

PRAYER STUDY #87 FAMILIAR SPIRITS

Then Said Saul unto his servants, "Seek me a woman that hath a FAMILIAR SPIRIT, that I may go to her and enquire of her." And his servants said to him, "Behold, there is a woman that hath a FAMILIAR SPIRIT at Endor." And Saul disguised himself and put on other raiment, and he went and two men with him, and they came to the woman by night, and he said, "I pray thee, divine unto me by the FAMILIAR SPIRIT and bring me him up, whom I shall name unto thee."

1 Samuel 28:7,8

In her excellent book *How to Try a Spirit*, Mary Garrison categorizes all demonic spirits into twelve categories based on what scripture calls demonic spirits:

1. SPIRIT OF BONDAGE-Romans 8:15
2. SPIRIT OF FEAR-2nd Timothy 1:7
3. DUMB AND DEAF SPIRIT-Mark 9:25-26
4. SPIRIT OF HEAVINESS-Isaiah 61:3
5. SPIRIT OF INFIRMITY-Luke 13:11
6. SPIRIT OF JEALOUSY-Numbers 5:14
7. PERVERSE SPIRIT-Isaiah 19:14
8. SPIRIT OF DIVINATION AND FAMILIAR SPIRIT-1st Samuel 28:7-8
9. SPIRIT OF WHOREDOMS-Hosea 4:12
10. SPIRIT OF HAUGHTINESS-Proverbs 16:18-19
11. LYING SPIRIT-2nd Chronicles 18:22
12. ANTICHRIST SPIRIT-1st John 4:3

A Familiar Spirit is an evil or unclean spirit that is familiar with people, places, or situations. These spirits often bring about generational patterns and cycles of bondages, addictions, and spiritual difficulties in generations of families. Perry Stone

These spirits are mentioned in the Old Testament in Leviticus 19:31, 20:6, 20:27; Deuteronomy 18:9-14; 1st Samuel 28:7-9; 2nd king 21:6, 23:24; 1st Chronicles 10:13-14; 2nd Chronicles 33:6; Isaiah 8:19, 19:3, 29:4.

In the new Testament, Familiar Spirits are found in Matthew (:32, 12:43-45, 15:22, 17:15-18; Mark 5:1-20, 9:17-26; Acts 16:16-18, 19:15-16; 1st Timothy 4:1.

These spirits have become accustomed to the lifestyles, moods and behavioural patterns of an individual life making them impossible to detect unless the holy spirit is revealing.

Those who are controlled by familiar spirit are not able to discern if these patterns are part of their lifestyles or are they motivated by these spirits.

Dr. Jonathan David

Ida Mae and Frank Hammond, authors of *Pigs in the Parlor*, list the following as a partial list of ways that people can and do acquire familiar spirits:

1. Divination(spirit mediums, witches, Haitian voodoo, water witching, Ouija Boards, psychics, etc.)
2. Transcendental Meditation
3. Imaginary Playmates
4. Visualization
5. Drugs
6. Rock Music
7. Games and toys(ex. Dungeons and Dragons)
8. Conversing with demons during deliverance
9. Necromancy(Communication with spirits of the dead)
10. Incubus and Succubus

Dealing with Familiar Spirits

By Dr. Jonathan David

- I. **Familiar Spirits have become familiar with a person's lifestyle, its moods and behavioral patterns.** They have learnt to work around the person's character. They have become accustomed to his ways and behavioural patterns. They have taken time to study your weaknesses and strengths. They have infiltrated your emotional and thought patterns. They know how you will react or act in various situations. They know your comfort zones as well as explosive zones.
- II. **Familiar Spirits open doors for other spirits to invade your life.** They are informers of areas that are open to sin. They know the entrance points of your heart and life. They know your past history and intimidate future advancement. They know how to afflict our weaknesses and keep us sorrowful. They control us by the past weaknesses and failures.
- III. **Familiar Spirits are Residential Spirits.** They stay with the individual or family. They sometimes carry forward from past generations. They are permitted by other spirits to move with you to different places or cities. They can choose not to follow you but stay in your home. They can only influence the person they have

taken position to reside with. Spirits familiar with you may not be familiar with me.

