

THE BIBLE:
THE TRUTH
ABOUT PSYCHICS
&
SPIRITUAL GIFTS

KEVIN SCHOEPPPEL

*THE BIBLE:
THE TRUTH
ABOUT PSYCHICS
&
SPIRITUAL GIFTS*

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*Stir up the gift of God, which is in thee. . .
for God hath not given us the spirit of fear;
but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.
~ 2 Timothy 1:6-7 (KJV)*

*This book is dedicated to my wife, Stanna, and my son, Ryan.
May God use your gifts for His glory.*

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My sole acknowledgement for the contents of this book is the
Spirit of the Lord:

In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.
~ Proverbs 3:6

CONTENTS

FOREWORD	7
INTRODUCTION	14
ONE: Psychic Ability & Mediumship:	
What God is Really Saying.....	19
TWO: Enter the Confusion:	
Christian Websites & the Bashing of Psychic Gifts	33
THREE: Love Makes the Difference	48
FOUR: From There to Here	57
FIVE: Heaven, Hell, & the Other Side	69
SIX: A Medium Comes Through For Me	86
SEVEN: What Are the Various Spiritual Gifts	
& What is Their Purpose?.....	104
EIGHT: Fulfilling Your Gifted Role	118
NINE: Working For the Lord: Benefits and Pay	127
TEN: What About My Gift?	137
ELEVEN: Reasons to Believe	151
TWELVE: The Foundation of This Book: The Bible	161
THIRTEEN: Departure of the Disciples:	
Why No New Scripture?.....	170
FOURTEEN: The Most Important of All	178
FIFTEEN: Beyond the Other Side	191
BIBLIOGRAPHY	201
REFERENCES & AUTHOR'S NOTES	202

FOREWORD

My name is Melanie. I have been a medium since birth. As with many of us “gifted” people, we cannot sometimes “read” for ourselves. So at one time I sought out another medium for guidance on how to find a channeling instructor in the area in which I lived. Instead, and much to my surprise, I was put in contact with Kevin Schoeppel, a very well-learned Biblical man and author. I thought to myself: *I ask for a channeling instructor and instead I get a Bible teacher? What’s up with that?* I felt certain that this other medium had made a terrible mistake by putting me in touch with Kevin.

You and I perhaps have had similar experiences. Back in my youth I did not realize that not everyone could see and hear the things that I could. I am not sure at what age my grandmother told me to be silent and only share these types of things with her. But she did help me study anything we could find on metaphysical topics. And as I got older, I became braver and I began to talk to my other relatives about the things I had seen in a trance state. I would sometimes share with them the thoughts that came into my mind about certain people — thoughts that I knew were not my own. In doing so I knew they thought I was crazy or “touched.” And yet, when my relatives and friends wanted explanations of unusual phenomena, such as orbs showing up in a photo that was taken with family members in it, they came to me seeking answers.

I sought out my own answers in many different ways, trying to find anyone or anything that could help me to understand why I was seeing spirits. And for explanations behind the things that had happened throughout my life, I read my Bible and whatever other books I could find. To this day I continue to educate myself on my spiritual gifts and on the supernatural in general.

I have fought so hard all of my life to get people to understand what it is like to be in my shoes, but after all, they are my shoes and no one else's. No one else can ever fully understand and my experiences will always be unique to me. And even if other people were to have the exact same experiences, their reactions would be different. But if through my gifts, I can at least speak to others about the love that God has for each of us, and what a gift it is to be alive then, yes, I have done the right thing.

Indeed, my willingness to bring forth messages for people has "bitten me in the butt" a few times. Why is it that people will question the heck out of me, get their answers and then turn around and use those answers against me later? I have also found it very peculiar that I am one of the ones these very same people call upon to join them in a prayer circle when someone is ill. Yet, the people who call upon me for this kind of help are the very ones who have also called me a witch or claimed that I am touched by evil, and say that they "worry about my soul." Heavens to Betsy, my soul is just fine. But if they could just give me a second I could tell them about the holes in theirs!

Why, I have even been asked by some people to put "jinxes" on other people — which I call hogwash and doing such things does not follow the teachings that I have learned from the Bible. For example, one such person came to me asking me to "put a spell on her husband" because he was cheating on her. I remember looking right at her and wanting to scream at her, "Now why would I ever do such a thing when I know you are sleeping with someone you work with?"

