

For those who have "benefited" from it, sometimes for many years, a *controlling spirit of witchcraft* is very difficult to relinquish. It is usually part of a spiritual matrix which draws its strength from a *spirit of rebellion* as well as a *spirit of fear*. Fear is a significant contributing *spirit* and is *always* involved with this particular oppression.

What to do with the *spirits of rebellion and fear*?

Repent....Forgive....Renounce.....Rebuke

## Functioning Without A Spirit of Performance

The first thing that will be noticed is an uncomfortable self consciousness when standing before others. That is not a bad thing if it leads us to depend on God all the more for his leading and true anointing as we are obedient to him.

If the anointing is decidedly absent, it is time to adjust--immediately.

**Stop** if necessary, and go to God in prayer to find out why. This is *not the time* to fall back on an old "friend" to step in and "help" us deal with the situation more comfortably. This is not the time to attempt to produce a false manifestation of the anointing by souping up the show, song, prayer or preaching with *theatrics*.

Repent...Renounce...Forgive...Rebuke...all spirits of performance and rejection (*rejection is a primary gateway spirit to this oppression*)

**Realize that you are *accepted* in the beloved.**

**Our Father in Heaven *likes us*. We can be ourselves.**

**And if no one else likes it, that's too bad--God does.**

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# Have We Received Another Spirit?

*Can We Really Tell The Difference?*

2 Corinthians 11:4

No one in the church is more susceptible to a controlling *spirit of witchcraft* or to a *spirit of performance* than those in positions of authority and/or highly visible ministries such as pastors, teachers or music ministers.

These spirits (a spirit is *always* a personal entity or being--not simply an attitude [as is so commonly mistaken]) are *very* prevalent within our churches. Entire congregations are often oppressed by, fall for, or enthusiastically accept a counterfeit in exchange for the true ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Now we know that no Christian would *deliberately* set out to cooperate with a *spirit of performance* as they teach, preach or lead the people in praise and worship. No true Christian would deliberately set out to abuse and jealously guard the position of authority they have been entrusted with through a *rebellious controlling spirit of witchcraft*. But many succeed in doing that very thing.

How does it happen that followers of *Jesus Christ*, people who are indwelled by the Holy Spirit, can be so completely deceived as to which spirit is leading and motivating them?

Those in the ministry who are taken in by these demonic spirits have often been keeping company with them for most of their lives, hence they have been *familiar* with them for a very long time. Because of this, when one of these spirits begins to assist or *guide*, it is a *familiar* voice that is heard and mistaken for their own thoughts or the leading of the Holy Spirit.

When they become energized while preaching, teaching or singing, the spirit of performance is mistaken for the anointing of God. When they find themselves successfully "leading" others, they feel it is a gift of God--a ministry of the Holy Spirit.

These *bad* spirits do oppress *good* people.

They often manage to gain strongholds in our lives when we face difficult or intimidating circumstances and choose any method of dealing with the the difficulty other than God's methods.

Anytime we reject the help and comfort offered to us through the Word of God and by his Spirit (not always the easiest route at first--instant gratification is not in our Lord's vocabulary), other "helpers" / "miserable comforters" are ready and willing to move in and offer "*assistance*." This very often begins when we are children, so by the time we become adults, they are very *familiar* to us.

We must become *estranged* from them. Their voices *must* become as the voice of a stranger to us.

**It is entirely our choice. If there is *any question at all* of demonic interference in our lives and ministries, it is always better to be safe than sorry.**

- ***Repent*** from sinfully accepting the easy relief when it was offered (even if it began before you were saved--which it probably did).
- ***Forgive*** those who hurt you (causing you to need the relief in the first place).
- In Jesus' name exercise the authority given to all believers by ***renouncing and rebuking*** (name them--spirits of performance/control etc.) any miserable comforters and "helpers" that have been accepted over the years (it could even be a generational family thing).
- ***Be vigilant***. They *will* try and return. *Don't let them*. Learning to operate without their "help" will be difficult at first. And if they do manage to slip back in... Repent... Forgive...Renounce... Rebuke!

### **Functioning Without a Controlling Spirit of Witchcraft**

First of all, *stop assuming your will is God's will*. Be willing to submit to others even if you *know* your way is better or you are more capable.

**It will be difficult.** When that spirit is no longer permitted to operate, people will no longer find it as difficult resist your influence (the primary motivation of this spirit is power). Those who were once extremely loyal to you will find themselves emotionally free to pursue other things (without your input or approval). *You will find yourself being required to relinquish personal power. let it go.*

All power is God's, and any power we have must both come from God, and be submitted *back to*, the authority of God--he requires us to submit to one another in demonstration of this. Lip service won't do it.