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TAX-EXEMPT

"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" MARK 16:15

October 2022

FROM US TO YOU

It's October already! My, has the year past fast. Here on Long Island, October brings to mind crisp Autumn breezes, fresh pumpkin bread and pies, and the beginning of fall foliage. Sadly, it also brings the return of Satan's favorite occasion, Halloween. Innocent children, who don't know any better have no idea that the roots of this practice involve devil worship, torture, and human sacrifice. As with many other worldly traditions that lead people away from Christ and toward demonic authority, today's practice of Halloween has evolved over thousands of years. Its origins can be traced back to Druidism, the religion of the ancient Celtic tribes who lived in Britain, Germany, and France, from the 2nd Century BC until the 2nd Century AD. The Druids, or wizards of the Celts, filled the roles of teachers, judges, and civil administrators. They held supreme authority over various tribes the same way that evil leaders have traditionally retained power, through fear and intimidation. The Druids ritualistically set aside one day every year for the purpose of honoring the Celtic god of the dead. They called him Samhain. That day was October 31st, the same day that American children traditionally celebrate Halloween!

The Celts believed that Samhain assembled all the souls of the dead on October 31, the eve of the Celtic new year, freeing them to return to their homes, where their families were to entertain them. If they didn't find an acceptable welcome, the spirits would cast spells or cause other problems for the living, thus the first form of "trick or treat." Therefore, in order to prepare for the arrival of these spirits, the Druids built huge bonfires, sacrificing animals, crops, and even human beings! The fire was also used for divination, a practice strictly forbidden in the Bible, as is every other form of the occult. Also forbidden is the practice of worshiping, seeking advice from, or praying to the dead (Isaiah 8:19 and 1 Timothy 2:5). This not only includes departed loved ones, but even saints of God (1 Samuel 28:6-19, 1 Chronicles 10:13-14). The Druids spent several days celebrating the "god" of the dead (whom Christians call Satan).

After several attempts by the Romans, they were finally able to successfully invade and conquer Celtic territory in 61 AD. They had their own religious belief, and the people of Rome worshiped many gods. One of them was named Pomona, who was said to be the goddess of fruits and gardens. They celebrated their harvest season every year, and worshiped Pomona just about the same time as the Celts celebrated Samhain. Therefore, the Romans and Celts had no problem reaching a mutual consensus regarding their annual celebration which began on October 31st. As the Celtic people were, by then, living under Roman law, the Romans added their own celebration of their harvest "goddess" to the Celtic religious ritual. Then, after Rome converted to Catholicism, a compromised version

of Christianity (313 AD), many things changed. Among them was the putting aside of conventional Roman idols. The citizens of Rome, and her colonies, were encouraged to worship Christ, His mother Mary, and dead Christian saints instead. The yearly celebration of Harvest was also changed. It was no longer for the purpose of honoring Celtic and Roman gods. It became a day for saint worship. Consequently, the ceremony became known as "All Saints' Day." However, "...Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind Me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve" (Luke 4:8 KJV).

Satan always uses something that looks so cute and innocent to deceive people. And he certainly knows how much parents love their children. And these days, not only do most churches fail to teach their congregations about the history of this pagan tradition, but many of them actually celebrate Halloween themselves. Pastors of churches are supposed to be servants of Christ. Yet Jesus warned us, "watch out for false prophets.

They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit" (Matthew 7:15-18 NIV). But the Bible says, "For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve" (2 Corinthians 11:13-



15 NIV).

So what's a church to do when the children want to get dressed up like their friends do and go "trick or treating"? Why not have a harvest party with children dressed as harvest produce? Then the glory and thanks can go to God, not Satan? "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31 NIV).

On a personal note, we want to thank all off you who have kept us in your prayers. We still have many afflictions including chronic back pain, and a recent knee injury Anne has received. And many thanks to those of you who have supported us with your donations. This work for Christ is a joint effort of faith. "So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor" (1 Corinthians 3:7-8 NIV).