One morning a girl called me. I had known her for about eight years, and had done a reading for her for the first time about six months before. She used to tell me that she had thought that my doing such things was evil and ungodly. But that day she was

calling to thank me because everything I had told her in the reading was one-hundred percent correct. And she said that it had changed her life for the better.

So here I was with this Bible teacher, Kevin, on the phone. I just knew for sure that he was going to eventually tell me he was “concerned about my soul.” So in his first phone call to me, I told him what I do, and just waited for him to say it.

Instead, to my utter astonishment, what happened is that I got confirmation for my gifts of Spirit! At the time, certain family members had been calling me a witch. And I had been told by them that only men could foretell the future. But in our conversation Kevin pointed out to me that in the Bible God said:

“I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons *and your daughters* shall prophesy.” (Joel 2:28, KJV) I realized that as hard as I had previously tried to find validation, nothing meant more to me than these words that he quoted from the Bible, explained in a way that I could relate to and understand.

A trusting friendship soon developed between our families, and within a very short time I told him he needed to write a book. It happened one morning in the autumn of 2010. I sat up in bed to see what thoughts came to my mind. The thought I had was: *What if Kevin wrote a book that was meant to help people like me?*

Huh? What is this all about? I thought. It sounded terrific to me. I was at the point in my life where I was ready to take on the world since he had been teaching me how to trust the Bible. He had been showing me where it backs me up and others like me. But I knew that he might get more ridiculed than I when this book was finished.

Over the years, in the stories we have relayed to each other, I recalled the things that have been said about me and to me in past friendships, love relationships, and by distant family members.

Being tagged with certain names and labels has caused me incredible pain throughout my life. I knew I was not a witch. But just what was I mostly? I wondered how I do what I do, and I wondered if these gifts were blessed by God. *And what do I call myself?* I wondered.

Then one day Kevin said to me, “You are a gifted servant of the Lord.” That made sense to me, for I have seen and felt the joy in people’s hearts when they receive a message from a loved one on the “other side.” At the same time, as a small town girl who was raised by her grandparents, being able to bring forth these messages from loved ones who have gone before also gives me a feeling of joy.

It seems that I keep mostly the same friends I have had all my life. I find that most of my friends do have a spiritual background or are Christians. But we all want our friends to love us no matter who or what they are. And so sometimes a psychic or medium will tend to feel that we can see a person’s needs or situation more clearly than some of their other friends can, or that we are better equipped to “fix” their problems than someone else. But we don’t realize at the same time that sometimes we are sometimes just being used.

We learn from these experiences and learn to weed them out in the future. Yes, we mediums get our feelings hurt just like anyone else does. That leaves many people asking the question: “If a medium is so psychic, then why aren’t they able to know when they are being used?” We sometimes don’t see it because we want don’t want to see it. And we are all here to learn lessons in life. But in this process I have had to learn the art of discernment. These

days if I cannot take someone's hand, bow my head, and praise God for the friendship then it is not for me.

Others ask, "Why don't psychics just pick the lottery numbers?" I believe that while some of us very well could, we are human also, and with a significant amount of additional money, we would perhaps do the same things as many non-mediums. So instead of continuing our spiritual growth and helping others with our gifts as we were meant to do, we could find ourselves focusing more on traveling, shopping, and acquiring possessions.

I admit that I do like being different. But I have lost many friendships throughout the years by mentioning the things I saw or felt. I have also gotten my heart broken in relationships by revealing too much about my gifts of Spirit.

For example, at the age of nineteen, when I returned home from spending three years at a private school in Mexico, I started to date a young man whom I had a large crush on for years. After three or four dates, one night I had a vision in which I saw him walking toward me while I was sleeping on the couch. In the vision, he had a very threatening look on his face, and I heard my Aunt Patty scream my name. It was a definite warning. The next time this man and I talked, I tentatively mentioned the vision I had had about him, and also told him many other things I had seen over the years. Immediately he stopped dating me.

In the late 1980s a young girl was kidnapped and murdered in our community. I had a pretty strong pull to a certain area of the town as to where I believed the child could be found. But I also knew that she was not alive anymore. However, there was no way I could have called 911 and told them, as I would have been tagged as a total nut. And since I was in the middle of a divorce at that time, I might have lost my children over it. I have always felt very

guilty that I did not call in. The police might have found her body sooner than the years that it actually took them, and thus relieved the parents by giving them closure that much sooner.

