

## *Lesson 59: What is Spiritualism?, Part 2*

**Memory Verse:** Ephesians 5:11 "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."

1. Acts chapter 19 tells about Paul's experiences at Ephesus. Acts 19:1 "And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, \_\_\_\_\_ having passed through the upper coasts \_\_\_\_\_ to Ephesus: and finding certain \_\_\_\_\_,"

**Note:** "Ephesus was a popular **center for the worship of Diana**. The fame of the magnificent temple of 'Diana of the Ephesians' extended throughout all Asia and the world. Its surpassing splendor made it the pride, not only of the city, but of the nation. The idol within the temple was declared by tradition to have fallen from the sky. Upon it were inscribed **symbolic characters, which were believed to possess great power**. Books had been written by the Ephesians to **explain the meaning and use of these symbols**. Among those who gave close study to these costly books were many **magicians**, who wielded a **powerful influence** over the minds of the superstitious worshipers of the image within the temple." AA 286.2,3

2. The apostle Paul, in his labors at Ephesus, was given special tokens of divine favor. The power of God accompanied his efforts, and many were healed of physical diseases.

Acts 19:11-12 "And God wrought \_\_\_\_\_ by the hands of Paul: So that from his body were brought unto the \_\_\_\_\_ handkerchiefs or aprons, and the \_\_\_\_\_ departed from them, and the \_\_\_\_\_ went out of them."

**Note:** "**These manifestations of supernatural power were far more potent** than had ever before been witnessed in Ephesus, and were of such a character that they **could not be imitated** by the skill of the juggler or the enchantments of the sorcerer. As these miracles were wrought **in the name of Jesus** of Nazareth, the people had opportunity to see that **the God of heaven was more powerful** than the magicians who were worshipers of the goddess Diana. Thus the Lord exalted His servant, even before the idolaters themselves, **immeasurably above the most powerful and favored of the magicians**." AA 286.4

3. "But the **One** to whom **all** the spirits of evil are **subject** and who had given His servants authority over them, was about to bring **still greater shame and defeat upon those who despised and profaned His holy name**. Sorcery had been prohibited by the Mosaic law, on pain of death, yet from time to time it had been secretly practiced by apostate Jews." AA 287.1

Acts 19:13-14 "Then certain of the vagabond \_\_\_\_\_, exorcists, took upon them to \_\_\_\_\_ over them which had \_\_\_\_\_ spirits the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord \_\_\_\_\_, saying, We adjure you by \_\_\_\_\_ whom \_\_\_\_\_ preacheth. And there were \_\_\_\_\_ sons of one Sceva, a \_\_\_\_\_, and chief of the priests, which \_\_\_\_\_ so."

"At the time of Paul's visit to Ephesus there were in the city 'certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists,' who, seeing the wonders wrought by him, 'took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus.' An attempt was made by 'seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests.' Finding a man possessed with a demon, they addressed him, 'We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth.'" AA 287.1

4. What was the result? Acts 19:15-16 "And the evil \_\_\_\_\_ answered and said, \_\_\_\_\_ I know, and \_\_\_\_\_ I know; but \_\_\_\_\_ are ye? And the \_\_\_\_\_ in whom the evil spirit was \_\_\_\_\_ on them, and \_\_\_\_\_ them, and prevailed \_\_\_\_\_ them, so that they \_\_\_\_\_ out of that house naked and wounded."

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What effect did this have on God's work in Ephesus? Acts 19:17

"And this was \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ also dwelling at Ephesus; and \_\_\_\_\_ fell on them \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_."

**Note:** "Thus **unmistakable proof** was given of the **sacredness** of the name of Christ, and the **peril** which they incurred who should invoke it **without faith in the divinity of the Saviour's mission.**"

AA 288.1

5. What else happened? Acts 19:18-20 "And \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_ came, and \_\_\_\_\_, and showed their deeds. \_\_\_\_\_ of them also which used \_\_\_\_\_ arts brought their \_\_\_\_\_ together, and \_\_\_\_\_ them before \_\_\_\_\_ men: and they counted the \_\_\_\_\_ of them, and found it fifty \_\_\_\_\_ pieces of \_\_\_\_\_. So \_\_\_\_\_ grew the word of \_\_\_\_\_ and prevailed."

**Note:** "Facts which had previously been concealed were now brought to light. In accepting Christianity, some of the believers **had not fully renounced their superstitions**. To some extent they still continued the practice of magic. Now, **convinced of their error**, 'many that believed came, and confessed, and showed their deeds.' Even to some of the sorcerers themselves the good work extended; and 'many of them also **which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them** before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. **So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.**' " AA 288.2

"By **burning** their books on magic, the Ephesian converts showed that the things in which they had once delighted they **now abhorred**. It was by and through **magic** that they had **especially offended God** and imperiled their souls; and it was **against magic** that they showed such **indignation**. Thus they gave **evidence of true conversion.**" AA 288.3

