

Think It Over: This section is about turning what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you take your own next step. If you are leading a group through this guide, don't feel like you have to answer every question. Pick out those questions that will stir up conversation and action among your group.

- For those of us that love eating Chinese food with family and friends, one of the fun aspects is the fortune cookie. When was the last time you got a fun laugh from a fortune cookie? What made it fun? Has one ever been so dead on that you didn't share it with those around you? What is up with that? Some Christians wonder, since reading a fortune implies special prophetic knowledge, whether it is wrong to read fortune cookies. Well, as you can gather from Pastor Dave, for him, he would be overthinking it, if he had a problem with fortunate cookies, yet he doesn't feel the same way about horoscopes. What are some of those practices for you (matters of conscience) that begin to cross the line into what we classified as the occult?
- How does a Christ follower think through “*Receive, Reject, Redeem*” applying them to something like Halloween or even the Easter Bunny (use Romans 12:2 MSG and the life of Jesus to formulate your answer)? How does Romans 14:22-23 affect your approach when explain your thoughts?
- Have you every thought about the reality that there are only two spiritual forces at work in our world? Why might that seem an over-simplification? How does it help you make sense of the world? Read through the passages following that section. What stands out to you? Why is God so opposed to a person seeking the answers to life in any other place but a connection with the real Him?
- As you listen to the history and practice of Yoga, how has your view on yoga changed or become even more firm? What are some of the other kinds of practices that have a connection to the occult? Why is it important not to open the door to those kinds of influences in your life?
- Read Ephesians 6:12. What is your first impression? Why is the phrase, “our struggle” so important to come to grips with? Do you really believe in 2023 we have to be aware of this struggle? Being aware and scared are two different things. How can you remain aware and not scared (see 1 John 4:4)?
- Read 1 Corinthians 6:12 MSG. While not thinking of others, what could be some things in your life that may be technically okay, but aren't really spiritually appropriate? Have you ever seen someone become owned by the okay in the long run? What happened?

Next Steps: What steps as a Christ follower can you take to avoid becoming personally trapped by things that you think are legally ok, but not spiritually appropriate? How will you live out Ephesians 5:11?

Changing Your Mind: Choose one of the verses listed in the Message Guide and commit it to heart.



If you missed a message, visit www.scc.website or request a CD at Guest Services.



The Option Matrix

Found on a card at Guest Services or on our website:

<http://senecacommunitychurch.com/optionmatrix>

Review: 10/30/2022 - Can't Touch This - Part 6: Feeling Lucky
at the 32-minute mark (bit.ly/OptionMatrix)

²³"I have the right to do anything," you say—but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything"—but not everything is constructive (not everything causes the spiritual advancement of others-TPT).

1 Corinthians 10:23 NIV

Receive, Reject, Redeem

²Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.

Romans 12:2 MSG

²²Cultivate your own relationship with God, but don't impose it on others. You're fortunate if your behavior and your belief are coherent. ²³But if you're not sure, if you notice that you are acting in ways inconsistent with what you believe—some days trying to impose your opinions on others, other days just trying to please them—then you know that you're out of line. If the way you live isn't consistent with what you believe, then it's wrong.

Romans 14:22–23 MSG

There are only two spiritual forces

at work in our world.

The dictionary defines occult as
“hidden, secret and mysterious,
particularly pertaining to the supernatural.”

⁸Be well balanced and always alert, because your enemy, the devil, roams around incessantly, like a roaring lion looking for its prey to devour.

1 Peter 5:8 TPT

⁴The ruler of this world has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They cannot see the light of the Good News—the message about the divine greatness of Christ. Christ is the one who is exactly like God.

2 Corinthians 4:4 ERV

²People use their little statues and magic to learn what will happen in the future, but that is useless. They see visions and tell about their dreams, but it is nothing but worthless lies. So the people are like sheep wandering here and there crying for help, but there is no shepherd to lead them.

Zechariah 10:2 ERV

¹⁰...Don't try to learn what will happen in the future by talking to a fortuneteller or by going to a magician, a witch, or a sorcerer. ¹¹Don't let anyone try to put magic spells on other people. Don't let any of your people become a medium or a wizard. And no one should try to talk with someone who has died. ¹²Anyone who does these things is detestable to the LORD; because of these same detestable practices the LORD your God will drive out those nations before you. ¹³You must be faithful to the Lord your God, never doing anything he considers wrong.

Deuteronomy 18:10-15 ERV, NIV

³¹“Don't dabble in the occult or traffic with mediums; you'll pollute your souls. I am God, your God.

Leviticus 19:31 MSG

¹⁹When people tell you, “Try out the fortunetellers. Consult the spiritualists. Why not tap into the spirit-world, get in touch with the dead?” ²⁰Tell them, “No, we're going to study the Scriptures.” People who try the other ways get nowhere—a dead end!

Isaiah 8:19–20 MSG

For Example - Yoga

➤ The Background

Spiritual practice, deeply rooted in Hinduism

➤ The Practice

Union with, or yoking with, Brahman

➤ The Other Things

¹²For 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.

Ephesians 6:12 NIV

Possessed, Oppressed, Obsessed, Professed

¹⁴But I am not surprised! Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

¹⁵So it is no wonder that his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness...

2 Corinthians 11:14–15 NLT

¹Delightfully loved friends, don't trust every spirit, but carefully examine what they say to determine if they are of God, because many false prophets have mingled into the world.

1 John 4:1 TPT

¹¹Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.

Ephesians 5:11 NIV

¹¹so that we would not be exploited by the adversary, Satan, for we know his clever schemes. ¹²Just because something is technically legal doesn't mean that it's spiritually appropriate. If I went around doing whatever I thought I could get by with, I'd be a slave to my whims.

1 Corinthians 6:12 TPT, MSG

¹The Holy Spirit has explicitly revealed: At the end of this age, many will depart from the true faith one after another, devoting themselves to spirits of deception and following demon-inspired revelations and theories.

1 Timothy 4:1 TPT

Bottom Line:

Be aware, not scared,

that the supernatural

is only a stretch and a breath away!

Resources for this message include a message by James Emery White at Mecklenburg Community Church, Summit Church, and devotional thoughts from *Time of Grace*.

To help you turn what God is saying to you into action steps, consider using the Think It Over section on the back.