

August 1, 2018
“Hard Questions- What about the Paranormal?”
1 Samuel 28:3-7
David Self

1. **Why are Zombies, Aliens and the Paranormal so Interesting?**
 - a. **Humans are created as spiritual beings** (2 Corinthians 4:18 *“So we do not focus on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”*)
 - b. **Paranormal promises what it can’t deliver:** no sin, no judgment, no accountability, no heaven or hell; magic promises to put the spirits in our control.
 - c. **Hurting people want relief-** they want hope, purpose, comfort and direction.

2. **What are the sources of Paranormal Activity?**
 - a. **Natural phenomena**
 - b. **Deception-** 1 John 4:1 *“Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to determine if they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.”*
 - c. **Satan-**2 Corinthians 11:14 *“For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.”* (cf. Deuteronomy 13:1-5, 18:9-13)

3. **How is a Believer to respond?**
 - a. **Know the genuine article very well-** 2 Timothy 2:15 *“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who doesn’t need to be ashamed, correctly teaching the word of truth.”*
 - b. **Don’t err at either extreme-**1 Peter 5:8 *“Be sober-minded, be alert. Your adversary the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour.”*

c. Understand Spiritual Warfare (Ephesians 6:10-18)

1. Attitude ***“be strengthened by the Lord and by His vast strength”*** (10)
2. Adaption ***“Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the tactics of the Devil.”*** (11)
3. Aggressor ***“For our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world powers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavens.”*** (12)
4. Action ***“so that you may be able to resist in the evil day”*** (13)
5. Apparel: **belt of truth, breastplate of righteousness** (14), **sandals of gospel preparation** (15), **shield of faith** (16), **helmet of salvation, sword of the Spirit-God’s Word** (17)
6. Assurance ***“Pray at all times in the Spirit”*** (18)

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