

...FOR THOSE SEEKING THE EMPOWERING PRESENCE OF THE *Holy Spirit*

LutheranRenewal

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Power Behind the Psychics

by Cindy Jacobs

image courtesy of STScl, hubblesite.org

According to the *Complete Idiots Guide to Being Psychic*, 37 percent of America's urban police departments report consulting psychics in some investigations. Dorothy Allison, a well-known and controversial police psychic, led detectives to the body of a murdered girl near Niagara Falls in 1991. More recently, Washington D.C. police and the FBI have had 12-13 leads from psychics in the Chandra Levy missing person case. "Police are taking some [psychics] quite seriously," reported Rita Cosby of Fox News.

There is no doubt that sometimes psychics are charlatans and fakes out to scam people for money. But often there is real power behind the psychic manifestations of these men and women. What is the source of this "gift"? Many of the psychics will tell you that they get their channeled information from spirit guides or angels. Some even say they consult God!

What kind of beings are their spirit guides? They are actually demonic beings, only too willing to feed

information to anyone who requests it. They may even cooperate with familiar, or family, spirits, which know all about the person for whom the reading is being done. The psychics, at times, will mediate until they come in contact with a spirit being which eventually becomes their spirit guide. The psychics do not understand that they are actually giving themselves over as channels of a demonic entity.

Of course, Satan, the biggest con artist of all, relishes using fakes who pose as psychics. He will do anything to get our eyes off Jesus and onto the occult.

An Angel of Light

Satan is tricky. He knows how appealing angels are to humans and he also knows that God's true angels can comfort and communicate with us. So what does Satan do? He camouflages himself as an angel of light or spirit guide!

God's angels are sent to the heirs of salvation (Heb. 1:14). They would not give information to psychics, not even psychics with impressive credentials from major universities. The angels whom psychics receive their information from are none other than angels of light, which we are warned against in 2 Corinthians 11:14-15. "And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works." In fact, Galatians 1:8 makes it clear that we are to be on guard for any spirit that does not bear God's Word: "But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, to him be accursed."

Lutheran Renewal

(Independent of North Heights Lutheran Church)

Telephone: 651-490-1517 • Fax: 651-486-2865

2701 Rice Street • St. Paul MN 55113-2200

www.LutheranRenewal.org • ilrc@aol.com

Alliance of Renewal Churches

www.arcusa.org • 651-486-4808

The Master's Institute

www.themastersinstitute.org • 651-765-9756

Many people are being demonized today when they read New Age books about angels. By demonized I mean they are giving Satan a portal into their lives. There is even a game out now called Angels. It is like a Ouiji board and supposedly helps players receive “answers” from beings masquerading as angels.

Divination in Acts

Satan’s infiltration is not unique to this age. The world in the day of the apostle Paul was full of the occult, including divination. The book of Acts gives us several eye-opening accounts of power encounters between believers and people empowered through the occult. One such account can be found in Acts 16:16: *“Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling.”*

In his commentary on the book of Acts, C. Peter Wagner states that the slave girl was demonized by a “Python spirit.” Wager cites theologian Simon Kistenmaker, who argues that the best translation of this passage into English is “a spirit, namely, a Python.” Wagner also quotes R. C. H. Lenski, who says Python was “the mythical serpent or dragon that dwelt in the region of Pytho at the foot of the Parnassumi Phocis and was said to have guarded the oracle of Delphi until it was slain by the god Apollo.” Wagner goes on to say that the oracle was a priestess known as the Pythia because she was empowered by the Python spirit.

The spirit in the slave girl did, indeed, speak the truth saying, *“These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation!”* (Acts 16:17). Paul, annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, *“I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her”* (v18). And it came out that very hour.

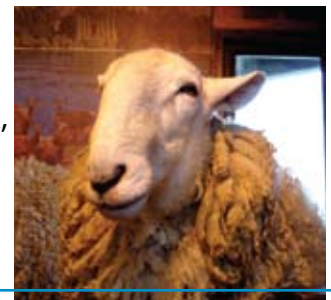
Test the Spirits

Beloved, the story of the slave girl shows why we must test the spirits to see if they are of God. First John 4:1 clearly makes the point: *“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.”* The devil does not mind cloaking himself as an angel of light to deceive us.