Psychics are sometimes frightened of being judged by “Bible thumpers,” as my grandma called them — the dear people who can quote the Bible verse by verse. This is mainly because we psychics have been judged and called all manner of names for doing what to us is simply just normal. To us the people who are *not* psychic are the ones that are not normal.

In the case of most “Bible people,” for us to tell them that we sense things or are “psychic” is just asking to be told that we are going to Hell and need saving. And then they inevitably shove Bible verses at us. I bet you cannot truly name five people that are true Christians and believe in the Bible and spiritual gifts such as mine at the same time. For the most part they do not. Nor do I want someone to read or quote the Bible to me and tell me what it means. To me the Bible means different things to different people and my interpretation may be quite different from theirs.

Kevin has been correct in saying that people sometimes equate being a birth medium or a spiritually gifted person with being a witch. I have often been put into that category by others. We who are psychic desperately need help from the master teachers of the Bible who might instead explain like this:

Melanie, my name is Kevin, and you Melanie are psychic. I would love to talk to you about the Bible, because I would not just show you where the Bible supports your gifts, but I would show you how it can help you to accept and embrace your gifts. And you will ultimately see that the Bible cannot be twisted away from God's words.

It has taken me many years to come to terms with my gifts. But finally knowing that I am fully supported by God and the Bible is the purest love I have ever felt. I hope this book will help change the stringent and erroneous attitudes held by many, and help people understand that there are indeed psychics and mediums with bona fide spiritual gifts from God.

Throughout my lifetime I tried several times to reach out to many people and different religions for “Biblical backing,” which I never previously received prior to meeting Kevin. In that spirit it is my hope that this book also reaches the parents and families that find themselves now raising spiritually gifted children. These children may have been made to feel as if they are strangers in their own families, and may feel as if they must squelch or hide their gifts. It is my hope that they may not feel their gifts to be a curse as I did, but to be accepted as the special servants of the Lord that they are. In these challenging times we find ourselves living in, we need those with true spiritual gifts to be able to come forward freely and without judgment.

May no child ever from this day forward ever have to go through what I did. *Thank you, Kevin.*

INTRODUCTION

Why would I write a book like this? The answer is I've written it with the Lord's help and a desire to do His will. As long as I have known psychics, I've always been aware of how they have had to hide the special gifts that live within them simply out of public attitudes toward them.

First, there are the persons who simply refuse to believe in them. These are the people who think that all people who claim to be psychic are frauds. For them, no amount of proof will ever be enough. *Psychics are out to deceive you and take your money.* Furthermore, to them, any person who would believe in a psychic is a gullible fool.

Then, there are the persons who *do* believe in people who have psychic and psychic medium abilities — but with the belief that these persons have their abilities due to involvement in the occult or witchcraft. Because of certain verses in the Bible in which God commanded that the Israelites not consult persons who have “familiar spirits,” and that there not be persons among them who practice divination, sorcery, witchcraft, and consulting of the dead, the churches of today have come to teach that all persons who have any extraordinary abilities are connected with the occult, and that all spirits who mediums communicate with are disguised demons.

Beyond that there are the misconceptions of what a psychic or medium can do. Thanks to the image that Hollywood and the media have created, much of the public believes that psychics should be able, at any time, to read anyone's thoughts, see into anyone's future, know any hidden information about a person, see any vision, know any tragedy that is about to happen, or have

contact with the spirit of any dead person at will. And what if they can't on demand? *Oh, that certainly proves it — they're a fraud!*

So now let us assume that you are one of the specially gifted persons whom the Lord has graced with one or more of these extraordinary abilities. You learned quickly to keep your perceptions to yourself. You wanted to fit in and have friends. You didn't want your parents taking you to counseling. But there were so many times you wanted to share something you knew with your family or your friends that they had no other way of knowing, because you wanted to help them, warn them, or give them hope. You would think it over, and then invariably decide that you'd better not say anything at all.

As you got a bit older, you began to question why you are the way you are. You may have asked yourself: *Why can't I just be like everybody else? If there is a God who made all of us, why did he make me a 'freak?' Does he hate me?* All of your life you have just wanted to be a normal person like everyone around you.

