

ENCIRCLING EYES IN THE NIGHT

My wife and I moved to Sydney way back in the middle ages [1974 to be exact]. We were keen to come [from the Deep South, Melbourne], and spent the 1970's doing the usual things expected of pastors. Occasionally we'd become involved in something a bit "off the wall", but not too often. Then the 80's came on the scene; things began to change - slowly at first, but then more pronounced. We found ourselves more frequently involved in helping people deal with encounters with demonic spirits. This was a bit unsettling at first [to put it mildly, as our ministry training was noticeably deficient in this area], but we couldn't escape it - regardless of what we believed about such things, something was happening out there in Sydney's suburbs

Before you shout, "It's all in the mind!", let me share two such encounters....

In the late 1980's, the sister of a friend of ours asked if we could visit their house in Mt Druitt. They had been regularly seeing a spirit [ghost] in their home which had the face of her dead child. When the children, including their two-year old started seeing it as well, and became terrified, she realised they needed help. My friend (a new Christian) and I called, spoke of Jesus Christ's authority over **every** spirit [angel or demon], prayed in Jesus' name, and told the spirit it had to leave. Then we made sure they removed from the house everything associated with occultic activity. A particularly nasty painting in the children's bedroom was the first to go (they said the artist was heavily into drugs and occult, and the eyes watched you from the painting!). Some Black Sabbath records followed. We also discovered they had been involved in some occultic practices themselves [more on that later]. We heard much later that none of them had been troubled by this ghost again.

Around the same time, late one night, I was called to a house in the outer western suburbs where two 'amateur exorcists' had been praying for a woman troubled by an evil spirit. Not knowing the people, I took an experienced brother with me; we found the lady on the bathroom floor, bent over backwards in a trance. She'd been there for two hours! I asked her name; a voice said back at me, "My name is Satan!". It proclaimed ownership of the family, and refused to let us talk with the woman in a conscious state. After binding its power in Jesus' name, I spoke to her directly. The demon continued to answer for her, but after several exchanges, it yielded to Jesus' authority, and we were able to awaken her from the trance. She was in physical agony from the experience, and very embarrassed about us being called in [although she couldn't recall anything that had happened]. After praying with her, we encouraged her to make a deliberate commitment to Jesus Christ, to yield her life and safekeeping into His powerful hands. She eagerly did so! Some two years later I heard that she was happily involved in a church in the area, untroubled by the spirit.

In recent years, such incidents are becoming much more numerous. You have to ask, **WHY?** Especially when you understand that spirit beings don't age; they have always been around, yet now they seem to be able to interact with people much more freely than even 20 years ago.

The answer to this, I believe, lies in a principle I first remember seeing as a kid at the pictures [movies to you not-so-oldies]. In a film set in Alaska, the hero is out of ammo, heading home in the snow, pursued by wolves, and unable to make it to home base before dark. He camps in the snow, and builds a large fire, and keeps really close to it. I still remember the evil encircling eyes reflecting in the dark, waiting to grab him. But they are afraid of the fire. As the fire goes down to embers, they move in closer for the kill! So he regularly stokes it up with more wood, and they back away again from its presence.

He was safe as long as the fire stayed bright!

Our society has forgotten [some say, **deliberately** forgotten] the inherent safeguards that are built into God's word, the Bible. Its prescription for keeping a people, even a nation, safe from the "encircling eyes" of satanic power has been rejected, and we now live in a society huddled over "embers" - the leftovers of past brightness - scared to death of the "creatures of the night" [although few Aussies will openly admit to such fears].

Let's be realistic about our Australian heritage – it was never truly "Christian". But it had many Christian principles embedded in its laws and moral basis (\I think because the founding fathers knew they worked!). The 'fire' that protected was kept alive with 'sticks' of;

- **Christian morals and ethics** - eg. we've forgotten that lying and dishonesty are as infectious as AIDS; you can't keep unfaithfulness isolated to only one area of your life [your word, money, work

habits, sex life, etc]. Someone who lies [to others and then, themselves] will come under the influence of lying spirits and their associates [called unclean spirits in Jesus' day - these include addictions and sexually deviate powers].

- **Warnings against involvement in any kind of occultic activity** [including the less obvious contact points like martial arts, yoga, horoscopes, eastern religious 'healing' techniques, as well as the more blatant ones like tarot cards, séances, ouija boards, palm reading, etc]. Contact is made with supernatural occultic powers quite easily this way, **BUT** cutting it off later is quite another story!
- **Protecting the next generation from too much exposure** too early to the 'fallenness' of adult society; eg. just how does the sight of topless females at Bondi affect the mind of a 14 y/o boy? The cry, "away with all censorship!", is an open invitation for spirits of pornography (including now increasingly deviate porno) to later control the minds of our teenage sons - just visit your local jail and check out the ratio of porn addicts in there....
- **Passing on to the next generation spiritual values they can live by.** The way we have been made prompts every one of us to somehow pursue a spiritual value. And if the truth isn't passed on, they'll end up with a counterfeit; eg. Russia, as a nation, for all its pressure on people to deny spiritual reality, even during the 70 years of "godless communism" became full of alternative psychic pursuits!

Are there only 'embers' left in your life? Or have 'sticks' been continually thrown on the fire? That way you can be kept safe from the 'encircling eyes' of spirit predators... This is real stuff. Noone is exempt.

And one last point from the same illustration; wolves prey on the strays that are doing their own thing, away from the herd / flock. I know it's cool to be 'out there' as an individual, but remember - spirit powers delight in taking control of the loner, who doesn't respect the safety guidelines laid out by someone who's already been there and done that [often with considerable pain and hurt]. Jesus set up guidelines; He left a written report for those following [called the Bible] so that they could be kept safe from 'encircling eyes'....

And let's not kid ourselves that being "in church" makes any difference if someone chooses to dabble in activities that open the door to "encircling eyes". Years ago, we ministered to several people still affected by watching "the Exorcist" years beforehand. As I update this (Christmas 2009), the hottest movie is **Avatar**, a \$A500m extravaganza produced by James Cameron, of Titanic fame. Avatar? Huh? Haven't I seen that word before? My dictionary explains that an Avatar is... "a Sanskrit word for the *descent* of a Hindu deity to the Earth in an incarnate form or some manifest shape; a supreme manifestation or embodiment" And yes, the movie theme is about such a descent of superior spirits and their manifestation in humans receptive to their influence... But, it's only **entertainment**, isn't it? No harm done..... Except (in churchgoers) to deaden any development of Holy Spirit-sourced abilities and gifting. Disempowered, and useless in outworking the Great Commission.

Let's stay awake and refuse to allow the "Dust of Death" to settle on our spirit and mind, nor on the life of our churches! Stoke the fire!

If you have had a similar experience to the ones outlined here, and are now concerned about the effect they may be having on your life, or on other family members, don't hesitate to contact someone who is familiar with this area of Christian ministry. **Jesus Christ still has all authority over all spiritual powers!**

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[Follow hyperlink for further material on the responsibility of fathers to "[guard the gate](#)" in this area].

Os Guinness wrote a chapter called Encircling Eyes in his book, The Dust of Death, which activated me years ago, to do extensive research into the subject of the decay of a way of life (personal and corporate), and the various forces (natural, political, and spiritual) that contribute to the invasion of the "Dust of Death".

[a series of further material is available on request on the "**Dust of Death**" process that paralyses the work of God].