

## LECTURE 6                      JESUS FILM TRAINING MANUAL

### Topic 3:                      You Can Live Without Fear of the Ancestors

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DO YOU EVER ASK...Can the living speak with the dead? Can the dead affect the lives of the living? Can Christians worship God and also fear ancestors?

We are all proud of famous ancestors, and remember those of our family who have died, with respect and love. This is good, for it helps to bring unity within a nation and binds a family together.

#### A. BEWARE OF SATAN'S TRAP

Satan, the enemy of mankind, has cleverly used this respect to deceive many people. He put into men's minds the belief that ancestors are lifted up to the position of little gods. Then he strengthened such a teaching with the idea that the spirits of the dead can affect the lives of the living.

In this way, many people were taught to fear their ancestors; to satisfy them with sacrifices in times of trouble; to thank them with gifts when all is well. Whole nations began to consult these ancestor spirits in tribal decisions and family affairs, and to listen to advice that supposedly came from the dead. Satan had put a trap before them, and unaware of his deceit, they fell into his trap.



#### The reality of it

- They pray to "Modimo" (God above every being who live), through a mediator (ancestor: grand → grand → grand → parents's spirits). Because: *"One don't approach a king, unless you are qualified"*.
  - Sangoma gets blessings and power from the ancestors through worship.
  - Human problems: - Go to Sangoma for help, (Ask about the possibility of a spell?, Or other reason?) — Sangoma advices the ancestors on behalf of the person — Slaughter a lamb — Plant something at the corner of house where ancestors can be worshipped — dance — go over in a trance.
  - It is not a superstition, but of demonic origin.
  - It stretches from generation to generation.
  - It goes with certain customs and habits.
- Mark 7:8-9,13                      *You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men. And he said to them: "You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions. Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that."*
- Sangoma can cause illnesses, or heal them (only for a short while). When approaching them, they already know what kind of problem you have, because they have done it with you before and know that you will come back.
  - It causes fear / regret, and can even cause a person's death!
  - There is nothing wrong with ancestors, but it is wrong to worship them.

#### B. GOD WARNS OF DANGER

God has always warned people against such a trap. The Bible speaks clearly against it.

### **Covenant with ancestor spirits**

- Right from birth.

Deut 18:10-12 Let no-one be found among you who sacrifices his son or daughter in the fire, who practises divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the LORD.

- To protect the whole family

Lev 19:28,31 Do not cut your bodies for the dead or put tattoo marks on yourselves. I am the LORD. Do not turn to mediums or seek out spiritists, for you will be defiled by them. I am the LORD your God.

### **To communicate with the spirits**

- Only the head of the family.
- Or the eldest son in the family.
- At a specific place.

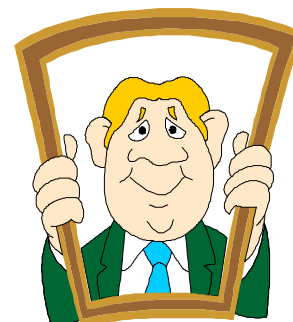
Isa 8:19-22 When men tell you to consult mediums and spiritists, who whisper and mutter, should not a people enquire of their God? Why consult the dead on behalf of the living? To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn. Distressed and hungry, they will roam through the land; when they are famished, they will become enraged and, looking upward, will curse their king and their God. Then they will look towards the earth and see only distress and darkness and fearful gloom, and they will be thrust into utter darkness.

Lev 19:30-31 Observe my Sabbaths and have reverence for my sanctuary. I am the LORD. Do not turn to mediums or seek out spiritists, for you will be defiled by them. I am the LORD your God.

Lev.20:6 I will set my face against the person who turns to mediums and spiritists to prostitute himself by following them, and I will cut him off from his people.

## **C. EVIL SPIRITS PRETEND TO BE ANCESTORS**

God warns us that Satan traps people into worshipping their ancestors. Then he sends evil spirits to PRETEND to be those ancestors. In this way, people are actually tricked into worshipping Satan, and not their ancestors! The so-called “familiar” spirits, or family spirits that have known the home life of the family for generations, are well equipped to impersonate the dead. With their life-long knowledge of the dead, these spirits can imitate the voices and manners of the dead, and on occasion have been known to form a visible likeness of the dead person.



