

From the Director

What Is An Occult Bond? Part I

An occult bond is a hidden demonic influence that hinders or blocks the progress of a person's spiritual life. This kind of spiritual bondage can occur when a person seeks for supernatural knowledge, protection or power by occult means. For example, common ways of seeking occult power are witchcraft and magic; common ways of seeking occult knowledge are divination and spiritism. Spiritism refers to consulting spirits or the souls of the dead to know or get something. There are many forms of divination, including the use of astrology, tarot cards, palm reading, clairvoyance, and geomancy — all of which can give people false or ensnaring knowledge of people and events.

God strictly forbids such practices in Scripture (Deut 18:10-12), since they represent a refusal to trust him and an attempt to manipulate spiritual

forces for one's own purposes. The Catechism also states clearly that all such practices are gravely sinful, even when they are done for the sake of restoring health (#2117).

The reason that occult involvement is so dangerous is that it can bind and submit the person to evil spirits. These spirits may use a person's occult involvement to bring about an apparent benefit, only to lead the person into deeper spiritual bondage. For example, a twelve-year-old girl was always sick. Someone gave her an amulet to wear around the neck. The disease disappeared immediately. But the child fell into depression, stopped laughing and attempted suicide. Satan may keep the body in apparent health to send the soul to hell.

Causes of occult bonds

Following are some of the root causes of occult bonds: Actions that invite demons and encourage spiritual ties, for example, consecration to Satan and blood oaths; initiation in voodoo, esoteric orders of secret societies, the New Age,

Freemasonry, or Rosicrucian orders. ▪ Eastern spiritual and energy practices such as yoga, Tai Chi, feng shui ley lines, mantras, transcendental meditation, Zen, reiki, or opening chakras. ▪ Consulting soothsayers and following their counsel; seers, witch doctors, astrologers, hypnotists, card readers, shamans, and occult healers. ▪ Wearing amulets, talismans, zodiac signs, horns, fetishes, charms, jujus, rabbits' feet, mad stones, zemis, rings or magical objects said to carry energy. ▪ Participation in séances with turntables, Ouija boards, fortune-telling balls, glass bead games, or role playing. ▪ Studious reading of books on the occult, on Satanism, and on zodiac horoscopes. ▪ Soul ties or sexual relations with masters of the occult. ▪ Stubborn attachment to venial and mortal sins.

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*Come Holy Spirit,
fill the hearts of
Thy faithful and
enkindle in them
the fire of Thy love.
Send forth Thy Spirit
and they shall be
created and Thou
shall renew the face
of the earth.
AMEN*

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