

## **Sermon Notes: Awakening the Spirit**

**Main Scripture:** Ecclesiastes 12:7, Deuteronomy 18:10-12, John 16:13

**Sermon Title:** AWAKENING THE SPIRIT — Understanding the Danger of Communicating With the Dead

**Key Question:** Are we aligning ourselves and our possessions with the Spirit of the Living God, or with the spirits of the dead?

### **1. The Problem: A Widespread Misunderstanding**

- Many believers unknowingly engage in practices that open dangerous spiritual doors.
- These include:
  - Seeking guidance from deceased relatives.
  - Believing ancestors can bless, curse, or protect.
  - Interpreting dreams of the dead as divine messages.
- These are often cultural traditions, but they are not biblical.

### **2. The Biblical Shift: Old Testament vs. New Testament**

- **Old Testament (The Shadow):** Records practices like King Saul and the witch of Endor (1 Samuel 28). These are shown as warnings, not approvals.
- **New Testament (The Reality):** Jesus established a new covenant. The veil was torn, giving us **direct access** to God through the Holy Spirit. We no longer need intermediaries.

### **3. The Hard Truth: What Happens When We Die?**

- **Key Verse:** "And the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it." - Ecclesiastes 12:7 (NIV)
- The spirit of a deceased person **returns to God**. It does not remain on earth.
- The anointing in a person's life was the **Holy Spirit working through them**, not their own human spirit.

### **4. The Dangerous Deception: Familiar Spirits**

- Any spirit claiming to be a dead person is a "**familiar spirit**."
- These are demonic entities that **impersonate the dead** to deceive and manipulate the living.

- They use family knowledge to create a false sense of connection and keep you in bondage.

### **5. The Cultural Lie: Ancestors & Life's Problems**

- Do not automatically blame poverty, sickness, or failure on "ancestral curses."
- Many problems have natural causes: poor systems, lack of knowledge, or personal choices.
- Misdiagnosing the problem leads to seeking solutions in the wrong places (e.g., mediums instead of God).

### **6. The Divine Solution: The Holy Spirit is Our Guide**

- We have been given the **Holy Spirit** as our:
  - **Comforter**
  - **Teacher**
  - **Guide into all truth** (John 16:13)
- **The Critical Question to Always Ask: "Which spirit am I consulting right now?"**

### **Call to Action: Time to Align Correctly**

- **Pray for Discernment:** Ask God to reveal any area of your life aligned with the dead.
- **Renounce & Break:** Verbally renounce any contact with familiar spirits and break all agreements with those practices.
- **Realign Fully:** Commit to seeking guidance, protection, and blessing **only** from God through the Holy Spirit.

**Final Thought:** Your life, your family, and all your possessions must be aligned solely with the Spirit of the Living God.