:26
- Among God's people, where the Bible is read and the word is taught. Where they worship God in Spirit and in truth, where they sing his praise and do his work. Jeremiah wrote that among them are found those who worked wickedness. They join God's people as if they also belong to God but they are not. They may talk the language of God's people but the Bible brands them as wicked, not righteous people.