"These treatises on divination contained **rules** and **forms** of **communication with evil spirits**. They were the **regulations of the worship of Satan** – directions for soliciting his help and obtaining information from him. By retaining these books the disciples **would have exposed themselves to temptation**; by selling them they **would have placed temptation in the way of others**. They had renounced the kingdom of darkness, and to destroy its power they did not hesitate at any sacrifice. **Thus truth triumphed over men's prejudices and their love of money.**" AA 288.4

"By this manifestation of the power of Christ, a **mighty victory for Christianity** was gained in the very **stronghold of superstition**. The influence of what had taken place was more **widespread** than even Paul realized. From Ephesus the news was **widely circulated**, and a strong impetus was given to the cause of Christ. **Long after** the apostle himself had finished his course, these scenes lived in the memory of men and were **the means of winning converts to the gospel.**" AA 289.1

6. How did those who had not been converted react? Acts 19:23 "And the \_\_\_\_\_ time there arose no \_\_\_\_\_ stir about that \_\_\_\_\_."

**Note:** "Once a year, **special ceremonies** were held at Ephesus in honor of the goddess Diana. These attracted **great numbers** of people from all parts of the province. Throughout this period, **festivities were conducted with the utmost pomp and splendor.**" AA 291.3

"This gala season was a **trying time** for those who had newly come to the faith. The company of believers who met in the school of Tyrannus were **an inharmonious note in the festive chorus**, and ridicule, reproach, and insult were freely heaped upon them. **Paul's labors had given the heathen worship a telling blow**, in consequence of which there was a **perceptible falling off in the attendance** at the national festival **and in the enthusiasm of the worshipers**. The influence of his teachings

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extended far beyond the actual converts to the faith. **Many who had not openly accepted the new doctrines became so far enlightened as to lose all confidence in their heathen gods.**" AA 292.1

7. **Note:** "There existed also another cause of dissatisfaction. An extensive and profitable business had grown up at Ephesus from the **manufacture and sale of small shrines and images**, modeled after the temple and the image of Diana. Those interested in this industry **found their gains diminishing**, and all united in attributing the unwelcome change to Paul's labors." AA 292.2

Acts 19:24-27 "For a certain man named \_\_\_\_\_, a silversmith, which made silver \_\_\_\_\_ for Diana, brought no small \_\_\_\_\_ unto the \_\_\_\_\_; Whom he called \_\_\_\_\_ with the workmen of like occupation, and said, Sirs, ye know that by this \_\_\_\_\_ we have our \_\_\_\_\_. Moreover ye \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, that not alone at Ephesus, but almost \_\_\_\_\_ all Asia, this \_\_\_\_\_ hath \_\_\_\_\_ and turned away \_\_\_\_\_ people, saying that they be \_\_\_\_\_ gods, which are made with \_\_\_\_\_: So that not \_\_\_\_\_ this our \_\_\_\_\_ is in \_\_\_\_\_ to be set at nought; but also that the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ goddess Diana should be \_\_\_\_\_, and her \_\_\_\_\_ should be \_\_\_\_\_, whom \_\_\_\_\_ Asia and the world worshippeth."

8. What effect did these words have on the people? Acts 19:28-30 "And when they heard these sayings, they were \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, and cried out, saying, \_\_\_\_\_ is Diana of the Ephesians. And the whole \_\_\_\_\_ was filled with \_\_\_\_\_: and having caught Gaius and Aristarchus, men of Macedonia, Paul's \_\_\_\_\_ in travel, they \_\_\_\_\_ with one accord into the theatre. And when \_\_\_\_\_ would have entered in unto the people, the \_\_\_\_\_ suffered him not."

**Note:** "These words **roused** the excitable passions of the people. 'They were full of wrath, and cried out, saying, Great is Diana of the Ephesians.'" AA 292.3

"A report of this speech was **rapidly circulated**. 'The whole city was filled with confusion.' Search was made for Paul, but the apostle was not to be found. His brethren, receiving an intimation of the danger, had hurried him from the place. **Angels of God had been sent to guard the apostle**; his time to die a martyr's death had **not yet** come." AA 293.1

"Failing to find the object of their wrath, the mob seized 'Gaius and Aristarchus, men of Macedonia, Paul's companions in travel,' and with these 'they rushed with one accord into the theater.'" AA 293.2

"Paul's place of concealment was not far distant, and he soon learned of the **peril** of his beloved brethren. Forgetful of his own safety, he **desired** to go at once to the theater to **address** the rioters. But 'the disciples suffered him not.' Gaius and Aristarchus were not the prey the people sought; no serious harm to them was apprehended. **But should the apostle's pale, care-worn face be seen, it would arouse at once the worst passions of the mob and there would not be the least human possibility of saving his life.**" AA 293.3

9. Paul was still eager to defend the truth before the multitude, but **he was at last deterred by a message of warning from the theater:**

Acts 19:31 "And certain of the \_\_\_\_\_ of Asia, which were his \_\_\_\_\_, sent unto him, \_\_\_\_\_ him that he would \_\_\_\_\_ adventure himself into the theatre."

