

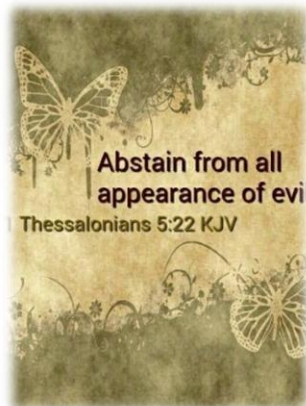
Address: 160 Paya Lebar Road, Orion@Paya Lebar #04-06, Singapore 409022
Sun Worship Service: 10am, Sun School: 11.45am, Wed Prayer Meeting: 8pm
Website: www.sovereignhopebpc.org
Rev Dr Jack Sin: 91160948 (hp) / jacksin710@gmail.com
Eld Tan Yue Kay: 97450311 (hp) / tanyuekay@gmail.com

The Christian in an Age of Spiritual Confusion & Declension

The Peril of Dabbling with the Occult

The growing interest in the occult is a phenomenon of our time, although occultic practices have been around since the time of the Old Testament (Lev 19:26). When my wife and I were in Canada and New Zealand last year for my sabbatical, we visited a market where there were open occultic activities that promoted supernatural entities and forbidden practices and rituals.

Some of the more common forms of occultic activities today include astrology, horoscopes, necromancy, crystal gazing, and fortune-telling, tarot cards, feng shui and malevolent computer games like *“Brutal legend, Diablo, Cult of the Lamb, Resident Evil and Hell Pie”*. These practices may seem innocent and harmless to some, but they can be a doorway to deception, leading to enslavement to sinful behaviour and thoughts, and finally entanglement to the Devil.



The Fertile Mind & Occultic Activities

The New Age Movement is gaining ground with each passing day. There are obsessions with crystals and apparent health-giving metals that supposedly have cosmic power. Their “energy,” we are told, can influence our lives and businesses for good or evil (this was broadcast over radio 93.8 MHz FM a while ago) and life coaches abound to provide spiritual services of sorts too with a fee.

The word “occult” simply means “hidden,” implying hidden forces or knowledge. It covers a wide range of practices that include spiritism, psychism, cabalism (remember the deceptive Bible Code of Michael Drosnin of the 1990s?), horror movies, freemasonry, channelling, witchcraft, sorcery, telling the future from tarot cards, crystals and palmistry, astrology, Halloween Pokémon, Harry Potter’s spells and similar things.

Hear what the prophet says in Isa 47:12&13, *"Stand now with thine enchantments, and with the multitude of thy sorceries, wherein thou hast laboured from thy youth; if so be thou shalt be able to profit, if so be thou mayest prevail. Thou art wearied in the multitude of thy counsels. **Let now the astrologers, the stargazers, the monthly prognosticators, stand up, and save thee from these things that shall come upon thee**".* Note how the occult can affect the mind adversely as seemed here from Mark 5:15 which says, *"And they come to Jesus, and see him that was possessed with the devil, and had the legion, sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid."*

This implied that prior to this, he was not in his right mind as the inspired author records for us. **Only the peace of God can give to us a sanctified and sound mind**, Isa 26:3&4 says, *"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength."*

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Just Dangerously Inquisitive?

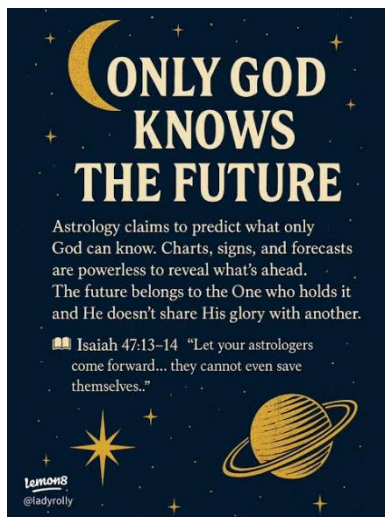
Most people who get involved in the occult are either just inquisitive or seeking something that God has not allowed us (for example, consulting the dead or the pentagram or astrological charts or palm reading or horoscopes). But the Word of God is not silent on this subject. Lev 19:26, 31 says, *"Ye shall not eat any thing with the blood: neither shall ye use enchantment, nor observe times. . . . Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the Lord your God."*

The practice of the occult is strongly condemned in the Bible. It is an abomination to God and He will not leave unpunished those who indulge in these forbidden

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Leviticus 19:31

only bible



activities. Saul consulted the witch of Endor, and he was severely dealt with and died later in war with assisted suicide (1 Sam 28:7–20, 31:4-6). We need to remember that *"The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law."* (Deut 29:29).

This Scripture reminds us to resort to the written Word of God and fervent prayers to God when we need help; to consult the cultic and occultic world is like Saul seeking the witch at Endor and this is asking for serious trouble.

Inner Spiritual Healing?

New Age practices such as channelling and yoga, hypnotic and earth-based music, transcendental meditation (TM), and non-traditional alternative forms of treatment, have mesmerised many who are in search of spiritual healing and contentment. Instead of seeking the living and true God, many are misled into trusting the counterfeit, thinking that it will satisfy them and bring “inner healing.”