In Christ's service we remain, *Eric and Anne Kaestner*

POLTERGEISTS AND WEIRD HAPPENINGS

By Anne Kaestner

Frankly, those who don't know Christ, haven't got a clue about the spirit realm! Nevertheless, those who have an interest, or who experience unusually bizarre behavior, always go to worldly authorities or religious hirelings (John 10:12) to get their answers. They come up with all kinds of nonsense the demons feed them, and they believe. For "...if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch" (Matthew 15:14 KJV). Satan loves keeping the worldly folk in the dark. And they stay there (John 3:19-21) because they don't have the illumination of Christ (John 9:5) in their lives. If you love the Lord, and live by His Spirit (Galatians 5:16), "...the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of Heaven has been given to you, but not to them" (Matthew 13:11 NIV). You see, the devil's favorite tool is deception! "...For Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness..." (2 Corinthians 11:14-15 NIV. Also, see Isaiah 47:12-15). All kinds of silly explanations of the occult have been given. Many people have unexpectedly come into contact with apparitions, which have often terrified them. Everyone's heard of the so-called "haunted house" accounts that have been witnessed by many people. Those who have spoken to these spirits have been duped into believing that they have been talking to dead human beings. They supposedly died under mysterious circumstances, often murder or suicide. The spirit will provide all kinds of historical information about an event that really did take place. And they will usually pose as the victim, sometimes even an innocent looking child. They can appear in just about any cloud-like form they want! But they can't easily fool those who have read their Bible and know about demon spirits! Years ago, my Dad told us that while he had been out shopping, he needed to use a public restroom. Even though he saw that he was totally alone, he heard an eerie, evil sounding voice call him by name. He got out of there fast!

At our house, we use to have a phantom cat that would show up every once in a while. When our cat Sasha was alive, the phantom would be the same coloring, blond. Eric and I have both seen it. It always appeared as a blur that we noticed out of the corner of our eye. We were usually busy doing something during these visitations. Suddenly we would sense a cat nuzzling up against our feet and hear a slight cat sound. I'd say, "Oh, hi Sasha," and reach down to pet her. But nothing would be there! Then I'd look across the room and Sasha would be sleeping peacefully on a radiator. There were times when Eric asked me if I knew where Sasha was. I'd see her resting on a chair and tell him, and he'd reply, "I could have sworn I just felt a cat moving against my leg." It was comforting to know that I was not the only one who had this experience! Of course, we know that it's just a form of spiritual harassment designed to intimidate us. When Sasha died in December 2005, and we got our next cat, Greta, I said to Eric, "We'll probably get a new phantom cat. This one will be grey, like Greta." We laughed about it. However, we don't have any more phantom cats.

We don't need to visit a haunted house, we are haunted people! No matter where we are, at our house, or our office, or the apartment we used to live in, strange spiritual experiences have become normal for us! I believe God is allowing this in order to get us used to dealing with the spirit world. For I used to be terrified of anything like this. But these days, it has become so commonplace that we joke about it. However, at our house, we're not the only ones who have experienced weird happenings. A painter we once hired told Eric that he had seen a dark, cloaked figure float across the room and disappear into a closet. Yet good experiences have happened

too. Late one evening, I was walking across my family room floor and into the hallway heading for the kitchen when I heard myself say, "Oh, excuse me." It was a reflex response to an unseen presence I had felt directly in my path. I sensed a kind of force-field blocking my way. Then, in the blink of an eye, I saw a flash of white intercept the invisible obstacle, and I was able to continue on my way. "Wow!" I thought to myself. "Was that a guardian angel coming to my aid?"

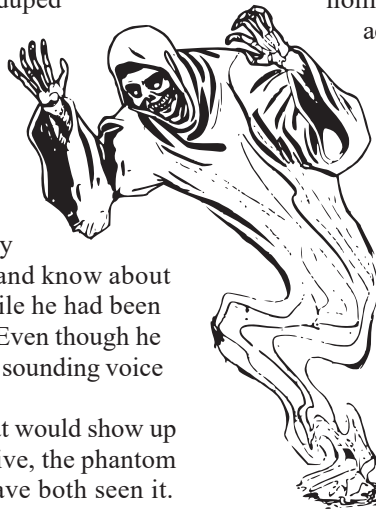
However, there have been other times when I have had to go through a painful test of faith with no one to prevent me from falling. The worst of these came about twenty-three years ago. I had just left the office to get a slice of pizza for lunch. It was a bright, sunny day, and I was wearing old, comfortable shoes. There was absolutely nothing for me to slip or trip on! No one was even close to me. Yet all of a sudden I felt something swoop up from behind me. It all happened so fast and with such force that I was not even able to put my hands out to brace my fall. I hit the cement face first. Then I felt the pain! But, every time I have ever had a crisis like this, someone has always been there to help me! There was a man, and a woman who came over to help me that day. The woman drove me home in her car and was very comforting. There's an account in the Bible of the temptation of Jesus. The Lord allowed Him to go through the misery of testing too

(Hebrews 4:15). And Satan was there (Matthew 4:1-11)! However, Jesus came through it victoriously, as we must do (1 John 5:4-5). And ministering "...angels came and attended Him" (Matthew 4:11 NIV).