10. What did this tumult develop into? Acts 19:32-34 "Some therefore cried \_\_\_\_\_ thing, and some \_\_\_\_\_: for the assembly was \_\_\_\_\_; and the more part knew

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\_\_\_\_\_ wherefore they were come \_\_\_\_\_. And they drew Alexander out of the multitude, the \_\_\_\_\_ putting him forward. And Alexander \_\_\_\_\_ with the hand, and would have made his \_\_\_\_\_ unto the people. But when they \_\_\_\_\_ that he was a \_\_\_\_\_, **all** with \_\_\_\_\_ voice about the space of \_\_\_\_\_ cried out, Great is \_\_\_\_\_ of the Ephesians."

**Note:** "The tumult in the theater was continually **increasing**. ... The fact that Paul and some of his companions were of **Hebrew** extraction made the Jews anxious to show plainly that they were not sympathizers with him and his work. They therefore brought forward one of their own number to set the matter before the people. The speaker chosen was Alexander, one of the craftsmen, a coppersmith, **to whom Paul afterward referred as having done him much evil**. 2 Timothy 4:14. Alexander was a man of considerable ability, and **he bent all his energies to direct the wrath of the people exclusively against Paul and his companions**. But the crowd, seeing that Alexander was a Jew, thrust him aside, and 'all with one voice about the space of 2 **hours** cried out, Great is Diana of the Ephesians.'" AA 294.1

11. "At last, from sheer exhaustion, they ceased, and there was a momentary silence. Then the recorder of the city arrested the attention of the crowd, and **by virtue of his office obtained a hearing**. He met the people on their own ground and **showed that there was no cause for the present tumult. He appealed to their reason.**" AA 294.2

Acts 19:35-37 "And when the \_\_\_\_\_ had appeased the people, he said, Ye men of Ephesus, what \_\_\_\_\_ is there that \_\_\_\_\_ not how that the city of the Ephesians is a \_\_\_\_\_ of the great goddess Diana, and of the \_\_\_\_\_ which \_\_\_\_\_ down from Jupiter? Seeing then that these things \_\_\_\_\_ be spoken against, ye \_\_\_\_\_ to be \_\_\_\_\_, and to do nothing \_\_\_\_\_. For ye have brought hither these men, which are neither \_\_\_\_\_ of churches, nor yet \_\_\_\_\_ of your goddess."

12. Did the townclerk understand who had stirred up the mob against Paul because his preaching was against idols?                      YES                      NO

Acts 19:38-41 "Wherefore if \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_ which are with him, have a matter \_\_\_\_\_ any man, the \_\_\_\_\_ is open, and there are \_\_\_\_\_: let them implead one another. But if ye inquire \_\_\_\_\_ thing concerning \_\_\_\_\_ matters, it shall be determined in a \_\_\_\_\_ assembly. For we are in \_\_\_\_\_ to be called in \_\_\_\_\_ for this day's \_\_\_\_\_, there being no \_\_\_\_\_ whereby we may give an \_\_\_\_\_ of this concourse. And when he had thus spoken, he \_\_\_\_\_ the assembly."

**Note:** "In his speech Demetrius had said, 'This our craft is in danger.' These words reveal the **real cause** of the tumult at Ephesus, and also the cause of much of the persecution which followed the apostles in their work. **Demetrius and his fellow craftsmen saw that by the teaching and spread of the gospel the business of image making was endangered**. The **income** of pagan priests and artisans was at stake, and **for this reason** they aroused against Paul the **most bitter opposition**." AA 295.1

"The decision of the recorder and of others holding honorable offices in the city had set Paul before the people as one **innocent** of any unlawful act. This was **another triumph of Christianity over error and superstition**. God had raised up a great magistrate to vindicate His apostle and hold the tumultuous

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mob in check. Paul's heart was filled with **gratitude** to God

**that his life had been preserved**

and **that Christianity had not been brought into disrepute** by the tumult at Ephesus." AA 295.2

13. Let us take to heart the admonition which Paul sent to the Ephesians. Eph. 5:8-11 "For ye \_\_\_\_\_ sometimes \_\_\_\_\_, but \_\_\_\_\_ are ye \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_: walk \_\_\_\_\_ children of \_\_\_\_\_: (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_;) Proving what is \_\_\_\_\_ unto the Lord. And have no \_\_\_\_\_ with the \_\_\_\_\_ works of \_\_\_\_\_, but rather \_\_\_\_\_ them." There is a reason for this warning. We should have nothing to do with any form of spiritualism no matter how curious we might be. It was by curiosity that Eve first yielded to Satan's deception.

14. We are living in the last days of earth's history and we are told in Revelation 12:12: "Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. \_\_\_\_\_ to the inhabitants of the \_\_\_\_\_ and of the sea! for the \_\_\_\_\_ is come down unto \_\_\_\_\_, having great \_\_\_\_\_, because he \_\_\_\_\_ that he hath but a \_\_\_\_\_ time." The devil is angry and he is getting bolder and bolder because he wants to have everyone on earth as his subjects and so he tries to deceive the very elect.

