

THE OCCULT AND PSYCHICS

Sharing

1. Does it matter what we believe about death?
 - Explain: _____
2. Do you believe that there is a physical world as well as a spiritual world?
 - Discuss: _____
3. Have you ever consulted a psychic or fortune teller?
 - What was the occasion? _____
4. What outside sources do you seek to help you make a decision?
 - Explain: _____

Studying

5. A belief in the occult or in psychics is in direct opposition to the Word of God. Satan, the liar, relies on the medieval, pagan belief of immortality of the soul to deceive mankind into beliefs that lead them away from God (See #6-11 in Program 16's study guide).
6. Obviously God wanted us to understand that there is not an 'immortal' part of man that exists after death. The Bible calls death a 'sleep' at least 50 times. We are to regard it as a sound, dreamless, painless, unaware sleep. A person may have been in the tomb 1,000 years, but when raised in the resurrection it will seem to him that he only dozed off for a moment. We are told that the dead are in their graves and will not come out until they hear the voice of God on the day of resurrection:
 - Read John 5:28-29. "Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their _____ will hear his voice and come out—those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned."
7. Jesus, Himself, called death a 'sleep.' The bible tells us about the death of Jesus' friend Lazarus. As Jesus and His disciples began the walk over the hillsides of Jerusalem to Lazarus' hometown of Bethany, Jesus *pointedly* told His disciples that death was a 'sleep.' Furthermore, on another occasion, Jesus told Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue, that his daughter wasn't dead, but 'asleep.' In both cases, Jesus raised these two people from the dead.
 - Read John 11:11 "Our friend Lazarus _____, but I go that I may wake him up. Then His disciples said, "Lord, if he sleeps he will get well." However, Jesus spoke of his _____, but they thought He was speaking about taking rest in sleep. Then Jesus said to them plainly, Lazarus is _____."
 - Read: Mark 3:39 "He said to them, why make this commotion and weep? The child is not dead, but _____."
8. Death is not life in heaven, hell, limbo, or purgatory. It is not life of any kind. In death the soul does not live, the spirit does not live, the body does not live. The words "soul" and "spirit" are used over 1,600 times in the Bible, but not one time are either given any life, personality, wisdom or knowledge when separated from the body.

9. Body plus Breath equals 'soul.' This breath is not referring to one's common breathing, but breath as the 'divine spark of life,' so when someone dies, the spirit (or breath) returns to God, not the disembodied soul. When we die we know nothing. Zero. Nada. Zilch. Death is like a *sleep*, and there are many proof texts in the Bible that support this view.
- Read Psalm 6:5 "For in death there is no remembrance of thee: in the _____ who shall give thee thanks?"
 - Read Psalm 115:17 "The dead praise not the LORD, neither any that go down into _____."
 - Read Psalm 146:4 "His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his _____ perish."
 - Read Ecclesiastes 9:5,6 "For the living know that they shall die: but the _____ know not any thing...Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now _____; neither have they any more a portion forever in any thing that is done under the sun."
 - Read Ecclesiastes 9:10 "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the _____ whither thou goest."
10. A belief in the pagan doctrine of an immortal soul (see # 7 in Program 17's study guide), has led many to misinterpret one particular passage of Scripture: Luke 16:19-31, where Jesus told a parable about a rich man and a poor man, Lazarus. (For a detailed explanation of the story's meaning, refer to # 16 of Program 17's study guide.)
11. Unfortunately, the parable of 'The Rich Man and Lazarus' has become a sort of theological portal into spiritualism. Next to the gross error in translating the Greek word *aion* (a period of time with a beginning and an end) into an English *eternity* (neither having a beginning nor an ending), there's probably no greater misrepresentation of any section of Scripture than this parable. A literal interpretation of this parable distorts the clear Biblical teaching of 'soul sleep' into the false doctrine of an ever-burning hell where the wicked are tortured for eons of time. Satan has been able to twist the meaning of this parable—for the masses who do not study the Bible—to perpetuate his initial lie about immortality of the soul making it appear as though we can communicate with the dead.
12. Satan's first lie on this earth was about the immortality of the soul (living on after death).
- Read Genesis 3:4 "And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely _____."
13. Satan continues to lie. Man is mortal. Every person on earth will die and will never again have a conscious thought until the second coming of Jesus when He calls us from the grave.
- Read Job 4:17 "Can a _____ be more righteous than God? Can a man be more pure than his Maker?"
14. God alone has immortality.
- Read 1 Timothy 6:16 "Who _____ has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen."
15. We will become immortal (have life after death) when Jesus comes.
- Read 1 Corinthians 15:51,52 "Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last _____. For the trumpet will sound, and the _____ will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed."
 - Read 1 Corinthians 15:53 "For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on _____. So, when this corruption has put on incorruption, and the mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