He will even use what appears to be truth to suck us into his web of deceit!

It is possible for a false prophetic word to be given through divination to open a door to infirmities and even result in a person being cursed. I will explain this in chapter 10.

Even a person who says he or she is of God can actually be functioning through a spirit of divination. I know that this sounds rather frightening, but once you learn how to test what is true prophecy and what is given through a spirit of divination, you will realize there is nothing to fear. You must simply use discernment on what you receive from a person, even if he or she claims to be of God. How do you discern whether a prophecy is from the Spirit of God or given through a spirit of divination? Here are some guidelines drawn from my book, **The Voice of God:**



...his sheep
follow him
because they
know his voice.

John 10:2-5

1. What is the Holy Spirit giving me in the way of an inward witness? We have a precious promise from the Lord in John 10:2-5 which says that His sheep know His Voice. When the Lord speaks to us, it will give us peace and we will resonate with His Word.
2. Does the word bring glory to God? A person can tell you where you live, your doctor’s name and so on, but it will be divination if the word does not bring you closer to God.

A person who calls himself a Christian but who is really operating through a spirit of divination may be able to tell you many things about your life, even down to your address. But if what he or she is doing does not point to Jesus Christ, then it is false prophecy.

Sin of Balaam

In some regions in the United States, there is a serious problem when it comes to giving prophecy.

Certain churches require you to give an offering of money for a prophetic word. Some churches even have a \$100 line, a \$50 line and a \$10 line. I wonder what the difference is between the \$100 prophecy and the \$10 one? All of this is the sin of Balaam and should not be done.

Balaam, who seemingly started out as a prophet of God (see Num. 22:18), had a problem with the love of money. He was hired by Balak, the king of the Moabites, to curse the children of Israel. However, even through sorcery he was unable to curse what God had blessed (see Num. 24:1).

Later in life, Balaam fell into divination, became a false prophet and was killed in battle. *"They [the Israelites] killed the kings of Midian with the rest of those who were killed....Balaam the son of Beor they also killed with the sword"* (Num. 31:8).

It is confirmed in Scripture that Balaam indeed had gone away from the Lord and died: *"They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness"* (2 Peter 2:15).

Modern-Day Balaams

Prophets are not the only ones who fall into the sin of Balaam. I have sat in churches in which very manipulative offerings were taken. You should not be pressured to give to the extent that you feel guilty if you do not give. This is the spirit of Balaam.

Psychic Hot Lines

Have you ever wondered how the psychics on the hot lines can give such seemingly accurate information? Some are

just crafty, while others have tapped into demonic spirits. Many of these psychics are adept at asking leading questions, which is an interrogation method called cold reading.

For example, they begin with insightful statements that could apply to a single young woman such as, "Do you have a boyfriend?" They will listen to the tone of the voice and choice of words. They

may even repeat what they have been told earlier in the conversation but put a small spin on it. For example, if the caller says her boyfriend is self-centered, the psychic might turn it around and later say something like this: "Your boyfriend needs to start listening to you when you are upset and when he does something that bothers you." This wording is used to make the caller think that the psychic already knew that the boyfriend never paid attention to her needs, when in reality poor communication is a common problem in relationships and a self-centered boyfriend most likely would not listen.

These psychic hot lines tend to prey on and exploit those who can least afford to spend extra money. According to February 1998's Harper's survey, "70.2 percent of phone psychic users belong to minorities and 48.3 percent are very poor. Yet the price per minute is approximately \$4."

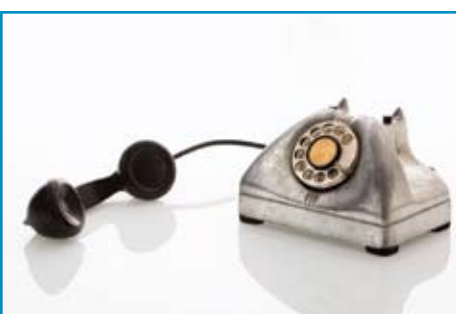
Nostradamus

One of the most famous psychics in history was Nostradamus. Born in 1503 in France, he was the eldest son in a Jewish family that later converted to Catholicism. It is said of Nostradamus that he predicted the Napoleonic Wars, the American Revolution, the Civil War, the assassinations of Abraham Lincoln and both Kennedys, World War II, the creation of nuclear weapons and space travel. However, the way the prophecies have been interpreted stretched the fact—and always came after the fact.