**Note:** "It is fondly supposed that heathen superstitions have disappeared before the civilization of the twentieth century. But the **word of God** and the **stern testimony of facts** declare that sorcery is practiced in this age as verily as in the days of the old-time magicians. The ancient system of magic is, in reality, the **same** as what is now known as **modern spiritualism**. Satan is finding **access** to thousands of **minds** by presenting himself **under the guise of departed friends**. The **Scriptures declare** that 'the dead know not anything.' Ecclesiastes 9:5. Their thoughts, their love, their hatred, have perished. **The dead do not hold communion with the living**. But true to his early cunning, **Satan employs this device in order to gain control of minds**." AA 289.2

15. "Through spiritualism many of the **sick**, the **bereaved**, the **curious**, are communicating with evil spirits. **All who venture to do this are on dangerous ground**. The word of truth declares how God regards them. In ancient times He pronounced a **stern judgment** on a king who had sent for counsel to a heathen oracle." AA 290.1

2 Kings 1:2-4 "And Ahaziah fell down through a lattice in his upper chamber that was in Samaria, and was \_\_\_\_\_: and he sent \_\_\_\_\_, and said unto them, Go, inquire of \_\_\_\_\_ the god of \_\_\_\_\_ whether I shall \_\_\_\_\_ of this disease. 3 But the angel of the LORD said to \_\_\_\_\_ the Tishbite, Arise, go up to \_\_\_\_\_ the messengers of the king of Samaria, and say unto them, Is it not \_\_\_\_\_ there is not a \_\_\_\_\_ in Israel, that ye go to \_\_\_\_\_ of Baalzebub the \_\_\_\_\_ of Ekron? Now \_\_\_\_\_ thus saith the LORD, Thou shalt \_\_\_\_\_ come down from that bed on which thou art gone up, but shalt surely \_\_\_\_\_. And Elijah departed."

We should be very careful in choosing "natural healers" because many of them are based on the teachings of spiritualism which is called "New Age" today. These teachings are now being applied in some medical practices too.

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"The magicians of heathen times have their counterpart in the **spiritualistic mediums**, the **clairvoyants\***, and the **fortune-tellers** of today. The **mystic voices** that spoke at **Endor** and at **Ephesus** are still by their **lying words** misleading the children of men. Could the veil be lifted from before our eyes, we should see **evil angels** employing all their arts to **deceive** and to **destroy**.

Wherever an influence is exerted to cause men to forget God, there Satan is exercising his bewitching power.

When men **yield** to his influence, ere they are aware the **mind is bewildered** and the **soul polluted**. The apostle's admonition to the Ephesian church **should be heeded by the people of God today**: 'Have no fellowship with the **unfruitful** works of darkness, but rather reprove them.' Ephesians 5:11." AA 290.2

\*Someone who is perceiving things beyond the natural range of the senses; or foreseeing the future

16. John tells us in the last days there will be great wonders and miracles done to deceive the whole world. Look in Revelation 13:13: "And he \_\_\_\_\_ great \_\_\_\_\_, so that he maketh \_\_\_\_\_ come down from \_\_\_\_\_ on the earth in the \_\_\_\_\_ of men."

Revelation 16:14 tells us where these miracles come from.

"For they are the spirits of \_\_\_\_\_, working \_\_\_\_\_, which go forth unto the \_\_\_\_\_ of the earth and of the \_\_\_\_\_ world, to \_\_\_\_\_ them to the \_\_\_\_\_ of that great day of God Almighty." Why does Satan do these miracles? Revelation 13:14

"And \_\_\_\_\_ them that \_\_\_\_\_ on the earth by the \_\_\_\_\_ of those \_\_\_\_\_ which he had \_\_\_\_\_ to do in the sight of the beast; \_\_\_\_\_ to them that \_\_\_\_\_ on the earth, that they should make an \_\_\_\_\_ to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live." Satan does the miracles in order to D \_\_\_\_\_ people so that they will do what he wants them to do.

**Note:** "No mere impostures are here foretold. Men are deceived by the miracles which Satan's agents have power to do, not which they pretend to do." GC 553.2

"God, in His Word, has placed His stamp [of condemnation] upon the heresies of spiritualism as He placed His mark upon Cain.

**The godly need not be deceived**

if they are students of the Scriptures

and obedient to follow the plain path marked out for them in the Word of God." Con 90.1

"I saw that Satan has power to bring before us the **appearance** of forms purporting to be our relatives or friends who sleep in Jesus. It will be made to **appear** as if these friends were actually present, the words they uttered while here, with which we were **familiar**, will be spoken, and the **same tone of voice** that they had while living will fall upon the ear. All this is to **deceive** the world and **ensnare** them into the belief of this delusion." EW 262.1

"I saw that the saints must have a **thorough understanding of present truth**, which they will be obliged to **maintain from the Scriptures**. They must **understand** the state of the dead; for the spirits of devils will yet appear to them, **professing to be beloved relatives or friends**, who will declare to them **unscriptural** doctrines. They will do all in their power to **excite sympathy** and will **work miracles** before them to confirm what they declare. **The people of God must be prepared to withstand these spirits with the Bible truth that the dead know not anything, and that they who thus appear are the spirits of devils.**" EW 262.2

