

## Can a Christian be bewitched?

Sometimes it seems we are left without any answers when we witness how someone who has started out on the small and narrow road in life has suddenly taken a turn and has ended up in complete deception wandering off into the spiritual desert.

Whenever this happens we will notice that this person has become the victim of someone who taught lies instead of the truth.

When Paul was writing to the Galatian church he reminded them of their true beginning, he reminded them that they had once understood what their salvation was based on and that they knew that they were saved by faith through the wonderful grace of their savior who died for their sins on the cross.

But something had happened to those 'foolish' Galatians.

Paul concluded that they had been bewitched.

Someone had come along and started to preach a different gospel to them and they willingly fell for the lies which someone had put in their heads.

They started to rely once again on the law for their salvation instead of depending on the saving grace which is offered in Christ alone.

Because they had been bewitched they could no longer see, understand and discern what is truth.

There are multitudes of Christians today who are just as bewitched as the Galatians used to be. The issue might be different but the spirit behind this deception it is still the same.

There are always some very clear signs which indicate that a person has been bewitched.

Whenever any other spirit apart from the Holy Spirit is at work in a Christian's life, the outcome is always the same.

That person will eventually end up in some form of bondage and he will lose the ability to discern between error (lies) and truth.

A person who has been bewitched will struggle to be honest with himself and as a result of it he cannot discern lies and deception.

When a charming preacher comes along and puts some deceitful lies into his head and if that person becomes bewitched by the words of this false preacher he will struggle to detect the lies and the false teaching that he has received.

He will not allow scripture to speak for itself regardless how clear the revelation might be but he will always fall back onto the comforting words of this preacher and find security, safety and comfort in the lies he was told.

A person that has been bewitched will always place the words of his or her preacher/false prophet/ pastor above the word of God. As a result of it that preacher will turn into an idol.

If such a pastor, such a false preacher has become an idol to someone it is easy to discern.

Just say one bad thing about that particular person and in most cases all hell will break loose.

If anyone dares to insult or simply speak against a person's 'idol' it will be like if a sharp knife has pierced his own heart and left a deep scar within. Insulting someone's idol will often be more hurtful to them than insulting his own mother or father.

If someone would insult Jesus it would not have the same effect but if a person's idol gets insulted there always seems to be far more at stake.

Touching somebody's idol can potentially destroy a good friendship in one single moment; it even has the power to split whole families apart.

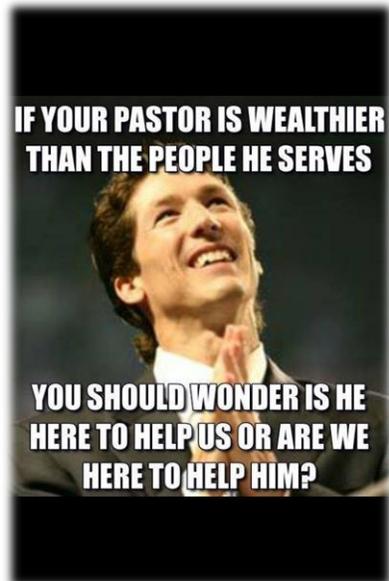
A bewitched person cannot differentiate between the words of his idol and between the idol himself.

This is why he cannot freely discuss his idols teaching without getting personally hurt in the process if his idol gets criticized or gets rejected. The moment someone rejects his idol and his idol's false teaching it will like be a personal rejection to him.

When a pastor bewitches his congregation he can do with his faithful whatever he wants.

They will be his sheep and they will follow his voice wherever he leads them for they are spellbound by him and by his words.

One of the clearest symptoms that you are dealing with a pastor who has bewitched his whole congregation (and often many others as well) is that he will financial exploit them.



If someone calls himself a friend but would set out to rob you of your money, you would never trust that person again. But not so if you have been bewitched.