Nostradamus received his visions through scrying, or gazing into a bowl of water. He would place the bowl in a brass tripod, then tap his wand into the bowl, after which he touched his robe. Scrying is also what is done when people read a crystal ball or look into a mirror for answers. They gaze into the crystal ball until they either have a vision or actual images form within the ball.

This is a counterfeit of the real gift of God whereby He gives visions to His people. In fact, there are prophets called seers who receive prophetic words through visions.

The gift of prophecy is not a natural or innate gift; rather, God distributes these prophetic gifts to various people, as he chooses.



A prophet can submit his gift to God or like Balaam, he can fall into sin and open himself up to demonic divination. The information that a prophet such as Balaam receives is not inspired by the Holy Spirit. I have seen true prophets of God who become greedy and manipulate people to give them money, thus using the gift of God for their own gain. The source of their gift then shifts to the demonic realm and eventually they can become false prophets. True prophets speak for God. Counterfeits lead people away from the one true God.

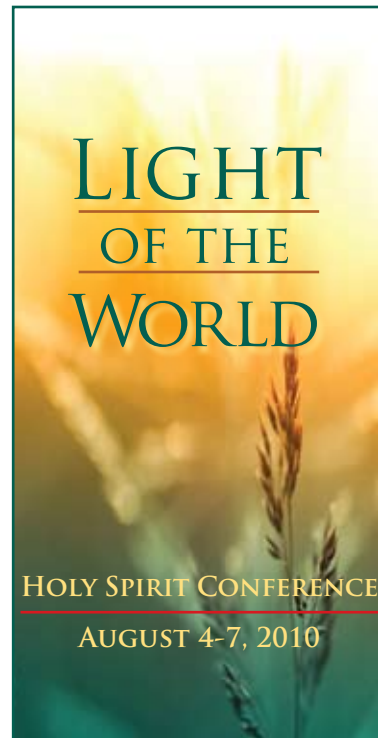
Nostradamus's information was obtained through occult methods and the source of the information was the demonic realm, even though some of it proved to be accurate.



(From *Deliver Us From Evil* by Cindy Jacobs © 2001. Published by Regal Books, a division of Gospel Light, Ventura, CA, USA. www.regalbooks.com)

*Cindy Jacobs is a respected prophet who travels the world ministering not only to crowds of people, but also to heads of nations. She is the co-founder, along with her husband Mike, of Generals International, formerly known as Generals of Intercession. Cindy has authored six books including her newest, **The Reformation Manifesto.***

Cindy will be speaking at the August 4-7, 2010 Holy Spirit Conference, "**Light of the World.**"



After the Bridge Collapsed

by Paul Anderson

Lessons Learned About Rebuilding

It was Wednesday night at 6:05 PM on August 1, 2007. The Holy Spirit Conference would begin in less than an hour. Like the Kennedy assassination (for us older folks), we remember where we were when we heard: the Interstate 35W bridge had collapsed. A design failure was determined to have probably caused the collapse. Traffic patterns for a million people had to adjust to the disaster. Known simply as Bridge 9340, it had opened for business in 1967; forty years later it came down with a giant thud. Demolition took until the end of October, and construction of the new bridge started November 1, 2007. I was struck recently by the similarities of the bridge's demise to moral failures.

Collapses surprise us.

We were shocked. The bridge took about one hundred cars, trucks, and a bus with it. In similar fashion, we found the news of Todd Bentley's failed marriage and Ted Haggard's moral collapse just as surprising, to name two of many leaders who have fallen in the last decade. No one reporting the news of the bridge said, "I was expecting it," though the bridge had been inspected annually by Mn/DOT since 1993. Several reports cited problems with the bridge structure. In 1990, the federal government gave the I-35W bridge a rating of "structurally deficient," citing significant corrosion in its bearings. Approximately 75,000 other U.S. bridges had this classification in 2007. In addition, a doctoral dissertation at the University of Minnesota asserted structural problems.