"We must **examine well** the foundation of our hope; for **we shall have to give a reason for it from the Scriptures**. This delusion will spread, and we shall have to contend with it face to face; and

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unless we are prepared for it, we shall be **ensnared** and **overcome**. But if we do what we can on our part to be **ready** for the conflict that is just before us, **God will do His part**, and His all-powerful arm will **protect** us. He would sooner send **every** angel out of glory to make a **hedge** about faithful souls, than have them **deceived** and led away by the **lying wonders** of Satan." EW 262.3

17. Satan promised Eve that she would become **smarter** by knowing good and evil. But she really only gained a knowledge of evil. So Satan promises people **freedom** to do as they please. He tells people that the law of God is done away with and that we are not required to obey it. **This he calls liberty**. But the only thing they get is **bondage** to evil and **inability** to do good.

Peter tells us about this in 2 Peter 2:19 "While they \_\_\_\_\_ them \_\_\_\_\_, they themselves are the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_: for of whom a man is \_\_\_\_\_, of the \_\_\_\_\_ is he brought in \_\_\_\_\_."

**Note:** "The boastful spiritualist **claims** great freedom, and in smooth, flowery language seeks to fascinate and **delude unwary souls** to choose the broad path of pleasure and sinful indulgence, rather than the narrow path and the straight way. **Spiritualists call the requirements of God's law bondage, and say those who obey them live a life of slavish fear**. With smooth words and fair speeches they **boast** of their freedom and seek to **cover** their dangerous heresies with the garments of righteousness. They would make the most revolting crimes be considered as blessings to the race." Con 90.2

"They open before the sinner a **wide door** to follow the **promptings of the carnal heart**, and **violate the law of God** – especially the seventh commandment. Those who speak these great swelling words of vanity, and who triumph in their freedom in sin, **promise** those whom they deceive the **enjoyment of freedom in a course of rebellion** against the revealed will of God. These **deluded** souls are themselves in the **veriest bondage to Satan** and are **controlled** by his power, and **yet promising liberty** to those who will **dare** to follow the same course of sin that they themselves have chosen." Con 90.3

"The Scriptures are indeed fulfilled in this, that the blind are leading the blind. For by whom a man is **overcome**, of the same is he brought in **bondage**. These deluded souls are under the **most abject slavery to the will of demons**. They have allied themselves to the powers of darkness and have **no strength to go contrary to the will of demons**. This is their boasted liberty. By Satan are they overcome and brought into bondage, and **the great liberty promised to those they deceive is helpless slavery to sin and Satan**." Con 90.4

18. Paul also tells us that this is a snare of the devil so that he can control us.

2 Timothy 2:26 "And that they may \_\_\_\_\_ themselves out of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_, who are taken \_\_\_\_\_ by him at his \_\_\_\_\_." Many, many people fall for Satan's delusions. Why? It is because they do not want to submit their will to God.

**Note:** "I saw the **rapidity** with which this delusion was spreading. A **train** of cars was shown me, going with the **speed of lightning**. The angel bade me look carefully. I fixed my eyes upon the train. **It seemed that the whole world was on board**. Then he showed me the **conductor**, a fair, stately person, whom all the passengers looked up to and revered. I was perplexed and asked my attending angel who it was. He said, '**It is Satan**. He is the conductor, **in the form of an angel of light**. He has taken the world captive. They are given over to **strong delusions**, to **believe a lie** that they may be damned. His agent, the highest in order next to him, is the engineer, and others of his agents are employed in different offices as he may need them, and **they are all going with lightning speed to perdition**.'" EW 263.1

"I asked the angel if there were none left. He bade me look in the **opposite direction**, and I saw a **little company** traveling a **narrow pathway**. All seemed to be **firmly united by the truth**. This little company looked **careworn**, as if they had passed through **severe trials and conflicts**. And it appeared

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as if the sun had just arisen from behind a cloud and shone upon their countenances, causing them to look triumphant as if their victories were nearly won." EW 263.2

In which group do you want to be?

- On the train going with lightning speed to perdition **OR**  
 On the narrow pathway going to heaven

19. What serious warning does John give us? 2 John 1:9-11

"Whosoever \_\_\_\_\_, and abideth \_\_\_\_\_ in the doctrine of Christ, hath not \_\_\_\_\_. He that \_\_\_\_\_ in the doctrine of Christ, he hath \_\_\_\_\_ the Father and the Son. If there come \_\_\_\_\_ unto you, and \_\_\_\_\_ not this doctrine, \_\_\_\_\_ him \_\_\_\_\_ into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is \_\_\_\_\_ of his \_\_\_\_\_ deeds."

Note: "We are **not to attend** their circles, neither are our ministers to **engage in controversy** with them. They are of that class specified whom we should **not** invite into our houses or **bid** them Godspeed. We have to compare their teachings with the revealed will of God. We are not to engage in an investigation of spiritualism. **God has investigated this for us**, and told us definitely that a class would arise in the last days who would **deny Christ** who has purchased them with His own blood. The character of spiritualists is so plainly described that **we need not be deceived by them**. If we **obey** the divine injunction we shall have **no sympathy with spiritualists**, however smooth and fair may be their **words**." Con 91.1

20. Why does God use such strong language? Aren't we supposed to be kind and love everybody? Yes. We should always be kind, but at the same time we cannot allow them to come and teach us their deceptive teachings. What are some of these teachings?