Let us further assume that you are female. Although not all such gifted persons are female, I have found they greatly outnumber their male counterparts. As you went through your teens, there were boys that you liked. As you matured, you started developing deeper feelings in relationships. And then the questions started coming to your mind:

At what point do I tell him about my abilities? Do I tell him or do I just show him what I do? What if I can't keep it a secret and he discovers there is something 'weird' about me? Will his love for me change? Will he stay with me, or want to break off the relationship? What if his family has funny ideas about me and makes him choose between me

and them? Will he freak out, run, and never want to see me again? Could my heart take that kind of rejection?

I have been that “boyfriend.” Not just once, but twice. And what you have just read is based on what my wife Stanna, and my friend Melanie, and others have told me about what it’s like to grow up with such psychic gifts. My heart has gone out to such persons from the time I met my first girlfriend, Tami, and discovered she was psychic. I wanted her to know I loved her for who she was, not for what she could do. And it’s that very kind of acceptance that psychics and mediums long for to this day. Although I was afraid to ask questions directly to Tami about her abilities back then, I knew she had nothing to do with the occult. There was nothing evil about her or her conduct.

And so, after two assistant youth leaders at my church told me that I should stay away from Tami, because they assumed that her abilities were not from the Lord, I took a hard look at why I believed what I believed as far as a religion goes. No one was going to tell me to stay away from someone I loved just because she could do something the average person couldn’t.

In the years since I’ve not only learned that such abilities can indeed be from the Lord, but that the Bible actually *supports* the fact that extrasensory abilities, and the ability to be contacted by spirits, are legitimate spiritual gifts. And because they are we have a responsibility to the Lord for the use of them. We are meant to serve the Lord with our spiritual gifts.

On the other hand, Christian churches today are hindering themselves by not accepting all spiritual gifts. “Quench not the Spirit. Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil.” This is what

their Bibles say in 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22 (KJV). *So why aren't any of them doing it?*

When was the last time someone in a church told you: “Stir up the gift of God, which is in thee?” That’s in the Bible too, in 2 Timothy 1:6 (KJV). But let’s say you didn’t know what your gift is. How would you find out? In the early days of the Christian church, people with the gift of prophesy could tell you what your gift was. Okay, so where in the church is a person with this gift?

Sadly enough, one of two things may have happened. The person who had this gift may not be there anymore, because he or she felt they didn’t belong. Instead of being encouraged to use their gift, they were shunned or were told they had a demon that needed to be cast out of them.

The other possibility is that the person with that gift is still there, but you wouldn’t know it. They know what would happen if they were to let their gift be known to the church. So, since they love the Lord, and want to be a part of His church, they continue to hide their gift of prophesy. What an asset they could be — if only they could be assured of complete acceptance!

In the years that I taught Bible classes in the Baptist church, I’ve come to believe that the latter of these two possibilities is the more probable. Church members, like anyone else, experience extraordinary occurrences that they can’t explain. And I’ve encouraged members of my class to talk about them. Of course, I first had to be willing to share a few unusual experiences of my own. Then they felt more at ease to tell me about theirs and ask their questions.

So there is a twofold purpose for this book. The first is for the spiritually gifted person to be able to understand where he or she

stands with the Lord and with people, and to know what God commands them to do with their gift. And the second purpose is for the Christian church to become empowered, as the Lord intended for his church to be. They can accomplish this by reaching out in love to the psychic and medium, and creating an atmosphere of acceptance for all spiritually gifted people to openly serve God.

I have known from the time I began writing this book, that there will be plenty of opposition to the things I have written here. This book is full of verses and references from the Bible in regard to the subject matter. You will be able to see for yourself that these “strange” concepts are not some wild idea of mine. They are from the very book that is above all books — the book that much of the world has revered for almost two thousand years as being the all-sufficient, inerrant, word of God. But for those of you who are not of that opinion, I’ve also included a chapter titled “The Foundation of This Book: The Bible,” in hopes that you will see what sets the Bible apart from all other holy books or writings.

So sit back. Ask the Holy Spirit for understanding. Turn the page. And prepare to be amazed.



ONE

Psychic Ability and Mediumship: What God is Really Saying

Not long ago I received an email message through a popular social networking site from my former pastor's mother-in-law:

Kevin, have you checked the Word of God about mediums? The Bible has much to say about that. I hope you don't get involved in the occult. I pray the Holy Spirit will show you truth. Jesus is The Truth. Do your seeking in Him. I am praying for you.