Paul likewise wrote of human structural deficiencies that could cause ethical failure and warned, "If you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!" (1 Corinthians 10:12). Some of us



take those warnings by the apostle as applying to someone else. But Paul gives half a chapter of warnings from Israel's history to cite precedent for people blessed of God falling under the weight of willful and persistent sin. Habit patterns that bring people down are not created overnight. Corrosion took place little by little, as lines are crossed and nudges from the Spirit are ignored. Collapses surprise us, but maybe they shouldn't.

Collapses damage many.

Approximately 100 vehicles were involved in the bridge collapse, sending their occupants and 18 construction workers up to 115 feet down to the river or onto its banks. Thirteen lives transitioned into eternity within moments. Another 145 were injured.

And likewise, it takes many months, and sometimes years, for a church to recover when a leader fails. When people we have a right to believe violate that trust, it often leaves a hole in the heart. James warned, *"Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly"* (James 3:1). Why? Because teachers represent God, and their fall causes damage.

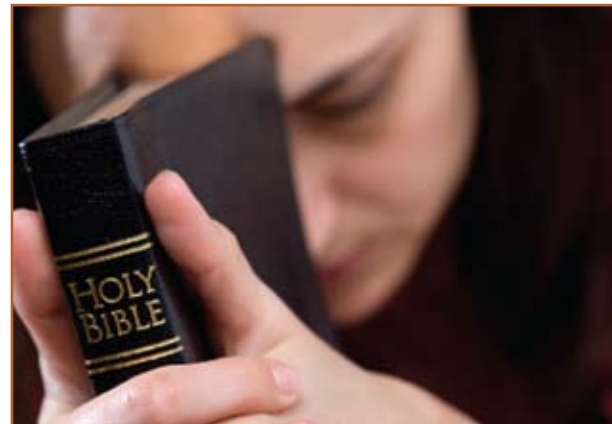
Restoration is a process, not an event.

Reconstruction of the 35W bridge took ten and a half months. The newly-named St. Anthony Falls Bridge opened on September 18, 2008, months ahead of schedule and under budget. Workers took great care to make the new bridge much stronger than the previous one. Had they spoken of shortcuts, city officials would have dismissed the builders as incompetent. Regular reports kept them accountable to complete the job to specifications.

In like manner, you can't rush the process of moral rebuilding. If you rush it, you ruin it. Because of the deception involved in moral failures, the timing of a restoration process must take into account this deception and the readiness of the person involved to enter the process. Putting external pressure to get "with the system" may actually prolong the potential for a healthy process of restoration.

And yet when the process has been initiated, those involved sometimes want to move through quickly. One can understand; it is painful to rebuild after a serious collapse. Each new stone laid takes pain. Regret, a killer emotion, causes people to relive the collapse over and over. Rebuilding is often laborious work, like an assignment from an overbearing teacher. It is, however, required in order to restore the soul. And those who have fallen are sometimes surprised that the victims of their failure are not interested in speeding up the process. Those who have fallen tend to confuse confession with rebuilding. Trust is broken in a moment. The bridge came down in seconds; rebuilding took close to a year. We would laugh at construction companies promising a one-week plan for restoration.

The promise of a quick moral fix likewise creates a deception. The deception is that because forgiveness has taken place, restoration has as well. The other deception is that because forgiveness has occurred, one can return to business as usual, such as ministry. Forgiveness does not remove the damage done, either to the victims or to the one who failed. Forgiveness erases the guilt of sin, but it does not remove the historical consequences. And my friend Larry Alberts, who has been involved extensively in the restoration of fallen leaders, adds, "Neither does it guarantee a restoration to the privileges (not the rights) of ministry in behalf of the Body." Larry says wisely that "ministry is not an extension of identity of an individual but rather a delegated work from the Lord done with the Spirit's help in the Church's name on the Church's behalf. That is why there is no such



thing as self-ordination.” He affirms that the Church must decide, not the fallen individual, whether a person is returned to ministry.