The Word of God warns believers not to have anything to do with these diabolical practices. In Deut 18:9–12, our Lord says, *“When thou art come into the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. 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. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord: and because of these abominations the Lord thy God doth drive them out from before thee.”*

Age of Profound Delusion

The New Testament has the clear stand on total separation from the occult. One of the things clearly condemned in Gal 5:20 is witchcraft or sorcery. Eph 6:12 warns of *“the rulers of the darkness of this world.”* Simon Magnus, who was dabbling with the occult, was severely admonished (Acts 8:9–11), as were Elymas the magician (Acts 13:8) and the medium of Philippi (Acts 16:16–18).

This is an age of profound spiritual deception and delusion. The powers of darkness are so influential that they can deceive the people with signs and wonders (Matt 24:24). For example, I have been to India more than 20 times and there are certain gurus in India (eg. the late Sai Baba who is supposed to be reincarnated could literally perform supernatural acts to impress their followers, and so-called knew their thoughts in advance. We should not be alarmed at such phenomena, because we have been forewarned by our Lord Jesus Christ about false prophets doing *“great signs and wonders . . . [to] deceive”* (Matt 24:24–25). **Involvement in the occult can only lead to spiritual bondage and fear and expose gullible people to demonic obsession and possession.**



The Believer & Protection from the Occult

The ultimate end for those who persist in these abominable practices is eternal condemnation in hell; the Apostle John tells us that those excluded from heaven will include sorcerers (Rev 22:15). But what about Christians who become involved in the occult?

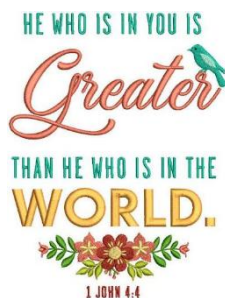
Let us be clear; a child of God cannot be demon-possessed, for the Holy Spirit indwells him. but the evil one can cause phobia and obsession if we allow him to.

Remember 1John 4:4, "*Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.*" It is possible, however, that believers can be negatively influenced by demons. To guard against these attacks of the Evil one, we are told to submit to God and resist the Devil, who will then "*flee from us*" (1 Pet 4:8–9; Jas 4:7). Christians are also told to put on

the full armour of God, to withstand the wiles of the Devil (Eph 6:10–18) and much fervent prayers .

If a believer persists in occultic activities, God will discipline him (as He does all sons; Heb 12:5–11), and such discipline may well have temporal consequences as it can affect the mind and our behaviour and our children as well.

The only way of deliverance from the occult is through belief, evangelical repentance of sins and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 1:16 says, "*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth.*"



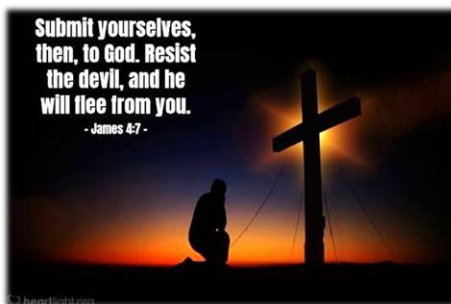
Conclusion

Christ came to break the bondage of sin and stronghold of the Evil one. Only a saving relationship with Jesus our Lord based on His death and resurrection can protect us from Satan and death.

Obey His Word and submit to His will and do so constantly. Flee from these things and follow after righteousness, godliness, truth, with those who call on God out of a pure heart (2 Tim 2:22; 1 Tim 6:11–12). **Jesus Christ is the only way to salvation and spiritual**

freedom and deliverance from sin and the evil one (John 14:6).

There is no other way except Christ.



Jack Sin

**Mark Your Calendar for this
Special Event!
Mon 10 Aug 2026 (PH)
Bring your Family & Friends!
Registration is required.**



Enjoy a relaxing ferry ride from **Marina South Pier** to the Southern Islands of Singapore with family and friends!

Big Sister's Island is open and has both leisurely and adventurous nature walks to cater for all. it features **Singapore's first floating boardwalk for observing marine life** and an **easy trail around the island**, and a reasonable 230-meter **Coastal Forest**



Trail to the panoramic Hilltop View Deck and a lagoon tidal pool for intertidal walks.



There are shelters with seats to enjoy the sea views and toilet facilities are new, clean and convenient.

Jul to Sep 2026 Sermon Series
Precious Insights from a Veteran Prophet
(Book of Deuteronomy)

- JUL** 5 Lessons from the Past [Deut 1:12-25]
12 The Greatness of a Nation [Deut 4:1-14]
19 The Moral Law Revisited [Deut 5:1-21]
26 Secret to a Healthy Covenant Family [Deut 6:1-17]
- AUG** 2 Case for Spiritual Prosperity [Deut 7: 1-19]
9 Remembering God's Past Deeds [Deut 8:1-20]
16 Requirements from God [Deut 10:12-22]
23 Responsible Stewardship in the Lord [Deut 12:1-19]
30 Warnings from God on the Occult [Deut 18:9-22]
- SEP** 6 The Case of Balaam [Deut 23:5-23]
13 Making Major Decisions in Life [Deut 30:1-20]
20 Doctrine of Moses Applied [Deut 32:1-21]
27 Gospel Sunday