2 Cor.11:14-15 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.

## **D. SATAN RECEIVES THE WORSHIP GIVEN TO ANCESTORS**

God makes it clear that sacrifices and worship given to any other than God Himself, are sacrifices and worship which are actually made to Satan and his demons.

1 Cor.10:20 No, but the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons.

When God’s people rebelled against Him, and made their own gods, the Lord made it clear that:

Deut.32:17 they sacrificed to demons, which are not God--gods they had not known, gods that recently appeared, gods your fathers did not fear.

The warning is clear.

Rom.6:16 Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey-- whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?

Even to make tattoo marks on our bodies in memory or honour of the ancestors is forbidden by God. The danger is very great.

Lev. 19:28 Do not cut your bodies for the dead or put tattoo marks on yourselves. I am the Lord

### Blood and traditional beer

These are the main aspects which keep your covenant with the ancestor spirits.

### Practice in certain churches

- A person can, instead of practising witch craft, become a prophet or somebody that prays for people.
- Isithunywa (Gestuurde) - The name of an evil spirit that pretends to be an angel sent by God.

2 Cor.11:14-15 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.

- Dreams and visions occur frequently.

Deut. 13:1-10 If a prophet, or one who foretells by dreams, appears among you and announces to you a miraculous sign or wonder, and if the sign or wonder of which he has spoken takes place, and he says, "Let us follow other gods" (gods you have not known) "and let us worship them, you must not listen to the words of that prophet or dreamer. The LORD your God is testing you to find out whether you love him with all your heart and with all your soul. It is the LORD your God you must follow, and him you must revere. Keep ... .. Show him no pity. Do not spare him or shield him. You must certainly put him to death. Your hand must be the first in putting him to death, and then the hands of all the people. Stone him to death, because he tried to turn you away from the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. Jer. 23:25-33

## E. WE CANNOT CONTACT THE ANCESTORS

The only true information about death and the dead is found in God’s own Word.

Job 7:9-10 As a cloud vanishes and is gone, so he who goes down to the grave does not return. He will never come to his house again; his place will know him no more.

Christ Himself tells us in His own words what happens beyond the grave.

In Luke 16:19-31 we discover that:

- The spirits of the dead are held secure in two separate places. One is a place of torment and fire (V23, 24) and the other in a place of comfort (V25).
- The wicked are completely alone in their torment, though they can see the comfort of the righteous (v23).
- The dead cannot contact the living, even though they want to, for the dead often wish that those still alive should not be deceived as they were deceived



- (v 27, 28).
- The only way the dead could in fact contact the living would be through the resurrection of the body and a return to life (v31).

## F. WHAT ABOUT THE PROPHET SAMUEL?

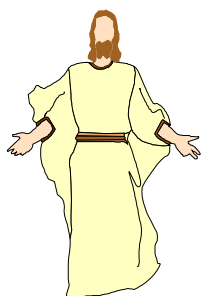
God, on one special occasion and for His own reason, did allow the living to make contact with the dead! We can read about it in 1 Sam. 28:3-19. Saul was a disobedient king, whom God had rejected. When he realised that God had turned His back, Saul went to a spirit-medium to try to contact a dead prophet called Samuel. We notice several important things:

- The medium screamed when she saw Samuel coming up from the dead, as though she was not used to an event so real (verse 12). She knew too well that the spirits she usually contacted were either contrived or satanic. Somehow, Samuel's appearance revealed to her that she was dealing with a power far greater than she has known.
- Samuel did not speak through the woman, but spoke directly with Saul. In fact, the woman seems to have left the place, only returning when Samuel had gone (verses 15, 21).
- She did not call up Samuel by trickery or the power of Satan. God brought Samuel back.
- Samuel only confirmed the warnings he had given to Saul when he was still alive. There was no new advice for Saul except to say that for this sin of consulting the dead he would die within 24 hours (verses 16-19).

If we rebel against God's Word of warning like Saul, we do so at our own peril. But what of those who have already tried to consult the ancestors? They did it because their fathers did it before them.

God is against all such practices. (Gal 5:19-21)

## G. GOD WILL FORGIVE THOSE WHO HAVE WORSHIPPED THE ANCESTORS



There is good news for those that have sinned in this way.

### 1. JESUS HAS OVERCOME THE POWER OF SIN.

1 Peter 1:18-19 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

### 2. The Word of God promises:

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our

sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

### 3. So, **repent** and leave your old ways, **destroy all those things of witchcraft** and ancestral spirits. **Trust only in the blood of CHRIST**, God's own sacrifice for sin.