I have often wondered if all those people, and others, who came to my aid immediately during or after times of personal crisis, were angels in disguise. The Bible tells us that Heavenly angels can be among us, posing as humans (see Hebrews 13:2) and offering help at times of need. The point is that Satan and his demons are very real in this world. But they are no match for Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:18, Rev. 5:14)! For if you remain faithful to Him, through every test

of faith, "you, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the One who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world" (1 John 4:4 NIV). You may not feel much like an overcomer at the time. But, when you look back on the events, years, or even months later, you will understand why it happened, and it will increase your understanding of God and deepen your faith. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28 KJV).

Another game the devil plays is the "Blame the Victim" game. It can even go to the extreme. This is often the case when a family moves into a house that is haunted by a category of demons called poltergeists. They are demon spirits that often take up residence in a building. One of the most well known examples is "The Amityville Horror," which is based on a true story. Amityville is right here on Long Island. I once saw a television interview of the real woman who was portrayed in the movie. There was no doubt in my mind that she was telling the truth. She was on oxygen as she was talking. She stated that, as a result of the experience, she became aware of the fact that there is a genuine evil present in this world. That's what the Bible has been telling us for thousands of years! There have been cases where a family has moved into a house occupied by poltergeists, and the most vulnerable member of the household will be blamed for the bizarre happenings. Poltergeists can burst light bulbs, toss heavy objects through the air, pull covers off of people who



are sleeping, and in its extreme, can even scare people to death! However, because the devil specializes in deception (2 Corinthians 11:14, Revelation 12:9, 20:7-8), so do his demon helpers. They will do anything to remain incognito. For they hate to be exposed! Therefore, they fall back on one of their favorite strategies. They blame some innocent person for the misery they cause. Thus, a new word has come into our language, telekinesis. The person who gets blamed is called a telekinetic. Most psychiatrists claim that such an individual is moving objects through mental power. They say that it is involuntary and is just an outcome of some hidden hostility toward other members of the household. Consequently, not only is the family traumatized by the strange happenings, but they are led to blame one of their own!

In its extreme, this type of harassment is unusual. However, I once received a phone call from a woman who had read some of my articles on the web. She started out by saying, "You're going to think I am crazy. But there is something evil in my house." Of course, I didn't think she was crazy at all. And we both knew it was demonic harassment, or even worse, demon oppression. She said that she is a Christian. But she was afraid to mention any of this to her church because she didn't think they would believe her. And she was embarrassed by it. In fact, she was afraid to talk to most people about it. It's sad that the church understands so little about the spirit world that one of their own could be afraid to turn to her Christian brethren for help. She told me how previous owners of the house had gotten divorces shortly after moving in, and that violent events had taken place. And she was concerned that her own husband and family were being influenced by the demonic powers in the house. None of this was new to me. There have been times when I have personally experienced the presence of demons in a room or location. We once visited a certain city in Massachusetts where the witchcraft is so blatant that we could feel a demonic presence throughout the city. Another Christian woman told me that she felt the same thing when she was there. When demon spirits are present, you feel a sort of nervous tension in the air. The stronger the demonic power, the more anxiety you will feel.

This can lead to arguments and all kinds of hostility or occult phenomena. Most people will not experience poltergeists in their home, but that does not mean that demon spirits are not present. They are everywhere!

As servants of Jesus Christ (John 15:20, Romans 1:1, James 1:1, 2 Peter 2:2), "...we walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5:7 KJV). That's why in Ephesians 6:12, Paul is warning believers that it is not really people who cause all the problems in our lives. They are the unwitting pawns of powerful beings who work in the spirit world and plan strategy against the kingdom of God (Luke 4:43). The Apostle Peter warned the church that true Christianity is not a matter of fun and games (1 Peter 5:8-10). "The Fun Gospel" is a part of the counterfeit church (Galatians 1:6-43). Real Christianity is a battlefield (1 Timothy 6:12)! And those who love Christ are soldiers (2 Timothy 2:3) in His army, which is not a part of this physical realm (John 17:6-26 and 18:36). Nevertheless, although "...we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds" (2 Corinthians 10:3-4 NIV). When you fight a **physical** war you use physical weapons. But the intelligence behind the war we fight is not anything tangible. It is spiritual! Therefore, it requires **spiritual** weapons.

