

Hocus Pocus

What power are you turning to?

- **Nearly half of American women ages 18 to 49 and one in five men consult astrology or horoscopes at least once a year.**
- **Nearly one in four young adults ages 18-29 consult tarot cards at least once a year.**
- **More than one in five American adults have consulted a psychic or medium at some point in their lives.**
- **One in twelve teens have experimented with witchcraft and have tried casting spells or mixing magic potions.**

People turn to occultism when they feel powerless, whether they are economically powerless or in times of war and strife.

They want to feel like they have the power to make change on their own, not realizing or caring that they are messing with a power they don't understand.

We came to the occult first just as a passing interest, but the longer we stayed around it, the more it wrapped us up.

We genuinely thought we could make positive changes in our lives and the lives of the people around us. We tried using a negative to get a positive.

However, what we didn't know at the time was that we were looking for something that fit into a God-shaped hole in our hearts.

The occult and the power it holds can be very promising at first, but as you go, you find it's full of lies and thorns, and nothing it can do can hold a candle to the power and goodness that is God.

- **Where do you turn to for guidance and power?**

Deuteronomy 18:10-12

Let no one be found among you who sacrifices their son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead.

Anyone who does these things is detestable to the Lord; because of these same detestable practices the Lord your God will drive out those nations before you.

Revelation 22:12-15

“Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

“Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.

Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

- **Where you turn for power and guidance matters!**
- **Are you seeking what God can give you in places God has forbidden?**

2 Chronicles 33:1-6

Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem fifty-five years.

He did evil in the eyes of the Lord, following the detestable practices of the nations the Lord had driven out before the Israelites.

He rebuilt the high places his father Hezekiah had demolished; he also erected altars to the Baals and made Asherah poles. He bowed down to all the starry hosts and worshiped them.

He built altars in the temple of the Lord, of which the Lord had said, “My Name will remain in Jerusalem forever.” In both courts of the temple of the Lord, he built altars to all the starry hosts.

He sacrificed his children in the fire in the Valley of Ben Hinnom, practiced divination and witchcraft, sought omens, and consulted mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the eyes of the Lord, arousing his anger.

- **Where you turn for guidance reveals where you place your trust.**
- **Remove what’s competing for God’s place in your life.**

Matthew 4:10

Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”

- **You cannot give God first place while giving every other voice equal authority.**

2 Chronicles 33:10-11

The Lord spoke to Manasseh and his people, but they paid no attention.

So the Lord brought against them the army commanders of the king of Assyria, who took Manasseh prisoner, put a hook in his nose, bound him with bronze shackles and took him to Babylon.

- **When we seek spiritual power and guidance apart from Jesus, we place ourselves in spiritual bondage.**

2 Chronicles 33:12-16

In his distress he sought the favor of the Lord his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his ancestors.

And when he prayed to him, the Lord was moved by his entreaty and listened to his plea; so he brought him back to Jerusalem and to his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the Lord is God...

He got rid of the foreign gods and removed the image from the temple of the Lord, as well as all the altars he had built on the temple hill and in Jerusalem; and he threw them out of the city.

Then he restored the altar of the Lord and sacrificed fellowship offerings and thank offerings on it, and told Judah to serve the Lord, the God of Israel.

- **Turn only to Jesus for true power and guidance.**

Acts 3:19

Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.

- **Throw out whatever is drawing you away from God's power and guidance.**
- **Repentance changes both where you turn and what you leave behind.**

John 8:36

So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free.

- **Let God's Word guide what you believe and how you live.**

Psalms 119:105

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

- **Make God's house a priority for worship.**

Hebrews 10:24-25

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.