- IV. **Familiar Spirits refuse us to change.** They make us resent change and fear of losing our comfort. They depress us with the cost of allowing change until it becomes distasteful in our sight and unwarranted. They cushion our comfort zones with well-padded thought patterns and humanistic reasoning. They stir our emotions until we are upset with change and we feel change is a nuisance and it is inconvenient.
- V. **Familiar Spirits thrive in unrepentant lives.** They can dominate the Cycle of Continual Defeat. They open doors to religious spirits who often cause us to put more value on rituals, religious ways instead of RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS. They afflict us with the sense of guilt and condemnation by tormenting us with sin-conscious.
- VI. **Familiar Spirits are responsible to transfer a problem, a sickness or a curse from one generation to another.** Spirits do not die and thus they are capable to carry it into many generations. They also work to establish themselves through natural genes of the family lineage. The similarity of personality and character exposes the new generation to the old sins. These spirits attack also on the same areas of temptation on that family.
- VII. **Familiar Spirits control regular negative emotional cycles.** They control outbursts of anger, depression, swings of moods, bitterness, etc. They engineer circumstances in your life to allow the continual manifestation of these cycles. They control the thought patterns that govern these areas so that we see no reason to change. These areas are seen as “weapons” we can use for our benefit instead of calling it as sin.

Ida Mae and Frank Hammond’s prayer to be set free from a Familiar Spirit:

Lord Jesus, I belong to You. You have saved me and redeemed me by Your blood. I have need of no spirit other than THE HOLY SPIRIT. Forgive me for having sought from other spirits that which should only come from You. I renounce and separate myself from all familiar spirits, however acquired. I call upon You, Lord, to deliver me from the lies and deceptions of familiar spirits. Teach me Your truth and Your ways. It is my earnest desire to walk in Your will and to glorify Your name. Amen.

Satan, I renounce you, and I take back all the ground that I ever yielded to you. God is my source of wisdom, knowledge, guidance and power. You familiar spirit, leave me, in the name of Jesus.

Thank you Lord Jesus for delivering me and cleansing me from all unrighteousness by Your precious blood. In Jesus' name. Amen.

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I recalled a term I had once heard but did not understand: **familiar spirit**. Did it possibly refer to some kind of evil power that attached itself to the members of a family, moving down from generation to generation?

I thought about an aspect of my father's character that had always puzzled me. He was a good, moral man and a successful officer who had retired from the Army with the rank of colonel. For 98 percent of the time he behaved like the English gentleman he was. But during the fractional two percent of the time, I had seen something in him quite alien to his own personality. Some apparently trivial incident would upset him and, for as long as 24 hours, he would lapse into rigid, stony silence. He would shut himself off from my mother and would not open his mouth to say thank-you for a cup of tea. Then, with no apparent reason, he would return to his normal, well-mannered self.

With this new insight, I saw that a similar "dark spirit" had followed me through my life, from childhood onward. Apparently it had studied my temperament and was familiar with my weaknesses and my reactions. It knew just when I would be most vulnerable to its pressures. It now had one main objective: to prevent me from serving Christ effectively.

This was a decisive moment in my life. I had always regarded my depression and negative attitude as an expression of my own character-something I had been born with. I had felt guilty that I was not a "better" Christian. Now it became clear to me that my struggle was not against part of my own personality at all.

Immediately the Holy Spirit brought to my mind the promise of Joel 2:32: "And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered." From my study of Hebrew, I knew this verb also means "to save, to rescue." I determined to apply this promise and to act on it. I said a simple prayer that went something like this: "Lord, You've shown me that I have been oppressed by a spirit of heaviness, but You have promised in Your Word that if I call on Your name, I shall be delivered. So I'm calling on You now to deliver me, in the name of Jesus!"

The response was immediate. Something like a huge, heavenly vacuum cleaner came down over me and sucked away the gray mist that shrouded my head and shoulders. At the same time a pressure in the area of my chest was forcibly released, and I gave a little gasp.

God had answered my prayer. Suddenly everything around me seemed brighter. I felt as if a heavy burden had been lifted from my shoulders. I was free! All my life I had been under that oppression. It felt strange to be free. But I discovered quickly that freedom was normal and that oppression was abnormal.

My old enemy did not give up on me; I still had to struggle against depression. But the great difference now was that its attacks came from without, not from within. I gradually learned how to withstand it.