I wasn't sure what she had seen on my profile page that caused her to write this to me, but there were several good possibilities. I had several psychics and mediums on my friend list. And in my group page on the same social networking site, I had quite a few posts that dealt with the topic of mediums and psychics. I wasn't a skeptic. I wasn't seeking advice from them either. I was asking a lot of questions of them in order to understand more about their abilities, because I *did* know what God's Word had to say about psychics, as well as mediums.

I replied to her that I was aware of these five verses in the Bible, which most Christians will refer to when the subject of psychics, mediums, or the paranormal arises:

1. "Do not turn to mediums or spiritists; do not seek them out to be defiled by them. I am the Lord your God." — Leviticus 19:31 (NASB)

2. "As for the person who turns to mediums and to spiritists, to play the harlot after them, I will also set my face against that

person and will cut him off from among his people.” — Leviticus 20:6 (NASB)

3. “Now a man or a woman who is a medium or a spiritist shall surely be put to death. They shall be stoned with stones, their bloodguiltiness is upon them.” — Leviticus 20:27 (NASB)

4. “There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, one who uses divination, one who practices witchcraft, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who casts a spell, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead.” — Deuteronomy 18:10-11 (NASB)

5. “When they say to you, “Consult the mediums and the spiritists who whisper and mutter,” should not a people consult their God? Should they consult the dead on behalf of the living?” — Isaiah 8:19 (NASB)

These verses are enough to convince most Christians to stay away from anything paranormal. The verses seem to suggest that mediums deal with spirits that are not from God, and that it is a sin for any person to even associate with one. Some Christians even believe that by associating with a medium or a psychic, they will begin to turn away from serving God and start doing things displeasing to God.

This is what I believe that my former pastor’s mother-in-law was concerned about. I had taught Sunday school classes and participated in many other church activities in her son-in-law’s church. And now she was seeing on this social network that I had befriended several persons who were psychics and mediums.

What I already knew that she was unaware of, is that there are different ways in which these abilities are obtained. What makes

the difference is the manner in which the person came to have the spiritual ability that they have.

So that you will understand what I'm talking about, let's take a closer look at the wording of those verses, and God's reasons behind his commands.

It's important for you to understand that the modern-day words used in those newer versions of the Bible don't always have the same meaning as the original words did at the time. So when a person reads a more up-to-date translation of the Bible other than the *King James Version*, be aware that some of the original intentions of the words have gotten distorted. The most pure translation, meaning, and intentions are found by referring to the *King James Version*.

Now, I have quoted the preceding five verses from the *New American Standard Bible*, which many churches use today. But back when the *King James Version* of the Bible was introduced in 1611, the word "medium" wasn't used in any of those verses. Instead, those same verses in the *King James Version* used the expression: "A man or a woman that has a 'familiar spirit'" — which actually is more specific than the word "medium." And the word "spiritist" was not used in the *King James Version* either, but rather what was used was the word "wizard."

And so what is a "familiar spirit?" And what is a "wizard?" To best define these terms with the meanings intended by the translators of the *King James Version* of the Bible, I used an 1828 *Webster's Revised Unabridged Dictionary*, available online. One definition of "familiar" is defined there as: "A demon or evil spirit supposed to attend at a call. But in general, we say, [sic] a familiar spirit." By this definition, a familiar spirit is contacted by the medium to serve the purpose of the medium. This would in turn imply that the medium makes the initial contact with the spirit. If

the person with a “familiar spirit” made no effort to contact that spirit, there would be no action on the part of the spirit either.

In that same 1828 dictionary, *wizard* is defined as: “A conjurer; an enchanter; a sorcerer.” By 1913, however, *Webster’s Revised Unabridged Dictionary* had added to the definition of *wizard*: “A wise man; a sage.” This was the intended meaning in the time of Thomas Edison, who was nicknamed “The Wizard of Menlo Park.” And due to the technological advances in our century, the word “wizard” now has other meanings as well, such as in an “Internet connection set-up wizard.” Thus our modern definitions of “wizard” now bear no resemblance to the true original meaning of the word.

The word *spiritist*, which did not appear in the 1828 dictionary edition, does appear in the 1913 edition and is defined there as: “A spiritualist.” And so then if we look up the definitions of “spiritualist” in the 1913 edition here is what we find: “1. One who professes a regard for spiritual things only; one whose employment is of a spiritual character; an ecclesiastic. 2. One who maintains the doctrine of spiritualism. 3. One who believes in direct intercourse with departed spirits, through the agency of persons commonly called mediums, by means of physical phenomena; one who attempts to maintain such intercourse; a spiritist.”