I was once helping a young man through a restoration process after he was involved sexually. I let him return to ministry too soon, and it gave him the impression that he had completed the process and closed the loop. He thought that he could do prayer ministry like he had done before, give answers in small group discussions, and basically return to normal. Doing this short-circuits restoration rather than aiding it. It is important in the restoration process to be a receiver, not a giver. When I explained what he needed to do to build up the bridge, he finally got it and went to work. He wrote a letter to the girl, to the girl’s parents, and acknowledged his offense to those who needed to know. He went low, and God will honor him for it. And as we discussed, he was investing in a secure moral future, though holding off on the ministry he had been involved in was not easy.

Can you imagine the outrage if the new bridge collapsed ten years after completion? And can you picture the anger in people who were victims of a moral failure if a person returned to ministry precipitously, then fell again? Some spiritual leaders have cut the process short so they could return to ministry. Sadly, they do not recognize that they are creating a likely relapse.

“Christian ministry,” to quote Larry Alberts again, “is not a matter of entrepreneurial ‘free enterprise’ but rather the Body recognizing and ordering the outworking of gifts supplied by the Spirit ‘for the common good.’” It is certainly “not for one individual’s self-aggrandizement, increased sense of self-esteem, or ongoing opportunity for employment.”

Restoration requires help and hard work.

Paul wrote, “If someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently” (Galatians 6:1). Restoration is not a solo assignment. Those who have fallen need help back. It is not uncommon for people involved in rebuilding to have times of despair when the truth of the damage begins to come alive in their souls. Discouragement overtakes faith and makes the process slow and tedious.

Rebuilding includes full repentance with all parties offended, grief over damage created, and a process of healing. The psalmist wrote, “He restores my soul” (Psalm 23:3). The word “restore” translates the Hebrew word “shuv,” which means “to turn back.” It is commonly used for repenting in the Old Testament, “turning around.” Repentance is not the same as restoration. When God restores our soul, He causes it to turn back. We accept the forgiveness of God in return for our repentance, and we come to forgive ourselves as well. We hope that the restoration process brings the same wholeness enjoyed before the fall, just as with the miracle Jesus performed: “So he [the man with the shriveled hand] stretched it out and it was completely restored, just as sound as the other” (Matthew 12:13).

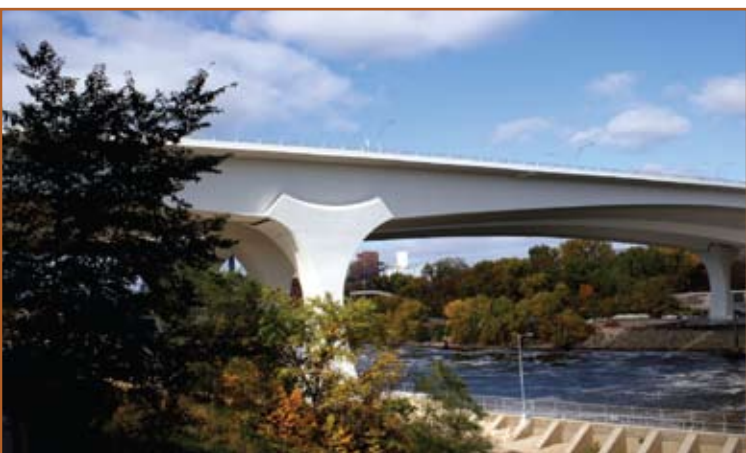
Psalm 51 comes to us from a man in restoration after a bridge collapsed and damaged a whole nation. The psalm portrays a man who has come through a time of deception we could hardly imagine for the “man after God’s own heart.” Therein lies the deception of the heart. David later wrote, “Restore to me the joy of your salvation...” David had lost more than joy. He had lost God’s pleasure, an undivided heart, a reputation for righteousness and for being a noble soldier. The consciousness of what he has done now oppresses him, and he knows he has nowhere to hide, except in the mercy of God. He offers nothing even close to an excuse for his criminal activity.