It can even get so bad that demon spirits enter into the human bodies of people who have been living in sin (Luke 8:2), even children

(Matthew 15:22). The movie "The Exorcist" was said to be based on a true story. But a true child of God can never be possessed by demons, unless they stop being a child of God (Ezekiel 3:20-21, John 15:6, James 5:19-20, 2 Peter 2:20-22, Revelation 3:1-3, 15-16). Then they leave themselves open to terrible danger (1 Samuel 16:14-15, 18:10-12, Matthew 12:43-45, Luke 11:21-26). I emphasize this because many Christians have a false sense of security (2 Peter 2:15-19, 1:4-5). It is built on a foundation of good works (Ephesians 2:8-9), church attendance (Isaiah 29:13, Acts 7:48-51), and the erroneous "once saved always saved" doctrine (John 15:6). This encourages sin and immorality among the flock (Isaiah 53:6) and leads God's children into a dangerous situation which makes them more vulnerable to the powers of darkness (Ephesians 6:12).

However, what about those who remain faithful to the Lord? Well, Jesus said that His Father, the Gardener, will prune you! So, "...do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though **something strange** were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when His glory is revealed" (1 Peter 4:12-13 NIV).

Now, as you grow deeper in your walk with Christ, and pass the initial tests of faith, you will notice that you have learned from the experience, thus increasing in faith (1 Peter 1:3-7), and the tests that follow will get more difficult. I can really relate to the term "something strange." When I was a little girl, I was so afraid of evil spirits that I would not go into a house that was said to be haunted. These

days I don't have to worry about going to where the spirits

are. They come to me! The Apostle Peter wasn't writing to the worldly folks. He was addressing his message to the fledgling Christian church! "...The **natural** man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are **spiritually discerned**" (1 Corinthians 2:14 KJV). On the other hand, "those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the **sinful nature** with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep **in step** with the Spirit" (Galatians 5:24-25 NIV). We keep in step with the Spirit because "...we **walk by faith, not by sight**" (2 Corinthians 5:7 KJV). The devil doesn't need to harass his own people to the degree that he

will attack the true church. He doesn't view them as a threat!

How is it that the Prophets and Apostles were not afraid to confront evil spirits? They started out as ordinary sinful human beings, as is the case with all of us. Then, when they repented of their sins and humbled themselves before God, things eventually began to change. Even so, dramatic changes take years, and more often, decades to take place. The disciple Peter, claimed to love Christ enough to die for Him. But Jesus knew his heart. And when Peter was tested in his faith, he failed the test initially (Luke 2:32-34, Luke 21:55-61). It taught him a valuable lesson. He realized he wasn't as strong in the faith as he thought he was. But decades later, after he became an Apostle, Peter wasn't afraid to die for Christ.

Church history tells us that Peter told the Romans that he was not worthy to die as his Savior had died. He begged them to crucify him upside down. It was an even more painful way to die! Years earlier, Jesus had told Peter, "...when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go. Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then He said to him, 'Follow Me!'" (John 21:18-19 NIV). Now, what gave Peter the inner strength of character and courage to do that which he had been so afraid of years earlier? It was **(Continued on Page 4)**



POLTERGEISTS AND... (Continued From Page 3)

the trials and tests of faith and the demonic harassment! For "...the Lord knows how to rescue **godly** men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment..." (2 Peter 2:9 NIV. Also, see Revelation 20:11-15).