Worship Service: Sun 10am
Address: 160 Paya Lebar Road
Orion@PayaLebar, #04-06
Singapore 409022
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Website: www.sovereignhopebpc.org

A Personal Reflection on the SHBPC Sermon “Lessons from the Past (Deut 1:8-26)” 5 Jul 2026

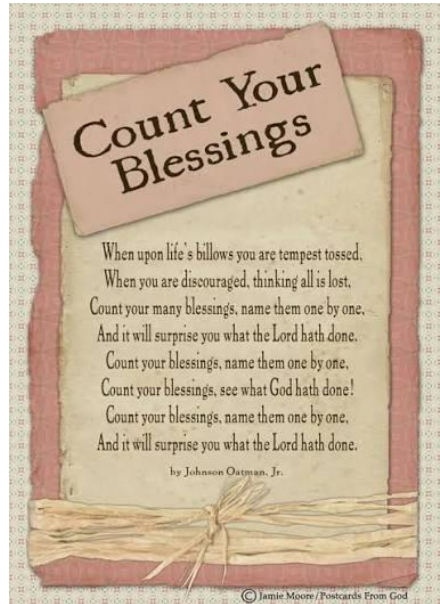
The word that caught my attention is “murmured” (Deu 1:27). Or in some other translations, “grumbled” or “complained”, which incidentally is also a common Singaporean trait.

Don't we sometimes find ourselves murmuring about many things in lives.

Such murmuring is just like the “*dripping of water*” that seems inconsequential, but over a period of time, a murmuring posture can chip slowly at something within us & gradually cause us to have an ungracious, unedifying & depressive spirit.

The antidote to avoid falling into the subtle & insidious habit of murmuring is to always have a grateful & thankful spirit within us.

I find that one of the ways to have a grateful & thankful spirit is to count the blessing in our lives. Not just big blessing, but the many little blessing in life that we tend to take for granted. I am thankful for a simple roof over my head, food on the table, having family & friends, living in a relatively safe country, able to walk & exercise, etc. Nothing to shout aloud about from the rooftop. Just little simple blessing in life from God. And I'm thankful & grateful. Remember the old hymn “*Count your blessings*”?



Psalm 103:1-5

“Bless the LORD, O my soul:

and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:

Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;

Who redeemeth thy life from destruction;

who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies;

Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things;

so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.”

- Kim Meng

Memory Verse

Deut:4:5 Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as the LORD my God commanded me, that ye should do so in the land whither ye go to possess it.

Announcements

1. Welcome to our Worship Service! If you are here for the first time, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave. Those who share the church vision to acquire a place of worship in due time, may designate your offerings to the SHBPC Church Building Fund.
2. Pastor brings us God's Word this morning on "***The Greatness of a Nation [Deut 4:1-20]***", commencing a new quarterly series on "***Precious Insights from a Veteran Prophet - the Book of Deuteronomy***".
3. Next Sunday Pastor will preach on "***The Moral Law Revisited [Deut 5:1-21]***".
4. Sunday School classes after the worship service are:
 - Walk Thru the Old Testament (Pastor)
 - Studies in Revelation (Dr Kwong Leen)
5. Chinese Fellowship meets every Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom. [**Zoom ID:883 9662 4157 Passcode: 218178**]. Join us for time of learning on the Book of Samuel and Heroes of the Faith.
6. Do send your prayer items to Pastor and join us for Church Prayer Meeting on Wed at 8pm via Zoom. The prayer list is available in church. [**Zoom ID:863 7527 5431 Passcode: 625551**].
7. Pray for:
 - **Travels: Dr Sam** [returning to Ningbo & Wenzhou]
 - **SHBPC Annual Family Day Outing on 9 Aug**
 - **Myanmar Missions: Myitta** (Hmawbi Township), **Lapuii** (Yangon), **Mission Trip Planning for Nov 2026**.
 - **India Missions: Ps Babu** (New Covenant BPC), **Ashi** (Calvary Reformed Church)
 - **Gospel Peace Station: Joseph & Rachel Wee**
 - **Medical: Kin Hoong's daughter Joyce** [chemotherapy], **Sharon** [recovery from viral infection], **Kim Meng's mother** [heart condition], **Agnes' parents** [medical conditions & salvation], **Joseph & Lilian's Dil Annabelle Chan** [knee injury],
 - **Dr Jason & Bee Leng** (Taiwan Attachment, 26May – 23Dec), **Dr Sam** [Transition to new appointment in Ningbo], **Yusong** [Scholarship for King's College, London]
 - **Lily Almon** [citizenship application]
8. Love gifts, Offering and Tithes to the Lord can be given in the following ways:
 - **Cheque** payable to **Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church** and mail to church address. (Kindly write the full name of the church as indicated.)
 - **Fund transfer** to Church **UOB Account 392-308-825-1**
 - **PayNow** to Church UEN: **T19SS0116FSOV**

Kindly indicate "**Church Building Fund**" if you would like to designate towards this cause.