Rebuilding includes restitution. The Mosaic Law addressed the need for restoring what was lost. *“A thief must certainly make restitution...”* (Exodus 22:3). *“If a man grazes his livestock in a field or vineyard and lets them stray and they graze in another man’s field, he must make restitution...”* (v. 5) *“If a fire breaks out... the one who started the fire must make restitution”* (v. 6). *“If the animal was stolen from the neighbor, he must make restitution to the owner”* (v. 12). The Hebrew word for restitution in all of these cases is the word “shalam” (meaning “to make whole, complete”), the verb form of the noun “shalom.” Zacchaeus took restitution seriously. He promised to restore what he had stolen four times over (Luke 19:8). What kind of restitution should be made when virginity has been stolen, or character, or a reputation? And if restitution cannot be secured, should it be forfeited?

Restoration requires truth, not just grace.

When I was meeting once with a brother who needed restoration, I said, “I want you to write down what you did wrong, why you did it, what the consequences are, and what you will do to fix it.” He came back thirty minutes later with some scrambled notes about how a guy like him with emotional needs could have gotten sexually involved with a girl. I said, “Now I want you to go deeper. Tell me what you did wrong and how it affected others.” He came back twenty minutes later and described what he did but not why he thought it had happened or how it had impacted him and others. I said, “Now consider what other sins were involved and how it has impacted others and why you think this happened.” I gave him a clue by referring to David, who went from adultery to deception to murder. I said that sexual sin often has other sins wrapped around it. He responded, “I feel like you are not forgiving me.” I answered, “This has nothing to do with forgiveness. I have already forgiven you, but that does not erase the damage done. If my son drove into the neighbor’s house, I could forgive him immediately, but he would still need to deal with the damage he had done to the house and car. Forgiveness does not put an end to the restoration cycle—it starts the process. It would take my son painful hours and money to undo the destruction. Hopefully, he would never do it again.”



Truth is the bridge that connects us with God and people. When we embrace lies, and worse, live them, the bridge collapses. The time of restoration depends upon the amount of damage. Stealing a newspaper from a rack does not create a lot of damage in relationships. But if theft grows into a habit, it does. And a simple prayer of confession does not rebuild the bridge. When I took one of my sons back to a store where he had stolen something, we were rebuilding the bridge. Repentance clears the deck of guilt; restoration and restitution rebuild the bridge. When people in our churches have broken down a bridge of truth, we would be showing them grace by walking them

through a process of restoration rather than simply forgiving them and moving on. We should not fear being hardnosed even if people are impatient with us. It is for their good that the bridge is repaired so they can travel over it safely without future damage.

I recommend that pastors and leaders ask what action is required with each restoration case for proper rebuilding. Many of our people are forgiven but not restored. I know that I was sometimes too “kind,” and I short-circuited the process by saying, “It’s over; you’re forgiven.” I want to imitate Jesus, who was full of grace and truth. And we want to be used as his instruments to bring full restoration and the rebuilding of broken bridges.



Paul Anderson
Director, Lutheran Renewal

April 16-17, 2010 Women's Conference

The Presence of the Lord was Made Real...

Through worship



Through testimony



Denise Siemens, Sue Erickson,
Mary Shepperd

*Tending
to the
Presence
of the
Lord*

*Through
teaching*



Judith MacNutt

Through prayer



"The Father's Abundance and Intimacy"
This beautiful scene was placed in the Spiritual Spa and was created by Jenifer Hanson. The women came to soak in the Lord's presence, worship, and receive personal prayer ministry.

Through fellowship



Our amazing worship team!

Back row, l-r: Jessica Wallerstedt, Kristen Powell, Rebekah Antoine
Front row, l-r: Leader Bobbi Wichterman, Ann Ostendorf, Kjerstin Thea,
Alayna Kathleen Olsen, Shawnacy Placencio

All Things New
Women's Conference

June 25-26, 2010
The Way Christian Fellowship
Kenora, Ontario

Denise Siemens and Kristi Graner will be teaching, Bobbi Wichterman and Ann Ostendorf will be leading worship, and a team of up to six others will be traveling to pray, prophesy, and praise the Lord!

This conference is open to anyone who is in the area. For more information contact the church at: 807-486-6406 or www.twcf.ca. Please join us in prayer if you can't join us in person.