When you see pastors and preachers who are literally making many millions of dollars out of their followers then you can be certain that you are dealing with someone who has the power to bewitch his entire congregation. You can be sure that such a man is empowered by another spirit but is not led by the Holy Spirit. Such a man will use the name of Jesus but he will only do so in order to fill his own pockets with money. He will love to talk about Jesus as savior but his aim, his goal will always be the same. It does not matter whether this is one of the 'mega-rich' Nigerian Pastors (the richest pastors on earth) or one of the wealthy T.V. preachers or a pastor of a mega-church in other parts of the world. Whenever you see a pastor or a preacher profiting financially from his ministry you are not looking at a true Sheppard, you are looking at a wolf in sheep clothing instead. Sometimes the fake sheepskin will

be on so tight that you can hardly detect what is hidden beneath but his true motives will always become clear in the end. Sooner or later you will realize that this man is after your money and not after your heart.

Greed and the love for money have turned some pastors of some mega-churches into professional C.E.O.'s who treat their church as large corporation. They have become professional entertainers who look upon their church as a business instead of a place which is reserved for the glory of God.

Human charisma and a false gospel have filled many churches with tens of thousands of people today.

It is within our human nature that we gravitate towards human 'heroes'. We are always drawn to build idols in our life.

The Romans had Caesar whom the whole empire (except the Christians) worshipped.

The Tibetans had their Dalai Lama. This man was their God-king on earth. Roman Catholics have their Pope. Many old and faithful Catholics still look upon the Pope as if he is God walking on the surface of earth.

Even non-religious nations have created their idols. Lenin was considered to be much more than simply a human being. He was the living incarnation of the 'eternal communist spirit' and his statue was erected in the center of every Russian town.

Kim Il-Sung is still worshipped by his people today even though he has been dead since 1994. He was 'crowned' to be the president of the nation for all of eternity. Every year great multitudes of North Koreans flock to his gigantic bronze statue in the capital city (Pyongyang) and bring flowers to him as a sign of respect and submission.

This same spirit also exists in some of the mega churches today.

Some of the pastors of those churches have taken on a god-like status and their words have become infallible in the eyes of their congregation. The words of those pastors are more important to their followers than even scripture itself.



When Joseph Prince, the man who first promoted the false hyper grace message, was preaching in one of those mega churches in Texas he assured the many thousands of people who listened to him that salvation was not limited to this life alone. He comforted his listeners with his 'revelation' that it was still possible to get saved even after we die.

He assured them that many of their loved ones, parents who had died without knowing the Lord, children who passed away early in life or any close friends who had never accepted the Lord in this life would still end up in heaven one day.

He told the mega-size congregation of thousands of people that because they did not become Christians here in this life did not mean that they would be shut out of heaven. He explained to his listeners that Jesus would appear to them once they had died and offer them a 2<sup>nd</sup> chance. The congregation was awestruck by his words. Who would not like to believe that someone's lost parents will still end up in heaven even if they had never accepted the Lord?

## 2 Timothy 4:3-4

*For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.*

The congregation was simply spellbound by his words. There was no one who objected. There was no one who stood up and who challenged his lies.

If ever there has been a fulfillment of 2. Timothy 4:3, this was it! And the entire congregation was blind to that verse! This man had just placed himself above the revelation of scripture and the entire church of thousands of people applauded him for it.

It was visibly evident that the whole congregation was bewitched by this man.

Scripture is so definite, is so clear when it talks about our salvation. When it comes to salvation there is no 2<sup>nd</sup> chance!

It is in this life that we have to get saved for there will be no chance after we die. Scripture outright rejects any such message which states that there is a 2<sup>nd</sup>. chance, that we can still get another opportunity to repent after we die. There are many verses in the Bible which reject such a claim.

So when a man comes along who rejects and who contradicts what scripture has clearly revealed then this man has actually placed himself above the revelation of scripture. And when Christians willingly accept the lies he has told them then they will often end up bewitched by those lies and end up in deception.



Witchcraft first starts off with infatuation.