By being a deacon of a Baptist church, and teaching the spiritual truths of the Bible, that first definition of *spiritualist* — considered synonymous with “spiritist”— describes exactly what I do. So, in essence, the 20th-century Bible translators — by incorrectly choosing the word “spiritist” in place of “wizard”— now even make it forbidden by God for you to be consulting *me*.

However, let’s now return to the issue of spirit contact. In both my studies of the Bible and from my personal experiences, there are

persons *who have contact with spirits that they do NOT call upon*. To most of these persons, their very first encounter with anything supernatural happened at a very young age. For example, my friend, Melanie, was only four years old when she saw her grandmother's father standing near her grandmother's bed. (She identified him later by a picture).

We often hear accounts of young children seeing a person or spirit that others around them do not see. Although it is not impossible, it is very improbable that a child of that age would be interested in *calling on* spirits. Children of that age prefer playing with their toys or their friends rather than calling up spirits.

It is because of the Biblical warnings concerning persons who have a familiar spirit, that I make it a point to ask the psychics and mediums I meet if they were born with that innate ability to see and hear from spirits, or if they acquired that ability themselves in some way. Although such an ability can also be given to any of us at any time by the Holy Spirit, the majority of those who have involuntary spirit contacts have been having them since birth.

Melanie is one of these naturally gifted types of medium — a *birth medium*, as she calls herself. When I asked Melanie about her psychic gifts in 2010 shortly after I first met her, this was her answer:

I find it interesting that you are interested if I am a birth medium. I know it is from birth as I started so young. I had no exposure to bad or evil, only the Episcopal Church. I am forever grateful that my grandmother taught me that being a medium is not a bad thing, and to have a healthy respect and fear of it at the same time. Kevin, why is it that people do not realize it is a gift from God but also

a curse to those who carry it? I truly believe God does not want me to be silent about it, but to acknowledge it.

There are spirits that make contact with us whether we are psychic or not. For example, Jesus taught that the Holy Spirit is one spirit who initiates contact with persons. In John 16:13-14 (NLT), he tells us: “When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me.” Note that all of the actions are taken by the Holy Spirit, not the person. If the only type of spirit contact were by a person who has a familiar spirit — which is forbidden by God — then how do we account for the Scriptures in the *New Testament*, such as this one, that deal with spirit contact?

This ability to see and hear spirits can be part of any person whom the Holy Spirit chooses to bestow this gift upon. In Joel 2:28-29 (KJV), the Lord says: “And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.”

Nothing in these verses says that prophesy, dreams, and visions only happen to those involved in the occult, or conversely only happen to those who are followers of Jesus Christ. God says: “I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh.”

By emphasizing that even servants, both men and women, would receive his spirit as well, God wanted us to know that he would make no class or social distinctions on who would receive the various supernatural abilities that the Spirit will give.

God wanted to make sure we understand that people who serve him in these times will also prophesy and have dreams and visions from the Lord. The sad part is that most Christians don't believe this, because they have not been taught to believe that God's Word said this will happen.

Psychic ability and mediumship which originate without effort on the part of the person, or which is given to one purely by the Holy Spirit, is as much of a spiritual gift from God as those spiritual gifts which the Bible expressly lists. And as is true of any supernatural ability, these gifts have their place and purpose in serving Christ.

In 1 Corinthians 1:5-7 (NLT), the Apostle Paul tells the church at Corinth: "Through [Christ], God has enriched your church in every way. . .now you have every spiritual gift you need." *Every* spiritual gift *does* include extrasensory abilities, and they are meant to be used along with those who have the more commonly acknowledged spiritual gifts, such as my own gift of teaching. By rejecting these types of gifts today, the Church is shortchanging itself.

I agree with Melanie that God does not want her to be silent about her gift. But for God's people to accept her gift, and those with similar gifts, to the same extent that they have accepted my teaching gift, and to benefit from her ability just as much as they have mine, will take some time and effort.

Let's go back to those five verses at the beginning of this chapter — Leviticus 19:31, Leviticus 20:6, Leviticus 20:27, Deuteronomy 18:10-11, and Isaiah 8:19 — which are the core verses that form the basis of most Christian beliefs in the paranormal or extrasensory. Three of the five verses refer to *consulting, turning to, or following* "they that have familiar spirits, or a wizard."

