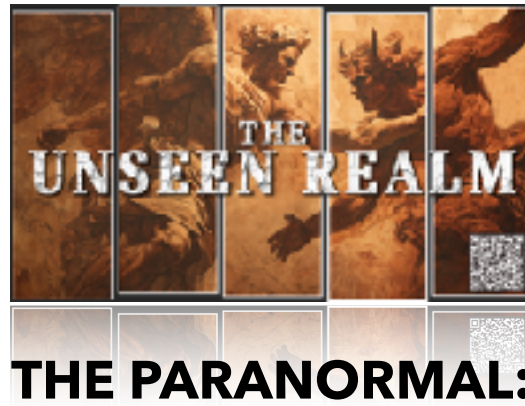


November 2nd, 2025
Pastor Josh McPherson
"The Unseen Realm"



"Understanding the Seemingly Unexplainable"

Big Idea:

What God Creates, Satan Counterfeits.

Demonic Counterfeits:

Zombies: The demonic resurrection.

Vampires: The demonic lord who spills YOUR blood, not his own.

Witches: The demonic prophetess who curses in the name of satanic rather than blesses in the name of Jesus.

Ghosts: The demonic spirit that haunts and terrifies you rather than comforts and fills you.

Paranormal Activity is...

"The unbelieving world's attempt to account for undeniable experiences with real spiritual darkness."

If Demons are by Nature Tricksters, Hucksters, Liars, Deceivers, & False Teachers...

Then What are Aliens, Ghosts, Goblins, UFOs, Skinwalkers, Voices of the Dead, and Bigfoot?

They are "demonic memes" intended to deceive, entice, lie, scare, ensnare, lead astray, distract, control, entertain, attract, draw in, or otherwise keep your attention from being captured by Jesus.

4 Questions about the Paranormal:

1. Can We Communicate with the Dead?

Answer: NO.

¹⁹ "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. ²⁰ At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores ²¹ and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.



²² "The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴ So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.' ²⁵ 'But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. ²⁶ And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.' ²⁷ 'He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, ²⁸ for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.' ²⁹ 'Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.' ³⁰ "'No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' ³¹ 'He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'" -Luke 16:19-31

Five Things Luke Teaches Us Happen After Death:

- 1) Both were fully aware of their deaths and entry into the afterlife.
- 2) At death, both the rich man and Lazarus' fates were sealed.
- 3) After death, they could not remain on earth as ghosts.
- 4) Dead and living on earth cannot contact each other.
- 5) Righteous dead and wicked dead are separated from each other (the "other side" isn't equally wonderful for everyone.)

If We Can't Communicate with the Dead...

Then Who Are Psychics and Family Members Talking with and Hearing From?

Answer: Demon spirits pretending to be deceased humans.

2. Can a House Actually be Haunted?

Answer: *DEPENDS.*

¹⁴ Jesus was driving out a demon that was mute. When the demon left, the man who had been mute spoke, and the crowd was amazed. ¹⁵ But some of them said, "By Beelzebul, the prince of demons, he is driving out demons." ¹⁶ Others tested him by asking for a sign from heaven. ¹⁷ Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them: "Any kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and a house divided against itself will fall. ¹⁸ If Satan is divided against himself, how can his kingdom stand? I say this because you claim that I drive out demons by Beelzebul. ¹⁹ Now if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your followers drive them out? So then, they will be your judges. ²⁰ But if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. ²¹ "When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe. ²² But when someone stronger attacks and overpowers him, he takes away the armor in which the man trusted and divides up his plunder. ²³ "Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. ²⁴ "When an impure spirit comes out of a person, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.' ²⁵ When it arrives, it finds the house swept clean and put in order. ²⁶ Then it goes and takes seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that person is worse than the first." ²⁷ As Jesus was saying these things, a woman in the crowd called out, "Blessed is the mother who gave you birth and nursed you." ²⁸ He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it." -Luke 11:14-28



3. What is Fortune-Telling?

Answer: DEMONIC PARLOR TRICKS.

"¹⁶ Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a female slave who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. ¹⁷ She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved." ¹⁸ She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so annoyed that he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit left her." -Acts 16:16-18

4. If a Christian Has an Encounter with the Paranormal, What Should He or She Do?

Answer: DISCERN THE SPIRITS.

*"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God...By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God."
-1 John 4:1-3*

Answer: DECLARE CHRIST'S VICTORY.

"Beloved, "He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him."

"He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son..." -Colossians 1:13, 2:15

Answer: DRAW NEAR TO GOD.

"Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up." -James 4:7-10

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Discussion Questions:

Getting to Know Me

1. Prior to this series, what's been your interest level about the paranormal?
2. Why do you think paranormal topics have become so popular today?

Into the Bible/Sermon

1. Read Luke 16:19-31. How is this story a clear command never to attempt to communicate with the dead? Can you think of any other passages in the Bible that prohibit this type of practice?
2. Why would demons be motivated to masquerade as deceased family members? What is the danger to anyone who believes that they are communicating with the dead?
3. How does this story motivate us to action in sharing our faith?

Application

1. What was your main takeaway after listening to the sermon? How were you impacted? Did you have an "ah-ha" moment or realize something for the first time? Is there anything you feel you might need to change as a result of hearing this sermon?
2. How has this sermon given you clarity and confidence regarding paranormal topics? What effect has it had on your overall fear regarding these topics?
3. What are tactics you learned from this sermon that you can apply if you ever do have a paranormal encounter?
4. How should Christians strike a Biblical balance between doing battle in the spiritual realm, without obsessing about the demonic in a way that would pull focus away from Jesus?
5. What are your action steps following this sermon regarding sharing the Gospel with others and providing spiritual protection to those God has given you responsibility over?