Isaiah 5:20 "Woe unto them that call \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_; that put \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_; that put \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_!" They turn everything around backwards!

**Note:** "If there were no other evidence of the **real** character of spiritualism, it should be enough for the Christian that the spirits make **no difference between righteousness and sin**, between the noblest and purest of the apostles of Christ and the most corrupt of the servants of Satan. **By representing the basest of men as in heaven, and highly exalted there, Satan says to the world:** 'No matter how wicked you are; no matter whether you believe or disbelieve God and the Bible. Live as you please; heaven is your home.' The spiritualist teachers virtually declare:

'Everyone that doeth \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ in the sight of the \_\_\_\_\_, and He \_\_\_\_\_ in them; or, Where is the God of \_\_\_\_\_?' Malachi 2:17." GC 556.3

"The apostles, as **personated** by these lying spirits, are made to **contradict** what they wrote at the dictation of the Holy Spirit when on earth. They **deny the divine origin of the Bible**, and thus tear away the **foundation** of the Christian's hope and put out the light that reveals the way to heaven. **Satan is making the world believe that the Bible is a mere fiction**, or at least a book suited to the infancy of the race, but now to be **lightly regarded**, or cast aside as **obsolete**. And to take the place of the word of God he holds out spiritual manifestations. Here is a channel wholly under his control; by this means **he can make the world believe what he will**. The Book that is to judge him and his followers he puts in the shade, just where he wants it; the Saviour of the world he makes to be no more than a common man. And as the Roman guard that watched the tomb of Jesus spread the **lying** report which the priests and elders put into their mouths to disprove His resurrection, so do the believers in spiritual



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manifestations **try to make it appear that there is nothing miraculous in the circumstances of our Saviour's life.** After thus seeking to put Jesus in the **background**, they call attention to their own miracles, declaring that these **far exceed** the works of Christ." GC 557.1

"It is true that spiritualism is now **changing its form** and, veiling some of its more objectionable features, is **assuming a Christian guise**. But its utterances from the platform and the press have been before the public for many years, and in these its **real character** stands revealed. These teachings cannot be denied or hidden." GC 557.2

"**Even in its present form**, so far from being more worthy of toleration than formerly, **it is really a more dangerous, because a more subtle, deception**. While it formerly denounced Christ and the Bible, it now **professes to accept both**. **But the Bible is interpreted in a manner that is pleasing to the unrenewed heart**, while its solemn and vital truths are made of **no effect**. Love is dwelt upon as the chief attribute of God, but it is **degraded to a weak sentimentalism, making little distinction between good and evil**. **God's justice**, His **denunciations of sin**, the **requirements of His holy law**, are all kept out of sight. The people are taught to regard the Decalogue as a dead letter. Pleasing, bewitching fables captivate the senses and lead men to **reject the Bible as the foundation of their faith**. Christ is as verily denied as before; but Satan has so **blinded** the eyes of the people that the deception is not discerned." GC 558.1

"There are few who have any just conception of the **deceptive power** of spiritualism and the **danger of coming under its influence**. Many tamper with it merely to gratify their **curiosity**. They have no real faith in it and would be filled with horror at the thought of yielding themselves to the spirits' control. But they **venture upon the forbidden ground**, and the mighty destroyer exercises his power upon them against their will. Let them once be **induced to submit their minds to his direction**, and he holds them captive. It is **impossible, in their own strength**, to break away from the bewitching, alluring spell. **Nothing but the power of God, granted in answer to the earnest prayer of faith, can deliver these ensnared souls.**" GC 558.2

"All who **indulge sinful traits of character**, or **willfully cherish a known sin**, are **inviting** the temptations of Satan.

They **separate themselves** from God and from the watchcare of His angels;

as the evil one presents his **deceptions**, they are **without defense** and fall an easy prey.

Those who **thus place themselves in his power** little realize **where** their course will **end**.

**Having achieved their overthrow**, the tempter will **employ them** as his agents to **lure others to ruin**."

GC 558.3 This is what Satan did when he tempted Eve. As soon as she sinned, Satan used **her** to tempt Adam to sin also.

21. "In the Epistle of Paul to Timothy, he foretells what will be manifested in the **latter days**. And this warning was for the **benefit** of those who should live **when** these things should take place. God revealed to His servant the **perils of the church in the last days**." Con 92.1

1 Timothy 4:1-2 "Now the Spirit speaketh \_\_\_\_\_, that in the \_\_\_\_\_ times some shall \_\_\_\_\_ from the \_\_\_\_\_, giving heed to \_\_\_\_\_ spirits, and doctrines of \_\_\_\_\_; Speaking \_\_\_\_\_ in hypocrisy; having their conscience \_\_\_\_\_ with a hot iron."

