

Know Father's Will & Shun The Witchcraft Of Eschatology

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus our Lord,

For some time now we've been emphasizing the importance of hearing the voice of the indwelling Holy Spirit. Don't take this truth lightly! That's because it's through the Holy Spirit that we know our Father's will (see Matthew 7:21). For followers of Jesus who are **obedience-based**, this reason is all-sufficient since they live to bring Father glory by serving Jesus in His Lordship.

When times of stress and uncertainty come, Satan raises up all kinds of deceptive religious teachers, especially those who claim they can foretell future events. These peddlers of false conjecture have a great appeal to those in Christianity who are **outcome-based**.

Because of His deep compassion for humanity, our heavenly Father does tell His children about forthcoming calamity to encourage them to repent (Isaiah 30:15) and/or to help them prepare (Acts 11:28). His children are able to respond without fear because of His indwelling Spirit.

There are two errors we must avoid when it comes to the future. The first is to make sure we don't *harden our hearts* when our Father is speaking to us through His Spirit. The second is to not *become obsessed* that we have to know what's going to happen.

Avoid The Perils Of Eschatological Witchcraft

Eschatology is the part of theology that's concerned with future events or with the ultimate destiny of humanity. There's a thread of eschatological teaching today, though, that is witchcraft. The pursuit to know the future becomes witchcraft when an obsession with eschatology gives someone a false sense of being in control, or fans their pride of "being in the know."

It's a slippery fall into delusion when you're on the obsession tightrope of trying to know the future.



At its core, witchcraft seeks control over something or someone outside God's will. You're trying to be in control by exercising *self-will* rather than abiding by Father's will. But in His sight that's rebellion, which He likens to the sin of witchcraft. (See 1Samuel chapter 15.) People who frequently look for a prophetic word from God may find themselves susceptible to witchcraft since they are **outcome-based** in their pursuit. They have to know what's going to take place. The most easily seduced into **witchcraft** have a **false sense of control that isn't of God**. These are the folks who find themselves falling into delusion and disillusionment during their faith journey.

Many false prophecies that were given during this last presidential election fed on people's desire to have a certain candidate elected (see Jeremiah 23:26). Satan dangled before the populace, the church included, two political choices for President — as though the election was an individual's decision rather than them asking our Father for HIS will (see Isaiah 30:1, 10). For a time, it gave many a vicarious sense of control over their future. And now half of the voters are full of frustration, hate, and the potential for violence. And what about those so-called "prophets" who predicted a certain candidate would win?

We're commanded in 1Thessalonians 5:19-22 to test prophecies. But if you're already **outcome-based** and not **obedience-based** like our father Abraham, Satan already has you under his influence. You're looking for someone to tell you *what you want to hear*.

Many false prophets today speak so confidently about future events that their listeners are convinced that these individuals must be speaking the truth. But for decades now we've observed the prophetic being seduced away from what's authentic. Instead, "prophecy" has been turned into self-gratifying distortions which satisfy the flesh. TV as well as the media have made this method of deceiving people easy, and it's certainly been financially lucrative for those controlled by a lying spirit (Micah 3:11). Again, these liars appeal to the **outcome-based** who feel they have to know how something's going to turn out. For a clear example of how easily deceived the outcome-based are, read 1Kings, chapter 22.

We've previously noted that the demonic principality of Jezebel now rules this nation. This spirit is the primary force behind the perversion of the prophetic. The spirit of Jezebel hates the true prophet because its witchcraft is exposed by the prophet. Relying on deceit and enticement to gain widespread control, this demonic entity is able to distort the truth and diminish people's confidence in Holy Spirit-given prophecy.

The Future Is God's Domain.

Mike: Over 40 years ago, shortly after Sue and I became followers of our Lord Jesus, we took the time to study the main eschatological views. Many denominations and sects are divided by which end time view they hold. Back then, predicting the future through the imagery in the books of Daniel and Revelation was becoming popular in many corners of Christianity.

We concluded that each of the major views at that time had about an equal biblical footing. But each of their conclusions were in opposition to each other! At that point we realized that our Father was warning us to give no thought in advance to how the future was going to unfold. Since then we have avoided any conjecture about the future. We've taken deeply to heart our Lord's guidance, "...when the Son of Man comes, will He find trust on the earth?" (Luke 18:8). Trust, in our Lord's sight, is His Lordship and our love-grounded slave/servant walk in Christ as we do our Father's will.

We've only given the future any thought when the Holy Spirit told us about events that would happen which affected our ministry or personal lives. The core of our own motivation is to be faithfully doing the last thing the Spirit commanded us to do. His responsibility is to tell us if there's something different being demanded of us; our responsibility is to lovingly obey.

"The visions of your prophets were false and worthless; they did not expose your sin to ward off your captivity. The oracles they gave you were false and misleading" (Lamentations 2:14).

False prophets embrace Jezebellic lies which allow them to distort God's Word and alter it to please their hearers, whether it's expounded from pulpits or in the media. The outcome of the distortion is the same: no one is convicted of sin or brought to repentance and restored to fellowship with God (see 1 John 1:6,10).

A true prophet, one who isn't looking to be famous or accepted by the standards of this world, is our Lord's message bearer to His followers. An authentic prophet is really nothing more than an earthen vessel through whom the Spirit can speak. Our Lord's loving purpose for prophecy is His proactive means to maintain fellowship with His followers. He accomplishes this by providing

divine guidance and warning when His people are tempted to stray from His ways.

We encourage you in this: •seek the Holy Spirit's voice
•don't despise prophecy, but test it •don't be obsessed about the future. If you abide by these, you will not only find yourself fulfilling our Father's will to His glory, but also avoid sinning against Him and slipping into witchcraft.

Mike & Sue