2 Cor. 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

But perhaps you are afraid to anger the spirits you once served. You may fear that if you reject them and trust in Christ, they will hurt you or your family!

4. **JESUS HAS OVERCOME SATAN AND ALL HIS WORKS.** Jesus, the Son of God, became a man, so that by His death upon the cross, He became the Lamb sacrificed for us.

Heb. 2:14-15 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death--that is, the devil-- and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

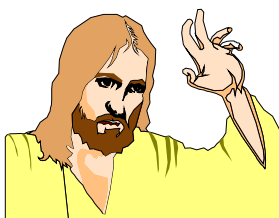
5. **On the cross Jesus disarmed the principalities and powers...triumphing over them.**

Col. 2:15 And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.



## H. JESUS PROTECTS HIS PEOPLE FROM EVIL POWERS

- Though the whole world is in the power of the evil one (Satan), the Bible says that **the evil one does not touch the child of God.**



1 John 5:18-19 We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the one who was born of God keeps him safe, and the evil one cannot harm him. We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.

- A heathen diviner who was asked to lay a curse upon God's children, said that **it is impossible to curse God's people** or to divine against them.

Numb. 23:8,23 How can I curse those whom God has not cursed?

How can I denounce those whom the LORD has not denounced? There is no sorcery against Jacob, no divination against Israel. It will now be said of Jacob and of Israel, 'See what God has done!'

- Even Satan himself said to God about one of God's people:  
Job 1:10 **Have you not put a hedge around him** and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land.

## I. JESUS GIVES HIS PEOPLE POWER OVER EVIL SPIRITS

1. God's children rejoiced saying to Jesus, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in Your Name!" Jesus said to them, "I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions, and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you." **He also advised them to** rejoice more that their names are written in heaven. (Luke 10:17-20)

2. **We are not fighting against people, but against the spirits of darkness and evil. God equips us with an armour to protect us.**

Eph. 6:11-17 Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore ...

3. **The weapons of faith which God has given us, are able to destroy the strongholds of evil.**

2 Cor. 10:3-4 For though 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.

## **J. JESUS GIVES HIS PEOPLE FREEDOM FROM SATAN**

Gal 5:1 It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

1 Cor 10:13 No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

## **K. YOU CAN BECOME ONE OF GOD'S PEOPLE**

God has promised, "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people. Therefore come out from them and be separate," says the Lord. "Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters," says the Lord Almighty."

2 Cor 6:16-18 "Now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Christ would suffer. Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord."

Acts 3:17-19

God promises: Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God .... John 1:12

Jesus Himself says, YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN.

John 3:7 You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.'

If this message has touched your heart, helping you to true faith in Jesus, pray this prayer:

***"Father God, I understand that Jesus is the only way of salvation. I receive JESUS as my SAVIOUR and MASTER. I will trust Him only. I repent of my sin and receive your forgiveness through what Jesus did for me in HIS death and resurrection. Amen."***

### **How do we fight against the power of ancestral spirits?**

- Doubt and ignorance of ancestor spirits are stumbling blocks in the way to help a person.
- The deliverance is not complete if a person only accepts Jesus, he needs to confess his sins and turn away.

### **True deliverance: Repentance**

- Sins of the past (To cut your skin, visits to the witchdoctor for help etc.)  
Lev.19:28 Do not cut your bodies for the dead or put tattoo marks on yourselves.  
I am the LORD.

- Sins of his / her parents or grandparents.  
Ex 20:5 You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me,

## IMPORTANT

- Give the person the assurance that Christ:
  - **can** and **will** provide!
  - protect him against forces like the “Tokoloshi”
- God is Almighty and can do anything.
- Don't only share the “4SL's”, but go into their houses and cast out the demons. (Numbers only? — Matt. 23:15)
- Help the person to curse and rebuke the ancestor spirits with his own mouth.
- Motivate and help him to get rid of all sibylic evil objects on the person and in his house. Make sure you are also “clean”.
- The covenant between him / her and the ancestor spirits must be broken.
- It can only be done in the Name of Jesus Christ!
- Everything must be done in the Name of Jesus Christ!

Remember the following **promises**:

John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

Rom.8:31 What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?



Remember that you are involved in a **battle**:

1 Peter 5:8-10 Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.

Eph.6:10-18 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled round your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

