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The Biblical Basis of Christian Counseling for People Helpers: Relating the Basic Teachings of
Scripture to People's Problems (Pilgrimage Growth Guide)

14. Supernatural Agents and Counseling

This chapter equips Christian counselors to think biblically about angels, Satan, and demons. It opens with the modern fascination with UFOs, aliens, and new-age spirituality to show two opposite errors people fall into, then lays out what Scripture actually teaches about good and evil supernatural forces and how that shapes counseling.

Key takeaways

- C. S. Lewis named two equal and opposite errors about the supernatural: disbelieving it entirely (the rational 'materialist' view) or obsessing over it (the intuitive 'magical' view). Both please the Devil; counselors should avoid both.
- These errors trace a long shift in Western thought from God's revelation as the source of truth to human reason, then to distrust of reason and today's 'whatever feels good is true' mysticism.

- Angels are created spirit beings and God's messengers. They worship God, carry His messages, guide and protect His people, and execute His justice — but they are never to be worshiped, consulted as spirit guides, or sought through 'angel oracle cards.'
- Test every reported angelic or spiritual message against Scripture. Any message that adds new revelation or contradicts the Bible comes from a deceiving spirit, not God — Satan even masquerades as an angel of light.
- Satan is a real, created but fallen being — an adversary, deceiver, tempter, and liar — who works through the world, the flesh, and direct supernatural attack. But he is already defeated by Christ's death and resurrection.
- People can be 'demonized' to varying degrees rather than fully 'possessed' (a term absent from the Greek). Counselors respond not with formulas of exorcism but with godly living, submitting to God, and resisting the Devil.
- Human problems are a mix of biological, psychological-social, and spiritual causes. It is irresponsible to ignore the demonic, but equally wrong to see a demon behind every problem. The real focus stays on Christ.

Passages worth keeping

"There are two equal and opposite errors into which we can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other

is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them.”

Lewis's warning frames the whole chapter's balanced approach.

“The decisive battle in the war between good and evil was fought and won by Christ in the crucifixion and resurrection... The Christian need not be defeated in any of his specific encounters with Satan.”

Anchors the chapter's assurance that Satan is already beaten.

How it connects

The chapter ties spiritual warfare directly to counseling: it is not a specialty ritual but the everyday reality of helping people, waged through resisting Satan and letting God's truth transform the mind (2 Peter 3:18).

Scripture referenced

- **2 Corinthians 11:14** -- Satan masquerades as an angel of light — the test for false messengers
- **1 John 4:1** -- Test the spirits to see if they are from God
- **Ephesians 6:12** -- The struggle is against spiritual forces of evil, not flesh and blood
- **1 John 4:4** -- The Holy Spirit in us is greater than the evil in the world
- **1 Corinthians 10:13** -- God won't let us be tempted beyond our endurance

- **James 4:7** -- Resist the Devil and he will flee — the counselor's response