### ***‘Getting To Know Pastor Joe’ Columns #13***

### **Do Not Underestimate Superstitions!**

Many people take palm reading and fortune-telling lightly. However, they often don't realize that these practices can be a medium for evil spirits to enter our lives.

A mother brought her mid-thirties daughter to a pastor. She was concerned about her daughter's mental state. During their conversation, the daughter was nervously chewing on a paper cup, wearing a peculiar smile and staring at the pastor with unfocused eyes. Through counseling, the pastor learned that the daughter had been struggling with the pressures of her business. In her desperation, she visited an Italian palm reader. Since then, she has been plagued by anxiety. Through prayer and Bible study, this sister was restored to normalcy.

One sister shared that she had been suffering from nightmares for a long time. She would wake up in the middle of the night in a cold sweat after experiencing sleep paralysis. She even received prayers from her church pastor, but it didn't help. When she reflected on when it all began, she remembered being taken by a friend to a fortune teller. She realized that since that visit, she had been spiritually tormented. After repenting to God for visiting the fortune teller, she was able to sleep peacefully that very night.

Even some Chrisitains take palm reading and fortune-telling lightly. However, they often don't realize that these practices can be a medium for evil spirits to enter their lives. When people from other religions come to believe in Jesus, I advise them to get rid of any idols, pictures, or charms they used to worship. This is because these items can continue to be channels for evil spirits.

Among those who seek out fortune tellers, there are many college students and professionals. Most of these people visit out of curiosity or for fun. However, they don't realize that this seemingly harmless behavior can open a door for evil spirits to infiltrate their lives.

That's why we need to be cautious about practices like seances, divination, and certain forms of yoga. These activities, when deeply pursued, are ultimately connected to evil spirits. While they might seem to provide temporary peace, they can actually open pathways for evil spirits. Seeking peace through such means is not only foolish but also dangerous.

True peace and rest come only from God. For those who desire true peace, the first step is to believe in and accept Jesus. For those who have already trusted Jesus, the best way to experience true peace and rest is to pray to God in Jesus' name.

Let's remember that only God can provide us with genuine peace and rest. Turning to Him in faith and prayer is the safest and wisest choice we can make.