**Cross And Crown Christian Outreach**

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**Christians And Witchcraft.**

**For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil. -** Eccl. 12:14 KJV

Human beings generally, including Christians, never hesitate to blame enemies for any failure recorded in life. Every unachievable goal is immediately blamed on the seen or unseen hand which they quickly tag as enemy. Even when the Christian Bible makes it clear that the one to be battled against is not flesh and blood but spiritual powers in heavenly places, the arrowhead of which was identified by Peter as the Devil (Eph. 6:12-13; 1Pet. 5:8), the Christian still prefers to see fellow human beings as the enemy. No doubt, this is the result of lazy thinking as simply taking steps to do a more profound thinking would have revealed the true identity of the one behind such events to be no other than Lucifer.

Beyond grouping such human beings as enemies, they sometimes go further to tagging them as witches and wizards as people in this group are considered to be the predominant force, usually against their success. It is therefore not surprising for this category of people to constantly seek witches and wizards in every failed or unsuccessful adventure with a view to fighting back and becoming victorious.

That the individual, who claims to be the victim and is seeking to identify the witch or wizard in that failed adventure, could actually be the culprit, is not impossible, as many people, by their overt or covert action are actually the architect of their mis-fortune but have found it convenient to look for scape-goats for their mis-adventures. More curious, is the possible practice of witchcraft by this supposed victim of the act of witchcraft, when making attempts to fight and attain victory over the situation. Most times, the individual does not just stop at identifying the supposed witch or wizard, but equally begins to take spiritual steps, deemed as praying, but which attempts to also manipulate the targetted enemy into doing their bidding. This prayer pattern is not used only when the one praying is seeking victory but also deployed when there is the need to get an individual do a bidding that will further their interest.

It should be noted at this point that there is nothing absolutely wrong with the decision of an individual to seek spiritual intervention through prayers, aimed at resolving a challenge or reversing the negative trend of an action, but such interventions if not properly done may just make the individual become guilty of the same offence for which the supposed enemy is being accused of, at least before Jehovah.

At this juncture, it may be necessary to take a more profound look at the word “witchcraft” and its associated words. Although the Merriam-webster dictionary defines witchcraft as the use of sorcery or magic or communication with the devil or a familiar spirit, the same highly respected dictionary also adds that witchcraft is the application of “an irresistible influence or fascination” on an individual. Several people seem to be aware of the former definition but conveniently or unconsciously are ignorant of the latter, which is mostly in alignment with biblical references to the act of Witchcraft. Three popular biblical references to the practice of witchcraft are the cases of Balaam and the Israelites (Num. 22:1-24:25), the Witch of Endor (1Sam. 28:3-22) and Elymas the wizard (Acts 13:4-12). All the cases referenced attempts by their practitioners to exert some spiritual influence on personalities or groups, who were unwilling to be dragged into the situation that such powers dragged them into, even though, the power behind their actions was not identified. In some of those cases, all that was done was the making of verbal statements that influenced the victims to take actions that they would ordinarily have resisted. It can then be concluded that irrespective of the power behind the action, the action and its result on its target is what will classify such a practice as witchcraft, and its practitioner as a witch or wizard.

If that is the case, the Christian who deploys spiritual gifts, in a manner that influences another to take actions, that such may not ordinarily have taken, whether positive or negative, cannot be excluded from the group of people classed as witches and wizards. That probably explains why anyone who is able to achieve what seems to be humanly unachievable, is generally referred to as a wizard, the masculine form of the word “witch”.

The Christian who directly seeks to make a fellow Being implement an action, that such will ordinarily be unwilling to implement, and succeeds in such an act qualifies to be called a witch or a wizard, irrespective of the intention or the source of power behind such action. That may be an action carried out with a spiritual ability obtained from the Holy Spirit, but the deployment of such a gift without the authorization of the giver could easily become the case of the use of a good gift in a wrong manner. That the source of the gift is positive will never justify its unauthorized or negative deployment and such should be ready to get the reward for such wrong deployment. No wonder, Jesus Christ said that such people would be sent away from him on the last day as they will be considered as doers of evil – Matt. 7:21-23.

The act of deploying any ability, physical or spiritual, irrespective of the source, in a manner that places an irresistible influence on another, is nothing but the act of Witchcraft. The Christian who intends to avoid the practice of Witchcraft, especially when spiritual intervention is desired in a situation, will be expected to focus efforts at influencing the situation and not the personality, and should route all such efforts through the giver of the ability. Not doing this may just get the Christian into a situation where such is using the gift of the Holy Spirit to practice Witchcraft. Such should be prepared for the consequences of such unwise actions.

Avoid the unconscious practice of Witchcraft by deploying that gift through the giver and aim at the situation and not the personalities. Pray to Jehovah to change unfavourable situations and let Him decide whether there will be the need to change personalities or change their thinking. That is a decision that He alone is in a position to determine, and that is what will prevent you from becoming a Witch or a Wizard. May God grant us all the wisdom that will enable us deploy our gifts appropriately in Jesus name. Amen.