**Note:** "The ministration of holy angels, as presented in the Scriptures, is a truth most comforting and precious to every follower of Christ. **But** the Bible teaching upon this point has been **obscured** and **perverted** by the **errors of popular theology**. The doctrine of natural immortality, first borrowed from the **pagan philosophy**, and in the darkness of the great apostasy incorporated into the Christian faith, has

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supplanted the truth, so plainly taught in Scripture, that 'the dead know not anything.' Multitudes have come to believe that it is spirits of the dead who are the 'ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation.' And this notwithstanding the testimony of Scripture to the existence of heavenly angels, and their connection with the history of man, **before** the death of a human being." GC 551.1

"The doctrine of man's **consciousness** in death, especially **the belief that spirits of the dead return to minister to the living**, has prepared the way for **modern spiritualism**. **If** the dead are admitted to the presence of God and holy angels, and privileged with knowledge far exceeding what they before possessed, why should they not return to the earth to enlighten and instruct the living? **If**, as taught by popular theologians, spirits of the dead are hovering about their friends on earth, why should they not be permitted to communicate with them, to warn them against evil, or to comfort them in sorrow? How can those who believe in man's consciousness in death reject what comes to them as divine light communicated by glorified spirits? **Here is a channel regarded as sacred, through which Satan works for the accomplishment of his purposes**. The fallen angels who do his bidding **appear** as messengers from the spirit world. While **professing** to bring the living into communication with the dead, **the prince of evil exercises his bewitching influence upon their minds**." GC 551.2

"He has power to bring before men the **appearance** of their departed friends. The **counterfeit** is perfect; the familiar look, the words, the tone, are **reproduced with marvelous distinctness**. Many are **comforted** with the assurance that their loved ones are enjoying the bliss of heaven, and **without suspicion of danger**, they give ear 'to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.' " GC 552.1

"When they have been led to **believe** that the dead **actually** return to communicate with them, **Satan causes those to appear who went into the grave unprepared**. They **claim** to be happy in heaven and even to occupy **exalted positions** there, and **thus the error is widely taught that no difference is made between the righteous and the wicked**. The pretended visitants from the world of spirits **sometimes** utter cautions and warnings which **prove to be correct**. Then, as **confidence** is gained, they **present doctrines that directly undermine faith in the Scriptures**. With an appearance of deep interest in the well-being of their friends on earth, **they insinuate the most dangerous errors**. The fact that **they state some truths**, and are **able at times to foretell future events**, gives to their statements an appearance of reliability; and **their false teachings are accepted by the multitudes as readily, and believed as implicitly, as if they were the most sacred truths of the Bible**. The law of God is set aside, the Spirit of grace despised, the blood of the covenant counted an unholy thing. The spirits **deny the deity of Christ** and place even the Creator **on a level with themselves**. Thus under a **new disguise** the great rebel still carries on his **warfare against God**, begun in heaven and for nearly six thousand years continued upon the earth." GC 552.2

22. "Little by little he has prepared the way for his **masterpiece of deception** in the development of spiritualism. He has **not yet** reached the full accomplishment of his designs; but it will be reached in the last remnant of time." GC 561.2 Says the prophet in Revelation 16:13, 14: "I saw three unclean \_\_\_\_\_ like frogs; ... they are the spirits of \_\_\_\_\_, working \_\_\_\_\_, which go forth unto the \_\_\_\_\_ of the earth and of the \_\_\_\_\_ world, to \_\_\_\_\_ them to the \_\_\_\_\_ of that great day of God Almighty."

"The very name of witchcraft is now held in contempt. The claim that men can hold intercourse with evil spirits is **regarded as a fable** of the Dark Ages.

But **spiritualism**, which numbers its converts by hundreds of thousands, yea, by millions, which has made its way into **scientific circles**,

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which has **invaded churches**,  
and has found favor in **legislative bodies**,  
and even in the **courts of kings**

– this **mammoth deception** is but a revival, in a **new disguise**,  
of the **witchcraft** condemned and prohibited of old." GC 556.2

**"Except those who are kept by the power of God, through faith in His word, the whole world will be swept into the ranks of this delusion.** The people are fast being lulled to a fatal security, to be awakened only by the outpouring of the wrath of God." GC 561.2

23. Satan has a counterfeit for everything good that God has because he wants to deceive everyone, especially God's people. Matthew 24:24 "For there shall arise \_\_\_\_\_ Christs, and \_\_\_\_\_ prophets, and shall show great \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_; insomuch that, if it were \_\_\_\_\_, they shall \_\_\_\_\_ the very \_\_\_\_\_."

He has a counterfeit **Sabbath**. Instead of the true Sabbath of God, he has \_\_\_\_\_.

He has a counterfeit **Faith**. Instead of true faith, he has Presumption. (see Lesson 15)

He has a counterfeit **Love**. God's love is **unselfish**. Satan's love is **selfish**.

God's love **warns** people of **danger in sin**. Satan's love tells them **sin is OK**.