The Lord does not want us to pursue this course of direction and this type of guidance. Why? In these verses are these types of persons themselves being called evil? Or will they “lure us into the Devil’s trap?” No. The verses are directed to the person who would be *consulting or following the wizard, or person with a familiar spirit*. They are not directed to the “wizard,” or the person having the “familiar spirit,” who would be the object of the command.

Instead, the Lord tells us in Proverbs 3:5-6 (KJV): “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”

This trust is the kind of relationship with you that he wants. He directs that you not put your trust in someone with a psychic gift of precognition (that is, foretelling the future), but instead trust in God to guide you through the future that you do not know, *but that he does*.

If you had to make one choice — between either knowing the future, or trusting in someone greater than yourself who will guide and protect you through the future — which would you prefer?

When I previously taught a group of elementary school kids, I put it to them this way: “Suppose you hear a rumor that a big kid is waiting to beat you up on your way home from school one day. You ask some of your friends if they've heard if it's true or not. Some of them say, ‘Yes.’ Some of the others don't know. Then you ask one of your friends who is a really big, tough guy. He says, ‘I don't know, but I'll walk home from school with you.’” The future, like our past, contains both its good and bad moments. The Lord already knows all of them and is ready to direct your path.

But because our trusting relationship with the Lord is also based on obeying his commands, we should not do something that the Lord has said not to do. Deuteronomy 18:10-11(NASB) names several of these taboos. Keep in mind, as we take a closer look at the words used in those verses, that we must have a reasonable way to comply with God's commands:

- “There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire. . .” *We can choose to make our son or daughter pass through a fire or not.*
- “One who uses divination, one who practices witchcraft...” *We can decide whether we want to practice divination or witchcraft or not.*
- “One who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who casts a spell. . .” *Likewise, it is up to us if we want to do these things or not.*
- “Or a medium, or a spiritist. . .” *If a medium or spiritist is what you have always been, how do you stop being yourself? Why would God ask such a thing of you?*

The truth is that he did not. When we read these same verses in the original *King James Version*, it says: “There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch. Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer.”

The wording of the Bible in this version describes things that are all *practices*, which as you now know, cannot apply to the person who is not a psychic or medium by choice. All definitions of “wizard,” as intended by the translators, *do* refer to a practice. And

although in the *King James Version*, the phrase "practices witchcraft" changes to "a witch," it is already established that a witch is someone who *practices* witchcraft. And someone can choose to stop *practicing* witchcraft as well at any time.

A sin is something that you commit — not something that you *are*. In John 5:14, Jesus commands a man to stop sinning. You can stop engaging in a practice that is detestable to God, but you can't follow a command to quit being yourself.

If there were no other types of psychics or mediums besides a man or woman with a "familiar spirit," then how could we, or anyone, possibly obey the Bible's commands which deal with Spirit interaction in the *New Testament*?

In John 4:24 (NLT), we are told: "God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth." We cannot avoid contact by spirits and worship God at the same time.

The Bible says in 1 Peter 3:19 (NLT), that Jesus "suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit. So he went and preached to the spirits in prison." If Jesus himself preached the good news of the Kingdom of Heaven to spirits, how could he expect any follower of his to not have anything to do with spirits?

Jesus' followers were indeed communicating with spirits — because this warning is written in 1 John 4:1-3 (NASB): "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God." *Again, you cannot test spirits and avoid them at the same time.*

Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would guide us into all truth, as I noted earlier. However, even in those times, there were religious

people refusing the Holy Spirit. Stephen spoke these words to them: “You stiff-necked people with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are always resisting the Holy Spirit!” (Acts 7:51, HCSB)

Jesus also commanded us to wait for the Spirit’s power before doing any work for him. He said to his disciples in Luke 24:49 (NLT): “I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven.”

And later on he tells them: “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.” (Acts 1:8, NASB)

So clearly, no Christian should avoid *all* spirits, nor avoid the people who have *contact* with spirits. We should not reject the Spirit’s attempts to empower us and teach us. This is the reason why the Bible tells us to *test* the spirits, not to just reject them all as a way to avoid the evil ones. This is because when we reject spirit contact, we reject the Holy Spirit, and in turn we reject serving the Lord in the way he intended for us to serve him. For by resisting the Holy Spirit, we resist his guidance, his teaching, and his empowering us to serve.

