



## You can live without **FEAR** of the Ancestors

We are all proud of famous ancestors and remember our family dead with respect and love. This is good, for it helps to forge unity within a nation and binds a family together.

### **BEWARE OF SATAN'S TRAP**

Satan, the enemy of mankind, has cleverly used this reverence to deceive many people. He put into the minds of people the belief that ancestors are lifted up into the position of little gods and can affect the lives of the living. People were taught to fear their ancestors, to satisfy them with sacrifices in times of trouble and to thank them with gifts when all is well. Whole nations began to try to consult their ancestors in tribal decisions and family affairs and to listen to advice that supposedly came from the dead. Satan had closed the trap!

### **GOD WARNS OF DANGER**

God has always warned people against such a trap. The Bible says that, when false teachers tell you to consult mediums and those who consult spirits, **instead you ought to consult God.** We should not try to consult the dead for the sake of the living. The message of false teachers brings no light but instead pushes people into thick darkness (Isaiah 8:19-22). If a person turns to mediums and spirit worshippers instead of turning to God, then that person will be cut off from among the people (Leviticus 20:6). Do not turn to mediums and those who worship spirits. If you follow after these things, you will be defiled by them. For it is the Lord Himself who alone is God (Leviticus 19:31).

Let there be no one among you who follows divining or witchcraft, who interprets signs or casts spells, or who tries to talk with the spirits of the dead. Anyone who does these things is unclean before the Lord (Deuteronomy 18:10-12).

### **EVIL SPIRITS PRETEND TO BE ANCESTORS**

God warns us that Satan traps people into worshipping their ancestors. Then he sends evil spirits who **PRETEND** to be those ancestors. In this way, people are actually tricked into worshipping Satan and not their ancestors! The so-called "familiar" spirits, family spirits that have known the home life of the family for generations,

are well equipped to impersonate the dead. With their life-long knowledge of the dead, these spirits can imitate the voice and mannerisms of the dead and on occasion have been known to form a visible likeness of the dead person.

### **SATAN RECEIVES THE WORSHIP GIVEN TO THE ANCESTORS**

God makes it clear that sacrifices and worship offered to anyone other than God Himself are always received by Satan's kingdom. God says, *"The sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons"* (1 Corinthians 10:20).

When God's people rebelled against Him and made their own gods, the Lord made it clear that in fact they sacrificed to demons, which are not God – gods they had not known, gods that recently appeared (Deuteronomy 32:17).

The warning is clear: *"Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey, you are slaves to the one whom you obey?"* (Romans 6:16). Even to make tattoo marks on our bodies in memory or honour of the ancestors is forbidden by God. *"Do not cut your bodies for the dead"* (Leviticus 19:28). The danger is very great.

### **GOD WILL FORGIVE THOSE WHO HAVE WORSHIPPED THE ANCESTORS**

There is good news for those that have sinned in this way. **Jesus has overcome the power of sin.** The Bible says that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your fathers *"with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot"* (1 Peter 1:18-19). The Word of God promises that *"if we confess our sins He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from ALL unrighteousness"* (1John 1:9).



So repent and leave your old ways. Discard and destroy everything related to witchcraft and ancestral spirits. Trust only in the blood of God's own sacrifice for sin. *"For if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold the new has come"* (2 Corinthians 5:17).

But perhaps you are afraid to anger the spirits you once served. You may fear that if you reject them and trust in Christ, they will hurt you or your family!

**Jesus overcame Satan and his works**

Jesus the Son of God became a man so that by His death upon the cross, as the lamb sacrificed for us, *"He might destroy him who holds the power of death – that is the devil – and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death"* (Hebrews 2:14-15). On the cross, Jesus disarmed principalities and powers and triumphed over them (Colossians 2:15).

**Jesus protects us from evil powers**

Though the whole world is in the power of the evil one, the Bible says that the evil one does not touch the child of God (1 John 5:18-19). A heathen diviner who was asked to lay a curse upon God's children said that it is impossible to curse God's people or to divine against them (Numbers 23:23). Even Satan himself said to God about one of God's people, *"Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has?"* (Job 1:10).

**Jesus gives us power over evil spirits**

God's children rejoiced and said to Jesus, *"Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name."* Jesus said to them, *"I have given you authority ... to overcome all the power of the enemy."* But He also advised them to rejoice more that their names were recorded in heaven (Luke 10:17-20). We are not fighting against

people but against the spirits of darkness and evil. God equips us with armour to protect us (Ephesians 6:11-17) and with weapons of faith which have God's own power to destroy strongholds of evil (2 Corinthians 10:3-4).

**Jesus gives His people freedom from Satan**

*"For freedom Christ has set us free; stand fast therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery (Galatians 5:1). "God is faithful, and will not let you be tempted beyond your strength, but with the temptation will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it"* (1 Corinthians 10:13).

**YOU CAN BECOME ONE OF GOD'S PEOPLE**

God has promised, *"I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God and they will be My people. Therefore come out from them (the unbelievers), and be separate ... Touch no unclean thing and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you and you will be my sons and daughters"* (2 Corinthians 6:16-18). The Bible says, *"Now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders ... Repent then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord"* (Acts 3:17, 19). God promises that ALL who receive Jesus through believing in His name are given the right to become children of God (John 1:12). Jesus Himself says, *"You must be born again"* (John 3:7).

If this message has touched your heart, helping you to trust in Jesus, pray this prayer:

*"Father God, I understand that Jesus is the only way of salvation. I receive JESUS as my SAVIOUR and MASTER. I will trust Him only. I repent of my sin and receive Your forgiveness through what Jesus did for me in HIS death and resurrection."*

If you wish to know more about Jesus, a free correspondence course is available.

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