He has counterfeit **Natural Healing** methods. God's healing method is brought about by following His health principles and **changing** your lifestyle to be in **harmony** with His laws of health. There are **simple remedies** that help to heal you such as hydrotherapy. But Satan's natural healing methods talk about concentrating **energy** to the diseased part of the body. There are many different ways this is done.

He has counterfeit **Miracles**. God's miracles lead people to love and **obey** God more.

Satan's miracles will encourage people in **disobedience**.

He has a counterfeit **Prayer**. True prayer is talking to God, **using your mind** to submit yourself to obey His Word. False prayer is **emptying your mind** of all thoughts. To do this you repeat a word or phrase over and over again. This makes your mind **ready** for Satan to enter and direct you.

To go along with this, he has a counterfeit **Meditation** too. True Meditation is to **think deeply about God's Word** and what it means and how it connects together. It is thinking about His goodness and about His righteousness. But false meditation is **emptying your mind** by repeating one word or phrase over and over again. Many people are doing this in these last days. They **experience** a supernatural presence and they **think** it is Jesus, but it really is Satan.

**All of Satan's counterfeits** are to **deceive** us and to get us **away** from God. They are all very dangerous to our spiritual life. Satan wants to **substitute** a **false** spiritual life and bring us into communion with **him**. Then **he** can control us. He even makes people **think** that this makes them better Christians, but it is a **fatal** deception. We **don't** want to have **anything** to do with **any** of Satan's **counterfeits**.

**We need to study the Word of God thoroughly and constantly to recognize the true and to reject the false.** We need **God's truth** – His Sabbath, His faith, His love, His Natural Healing, His Miracles, His way of Prayer and Meditation. We need **God's presence** with us. It comes from **yielding** our will to His will. There is **no substitute** for the **surrender** of yourself to God in **obedience** to His instructions.

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24. We must not give Satan any place to enter our hearts. We cannot *indulge* any sinful traits of character or *cherish* any known sin, because this gives Satan an entrance into our hearts.

Ephesians 4:27 tells us: "Neither give \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_." It tells us how to do this: Ephesians 4:28-32 "Let him that stole steal \_\_\_\_\_: but rather let him \_\_\_\_\_, working with his \_\_\_\_\_ the thing which is \_\_\_\_\_, that he may \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ to him that needeth.

29 Let no \_\_\_\_\_ communication \_\_\_\_\_ out of your mouth, but that which is \_\_\_\_\_ to the use of \_\_\_\_\_, that it may minister \_\_\_\_\_ unto the hearers.

30 And \_\_\_\_\_ not the \_\_\_\_\_ Spirit of God, whereby ye are \_\_\_\_\_ unto the day of redemption.

31 Let all \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_, and clamour, and \_\_\_\_\_ speaking, be \_\_\_\_\_ from you, with all \_\_\_\_\_:

32 And be ye \_\_\_\_\_ one to another, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ one another, even \_\_\_\_\_ God for Christ's \_\_\_\_\_ hath forgiven \_\_\_\_\_."

24. "The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord is a \_\_\_\_\_ tower: the \_\_\_\_\_ runneth \_\_\_\_\_ it, and is \_\_\_\_\_." Proverbs 18:10. The name represents the character. Where will God's people have His name? Revelation 14:1 "And I looked, and, lo, a \_\_\_\_\_ stood on the mount \_\_\_\_\_, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's \_\_\_\_\_ written in their \_\_\_\_\_." They have the character of God in their mind. In verse 5 it says: "And in their \_\_\_\_\_ was found no \_\_\_\_\_: for they are without \_\_\_\_\_ before the \_\_\_\_\_ of God."

The Greek word translated *guile* means "to decoy; a trick (bait), wile." It is translated *craft, deceit, guile, subtilty*. God's people don't take Satan's *bait*. They are not *deceived* or *tricked* by any *decoy* or *wiles* which Satan uses to *trick* them to **yield** themselves to his control. Satan knows what you should know too: that when we **yield** to **him**, we become **his servants**. Romans 6:16 tells us this: "Know \_\_\_\_\_ not, that to \_\_\_\_\_ ye \_\_\_\_\_ yourselves servants to \_\_\_\_\_, his servants ye \_\_\_\_\_ to whom ye \_\_\_\_\_; whether of \_\_\_\_\_ unto death, or of \_\_\_\_\_ unto righteousness?" So he does everything to get us to **yield** our will to obey **him**. But if we obey God faithfully, we are **His** servants and Satan can have **no power over us!** Let us give Satan no place, but give ourselves fully to God. This is our only safety. **All** who do not do this **will** be deceived.

**Note:** "Those who proclaim the third angel's message **must put on the whole armor of God**, that they may stand boldly at their post, in the face of detraction and falsehood, fighting the good fight of faith, resisting the enemy with the word, 'It is written.' **Keep yourselves** where the **three great powers of heaven**, the **Father**, the **Son**, and the **Holy Spirit**, can be your efficiency. **These powers work with the one who gives himself unreservedly to God**. The strength of heaven is at the command of God's believing ones. **The man who takes God as his trust is barricaded by an impregnable wall.**"

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