However, whenever we set out to follow God’s Word by reading it for ourselves, and understanding what it *really* says, we’re going to get opposition. And it’s not surprising that this opposition will come from the very people who claim to serve the Lord themselves.

I have noticed in my many years of church leadership that when questions are asked to Christian teachers about supernatural phenomena, the emphasis has been to generalize about the phenomena, and jump to easy conclusions about the origin of anything “supernatural.”

I found one such example of this generalized mode of thinking on the Internet, in response to my search query: “What is the Christian view of psychics?” The answer in this article grouped together mediumship, the occult, psychic abilities, Tarot card reading, astrology, fortune telling, palm reading, and holding séances, as all simply being different variations of the same kind of supernatural ability.

Why generalize in this way? By asserting that all of these abilities and modalities are the same, the reader is asked to make one sweeping decision: Is God the source of the power behind all of these practices or not? The premise is that if even *one* of these practices is listed in Deuteronomy 18:10-11 as having been forbidden by God, then automatically *all* of them would have to be considered to be forbidden by God as well — *if* they truly are all variations of one and the same thing.

In this article that I found on the Internet, it is stated that the source of the phenomena is demons. And the Scripture passage 2 Corinthians 11:14-15, is then cited as the reason why, *but without quoting that verse in the article*. Why? It is because the writer’s use of that passage is purposefully misleading.

In that passage (*New Living Translation*), it actually says: “Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is no wonder that his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness.” So yes, the Bible says that Satan and his servants *can* be deceiving. But these verses do not really say that the source of *all* supernatural phenomena is Satan and his demons.

While the verses that I have quoted are a good reason why all psychics and mediums should test the spirits they come into contact with, there isn’t a sufficient reason to assume that *all* of the spirits they encounter are demons. So we cannot summarily determine, as the writer of the article assumes, that demons are

behind *all* supernatural abilities. Instead, we should always test any spirits we encounter.

One of the most common reasons many Christians directly assume that demons are masquerading as deceased loved ones, comes from the mistaken belief that the spirits of the deceased are either in Heaven or Hell at present, and can't possibly be on the Earth. As much as this concept is cherished by most Bible-believing Christians, *it is not biblical*. This is why the Bible does *not* say: "Have nothing to do with spirits, or you will be deceived by them," but rather, we are told to *test* the spirits.

Jesus told the Pharisees: "You completely invalidate God's command in order to maintain your tradition!" (Mark 7:9, HCSB) He was talking about the command, "Honor your father and mother." But we can say the same thing to our religious leaders of today about other commands of God.

In 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22 (HCSB), God commands us: "Don't stifle the Spirit. Don't despise prophecies, but test all things. Hold on to what is good. Stay away from every kind of evil." It seems that our churches and religious leaders of today are holding to a tradition of summarily "demonizing" the supernatural, instead of listening to what God's word is really saying about psychics, mediums, and spiritually gifted people.

Right before this verse tells us, "Hold on to what is good. Stay away from every kind of evil," it tells us to *TEST ALL THINGS*. If we don't test we can't hold on to the good. And that very "good" can often be found within the gifts of psychic ability and mediumship. When a psychic or medium shares their gifts with others who are differently gifted, they may very well bring forth exactly what is needed for a person's spiritual growth to occur as it should.

So why haven't we been testing, instead of listening to those who believe that all supernatural phenomena is evil? Who or *what* could be behind such a conclusion?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Kevin Schoeppel's interest in psychics began in 1975 when he fell in love with a girl who could predict the future. This relationship sparked his interest in social attitudes toward psychics, as well as in discovering whatever he could about how psychic ability worked. He married his wife, Stanna — a psychic — in 1978.

Kevin was raised in Southern Baptist churches, and began teaching the Bible in 1992. In 1999 he was ordained as a deacon by Pima Street Baptist Church of Tucson, and in 2006 was elected adult education director of the church. While teaching Bible classes in the mid-2000s, his students began having more questions for Kevin on what the Bible really says about spirits, psychics, and mediums. At the same time, he began to make friends with psychics and mediums through online social networking, many of whom were pleasantly surprised at his unconditional acceptance of them. Kevin lives near Tucson, Arizona, with Stanna and their son Ryan.

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“The Bible: The Truth About Psychics & Spiritual Gifts” by Kevin Schoeppel is available at Amazon.com and the author's website www.BibleForPsychics.com.