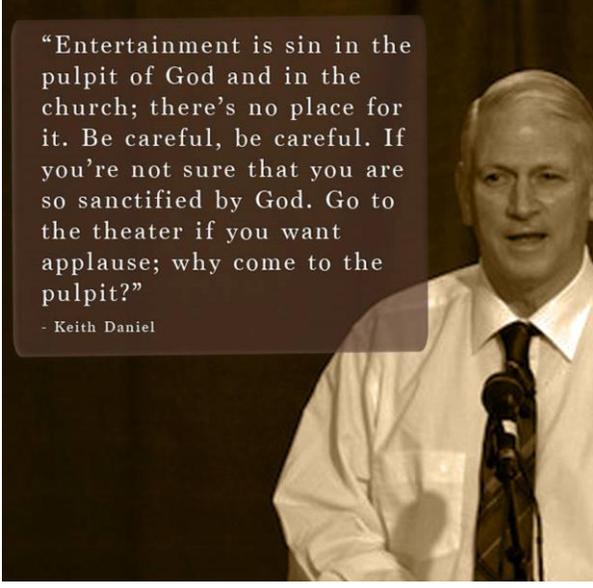
First you get infatuated with the teaching and then you fall in love with the man.

Once you are attached and bond to that person you can no longer discern error from truth.

Even if scripture is clear on a subject, the words of your idol will always be more important (more relevant) to you than scripture itself.

This is why it often seems futile to argue with someone who has been bewitched by the lies of a false preacher.

Paul sounded frustrated and he was getting quite emotional in his opening statement to Galatians when he said: O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?



“Entertainment is sin in the pulpit of God and in the church; there’s no place for it. Be careful, be careful. If you’re not sure that you are so sanctified by God. Go to the theater if you want applause; why come to the pulpit?”

- Keith Daniel

He was pleading with them to wake up, to fall back on their original understanding of what they had once known.

Whether it's inside or outside of the church, once a person has been bewitched he or she can only be set free, can only be delivered from their deception one way.

First you need to repent of your idol in life. You need to repent that you have followed someone, that you have allowed someone to take the place in your heart which is reserved for Jesus alone.

Then you need to step away from any false 'prophet', any false teacher who has only used you for his own financial and material gain.

You have to renounce any person which has placed himself above scripture.

Once you have cast out our idol(s) you have to replace them with God.

A spiritual vacuum is only an invitation for more deception to follow.

People who leave some of those mega-churches after they have realize that they had been exploited but don't replace their former idols (in most cases their pastors) with God himself will end up in even greater confusion.

When your idol is gone the Lord must always take his place instead.

You have to learn to honor and to safeguard His word and always treasure those words as being divinely inspirited.

Only if you know and treasure God's word will you be able to detect if someone is out to deceive you again.

When Jesus was tempted by Satan in the wilderness he replied to Satan's temptation (provocation) three times. Three times he replied to him with the very same words: "it is written...." (Matthew 4:1-11)

Unless we know and believe what is written we are like an unarmed soldier without any weapons.

We will not be able to defend ourselves but neither will we be able to protect anyone else.

When a bewitching spirit will knock at our door and will try to tempt us with lies and deception we must oppose this spirit the same way as Jesus opposed Satan when he came crawling to him with his lies and deception. We must take a stand against such a spirit with the very same words that Jesus used when He was confronted by the lies of the devil: "It is written...."

Any bewitching spirit will soon realize that he is fighting a lost battle if he encounters a Christian who is well grounded in God's word.

No deception will ever be able to conquer our minds and deceive our hearts if we know what is "written" in the book that will guide us in life.

"It is written....", remember those words and never stray away from its meaning, meditate on God's word and get to know it by heart and no one will be able to misled or deceive you.



People tell me judge not lest ye be judged. I always tell them, twist not scripture lest ye be like satan.

**Paul Washer**



Peter Clayson Christian ART

I have never once feared the devil, but I tremble every time I enter the pulpit.

John Knox

QuoteAddicts



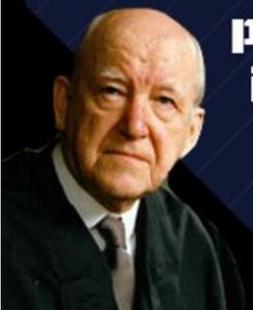
If we had more hell fire preaching in the pulpit then we would have less hell bound people in the pew.

— Leonard Ravenhill —

f Reformed Spirit

**“There is no better test of our spiritual state and condition than our missionary zeal, our concern for lost souls.**

**That is always the thing that divides people who are just theoretical and intellectual Christians from those who have a living and a vital spiritual life.”**



*D Martyn Lloyd Jones* Romans – God's Sovereign Purpose