16. If Satan can deceive us into believing that we go to heaven when we die, he destroys our need for a Savior and a resurrection. The second coming would be of no significance if we already existed in heaven.
 - Read 1 Thessalonians 4:16 “And the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God. And the _____ in Christ will rise first.” So we will all go to heaven together when Jesus comes—not individually when we die.
17. God’s way, of providing us ‘sleep’ in death is a tremendous blessing. If, after we die, we were conscious and aware of bad things happening to our loved ones’ remaining on earth, but we couldn’t help them, it would be torture, not heaven! Furthermore, if we believe ALL of God’s word, we will never be deceived by Satan. God’s way, like always, is best.
18. The Word of God is *very* clear that man is mortal and has no conscious thought in death, yet there is a world-wide belief in the doctrine of immortality of the soul, expressed in books, movies and millions of reports of paranormal activity. Why? Even as there was an increase in demonic activity preceding Jesus’ birth and during His ministry here on earth, we can expect an increase in such demonic activity again just before Jesus returns—because Satan knows his time to exist is short.
 - Read Revelation 12:12 “Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the _____ is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a _____ time.”
19. Satan will use the belief in life after death (the doctrine of immortality of the soul) to lead men and women to seek answers to life’s difficulties from sources other than prayer to God and reading His Word—the better to deceive them into turning their hearts away from God.
 - Read Isaiah 8:19,20 “And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that are _____, and unto wizards that whisper, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? rather than the dead on behalf of the living? To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no _____ in them.”
20. Not all angels or spirits are of God; there are counterfeit angels and spirits of devils “...working miracles, which go forth to the kings of the earth and of the whole world...” (Revelation 16:14). We must be able to discern good from evil, right from wrong, satanic angels from God’s angels if we are to be safe from the delusions of Satan in this world.
 - Read 1 John 4:1 “Dear friends, do not believe every _____, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many _____ prophets have gone out into the world.”
 - Read Jeremiah 14:14 “Then the LORD said to me, “The prophets are prophesying lies in my name. I have not sent them or appointed them or spoken to them. They are prophesying to you _____ visions, divinations, idolatries and the _____ of their own minds.”
21. As the result of a series of very successfully marketed children’s novels, witchcraft and sorcerers have been made very popular and seemingly innocent. The idea of conjuring spells, of being a medium, or a white or black witch has become a topic of conversation with which our grade school children are familiar. Yet God’s word provides explicit counsel against these activities because their source is from the devil.
 - Read Deuteronomy 18:10,11 “Let no one be found among you who sacrifices his son or daughter in the fire, who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets _____, or a sorcerer, or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the _____.”
 - Read Deuteronomy 18:12 “Anyone who does these things is detestable to the LORD, and because of these _____ practices the LORD your God will drive out those nations before you.”

22. The Bible makes it very clear that we are to have nothing to do with the occult, spiritualism, mysticism, attempting to contact the dead, 'read' our future, sorcery or witchcraft—all of which are based on the belief that the dead aren't really *dead*. Satan knows that if we believe his lie we will be deceived by his demons, which will lead us to distrust God.
- Read 1 Timothy 4:1 "The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving _____ and things taught by demons." NIV
23. Over and over the Bible shows us that we sleep until the resurrection. The mighty prophet Daniel received instruction from God that he would sleep until the end of the age.
- Read Daniel 12:13 "As for you, go your way till the _____. You will rest, and then at the end of the days you will _____ to receive your allotted inheritance."
24. Just as surely as Jesus called Lazarus from the grave, He will one day call us from the grave.
- Read John 11:43 "Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come _____!"
25. What a blessed hope we have in a perfect 'sleep' when our life on this earth ends. We will be unaware of the passage of time until we hear the voice of God calling us to come forth in the resurrection.
- Read Philippians 3:20 "But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a _____ from there, the Lord Jesus Christ."

Applying this lesson

26. The Bible is so clear on the fact that dead people don't know anything. Furthermore, the Bible makes more than fifty comparisons to death being like an unconscious sleep.
- It makes a lot more sense that God alone has immortality and that mortal man 'sleeps' in the grave until Jesus comes.
 - ____A check mark at left indicates that I do not believe in the immortality of the soul.
27. The practice of channeling, of séances, and of all other attempts to get in touch with people who have died are based on Satan's first lie in the Garden of Eden.
- I know that the first lie told on this earth was by Satan to Eve in the Garden of Eden when he told her to eat the fruit and she wouldn't die—in other words she would have an immortal soul.
 - ____A check mark at left indicates that I realize the devil is a liar and that he will use the belief of an immortal soul to deceive people and destroy their faith in God.
28. Jesus' plan for having all people sleep in the grave until He returns is part of His overall plan of salvation and judgment for the world.
- Because of Jesus' resurrection I can be confident that He is the way out of the grave.
 - ____A check mark at left indicates that I know that Jesus will one day call me forth from the grave and I will rise incorruptible and, at that time, be given the gift of immortality.