One of the biggest stumbling blocks in the church these days is the desire for those who have been washed clean of their sins (see John 13:3-11), to again become enslaved by returning to the ways of their past (Galatians 4:8-9). "If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning. It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them. Of them the proverbs are true: 'A dog returns to its vomit,' and, 'A sow that is washed goes back to her wallowing in the mud'" (2 Peter 2:20-22 NIV). One of the most seductive of sins these days has to do with the occult! Yet we are warned solemnly in the Bible not to consult psychics about anything, or even to give them any attention (see Isaiah 47:12-15 and Revelation 21:8)! In the days of Paul, the Apostle, he came in contact with a young slave girl who had been making a lot of money for her owners by fortune-telling (Acts 16:16-19). And she knew who Paul and Silas were because she was "...possessed with a spirit of divination..." (Acts 16:16). This was a demon spirit who inhabited her body and gave her the information that she passed on to her customers. This is why the Bible tells us never to get involved with psychics or witches of any kind (Deuteronomy 18:10-12)! It's because they are either con-artists that just want to take your money or, worse still, they are demon possessed! In this case, the unclean spirit inside the girl was real. How is it that demons have knowledge about the future? It's because they manipulate circumstances in order to make the prophecies come true. Their purpose is to gain your confidence in order to deceive you. They want to make you more useful to Satan so that he can use you to draw others away from Christ, their only hope of escaping the torment of Hell!

Years ago, I heard a testimony of a young Christian woman. Before accepting Christ, she had gone to a fortune-teller, and the psychic had told her that she would die at a young age in a very public death. Some time passed, and one day the girl, who was about 17 at the time, was at the beach with her brother and his friend. She was a good swimmer, and so, while they were sleeping on the sand, she decided to go into the water. She enjoyed the ocean so much that she swam out further and further from the shore. Suddenly she began to get a cramp in her leg and turned to swim back. However, until then, she had not realized how far out she was. The beach was so far in the distance that she could barely see it! The cramp in her leg began to hamper her ability to stay above the water, and when a strong wave came along, it began to pull her under! Then she remembered the words of the psychic! She wondered if this was how she was going to die. Another wave began to pull her under again, and she began to panic. Fighting the waves and struggling to stay above water had weakened her so much that she did not even have the strength to cry out for help. Back on the beach, her brother suddenly awoke with a start. He had thought that he had heard his sister calling him. In reality, she was so far out that, even if she had been able to scream, no one would have

heard her! But she was so weak that she was nearly unconscious. Her brother told the lifeguard, and they took a boat out to save her. Not long after that, she repented of her sins and accepted Christ as her Lord and Savior. She realized that Satan had tried to kill her in order to fulfill the prophecy, but Jesus Christ had intervened, even though she had not known Him at the time! He had awoken her brother in time to save her, kept her alive in time to be reached, and eventually brought her joyfully to the safety of His fold.

As servants of Jesus Christ (John 15:20, Romans 1:1, James 1:1, 2 Peter 2:2), you're the enemy as far as Satan and his cohorts are concerned (John 15:18-19 and 1 John 4:5-6). However, when Jesus comes back to rule the earth, Satan will be gone. As John prophesied, "...I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time" (Revelation 20:1-3 NIV). Then eventually, "... the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever" (Revelation 20:10 NIV).

The influential hierarchy of this world will treat you like you are a reject from a nut house if you even insinuate that you believe in the supernatural. They will patronize you and be so kind to the fool that they think you are.

An example of this was portrayed in an episode of the "Adam-12" television show, which is supposed to be based on true events. In the episode I'm thinking of, breakable items had a way of falling off of shelves whenever a certain old lady was around. Her daughter always pays for the broken items. However, the elderly lady blames the breakages on her poltergeist.

Naturally, no one believes her, and the impression given is that they all think she must be senile. "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God:

for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned"

(1 Corinthians 2:14 KJV). Have you noticed that the same people who don't believe in the devil don't believe in God? If you don't believe in ghosts, then you don't believe in the Holy Spirit either because He is also called the Holy Ghost. "The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God.' They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no one who does good. The LORD looks down from heaven on the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God" (Psalms 14:1-2 NIV).

The Bible tells us that the devil is real, and so are his demon helpers. You can't believe in God without believing in the existence of the devil. And if you don't believe in the supernatural, you can't believe that Jesus turned water into wine (see John 2:1-11), or that God turned Lot's wife into a pillar of salt (Genesis 19:26), or that God divided the Red Sea into dry land (Exodus 14:21-23). In closing, I want to leave you with two thoughts. Jesus told His disciples, "I tell you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after the killing of the body, has power to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear Him" (Luke 12:4-5 NIV). "See now that I Myself am He! There is no god besides Me. I put to death and I bring to life, I have wounded and I will heal, and no one can deliver out of My hand" (Deuteronomy 32:39 NIV).

