There Be Ghosts

Matthew 14:26

Introduction:

1. There has always been a fascination with the paranormal.
2. What does the Bible say about ghosts?

I. WHAT IS A GHOST?

A. The definition of ghost.
   1. A ghost is an apparition. (Matt. 14.26)
   2. A ghost is the breath of life. (Acts 5.5)
   3. A ghost is a spirit being. (Acts 5.3; 7.59)

B. The description of ghosts.
   1. Does not have physical properties. (Luke 24.36-39)
   2. God is a Spirit Being. (John 4.24)
   3. We are spirit beings. (Gen. 2.7; 2 Cor. 4.16-18)

II. DO GHOSTS EXIST?

A. Ghosts do not exist as portrayed by Hollywood.

B. There are three groups of ghosts that exist today.
   1. The existence of angels. (Heb. 1.14; 2.7)
   2. The existence of demons. (Eph. 6.12)
   3. The existence of disembodied spirits, people who have died. (Luke 24.37; Matt. 10.28; Acts 23.8)

III. DO GHOSTS WALK AMONG US?

A. Angels are spirit beings who walk among us.
   1. **Psalm 34.7:** *"The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him"*
   2. **Hebrews 12.3:** Have you entertained angels?

B. Do those who have passed away walk among us?
   1. The dead do not return. (Job 7.9,10)
   2. Where are the dead now? (Luke 16.22,23; 23.43)
   3. The dead are not permitted to leave. (Luke 16.26-28)

Conclusion: Where will you be the moment after death?

Northside Church of Christ **October 25, 2026**
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Northside Church of Christ

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"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature"
-Mark 16.15

October 25, 2026

Meeting Times:

Sunday Morning Bible Class : 9:00 am
Sunday Morning Worship: 9:50 am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6:00 pm
Wednesday Evening Bible Class 7:00 pm

God Cares For Each Person

God does not care for us as a group but as individuals. (Heb. 2.9). God loves you and is concerned about your spiritual condition individually. Jesus gave His life for you an individual (2 Pet. 3.9).

Luke 15 is about individuals. Jesus went after the one sheep who went astray. The woman went searching her house for the one coin that was lost. The point of these accounts is that everyone is important to God. This was something that the Pharisees did not see as they devalued tax collectors and sinners and would have nothing to do with them. However, God cared for them as He cares about all people as individuals.

It does not matter how many people are in the world, God is concerned about you personally. In the teachings of Christ concerning the Good Shepherd, Jesus says that the Shepherd knows His sheep by name (John 10.3). When we come to Christ and obey His gospel, we do not do so as a group but as individuals.

In Acts 8, we read about the Ethiopian Eunuch. Philip was sent to save this individual. This was a man who was alone. He was not part of a large crowd. God did not decide that this was a waste of time and manpower. God called Philip to preach to this one individual.

When you feel lost in the crowd or forgotten by the world, remember that the Lord sees you, knows you by name, and cares for you personally. Let us follow His example by taking time to love and serve the individuals around us who are in need. CLP

Jesus: The Reason We Worship

Acts 18:13

Introduction:

1. What motivates you to come and worship God? (Eph. 3.10)
2. In Acts 18, Paul is coming to the end of his second missionary journey. In this text, we see four pairs of twos.
3. To them, Jesus was the motive behind their worship.

I. BREAKING DOWN THE TEXT

A. The journey of Paul.
   1. **Acts 18.1:** *"from Athens and went to Corinth."*
   2. The city of Corinth was known for immorality.

B. The companions of Paul.
   1. **Acts 18.2,3:** Aquila and Priscilla. (cf. 1 Cor. 16.19)
   2, **Acts 18.4,5:** Silas and Timothy.

C. The opposition to Paul.
   1. **Acts 18.6,7:** *"opposed him and blasphemed"*
   2. **Acts 18.8:** *"Then Crispus…believed"* (cf. 1 Cor. 1.14)
   3. **Acts 18.9-11:** Paul was reassured. (cf. Acts 14.19)

D. The trial of Paul.
   1. **Acts 18.12,13:** The accusation.
   2. **Acts 18.14,15:** The governor's verdict.
   3. **Acts 18.16,17:** The Jews response.

E. The return trip of Paul.
   1. **Acts 18.18-23:** Paul returns to Antioch.
   2. His mission was both successful and difficult.

II. WHAT DID JESUS MEAN TO THEM?

A. Purification: Jesus is the path to being cleansed.
   1. The Jews understood cleansing. (Heb. 6.2)
   2. **Acts 18.8:** Many *"believed and were baptized"*
   3. Cleansing happens at baptism. (Acts 22.16; 1 Cor. 6.11)

B. Praise: Jesus is the reason we worship.
   1. The Jews understood worship.
   2. **Acts 18.13:** *"This fellow persuades men to worship God contrary to the law"* What did Paul preach?
   3. Jesus motivates us to worship. (Rev. 5.9,12)

Conclusion: No matter who you are, Jesus is the way to purification and the reason for praise.

Did the Witch of En Dor Bring up Samuel?

King Saul was terrified. In 1 Samuel 28, the Philistine army gathered for war, and when Saul saw them, *"he was afraid, and his heart trembled greatly"* (1 Sam. 28.5). He inquired of the Lord, *"but the Lord did not answer him, either by dreams or by Urim or by the prophets"* (1 Sam. 28.6). And that because Saul had stubbornly refused to obey God's voice. In his desperation, Saul disguised himself and traveled by night to consult a medium at En Dor, asking her to bring up the prophet Samuel from the dead (1 Sam. 28.7-11). Did the witch of Endor really have the power to bring Samuel back from the dead?

First, there is a shock. After the medium summoned Samuel, verse 12 says that *"When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out with a loud voice"* (1 Sam. 28.12). If she regularly summoned spirits of the dead, seeing Samuel would have been another night at the office. She screamed in terror because she was used to faking it, and this time something real happened. The woman did not bring Samuel up by her own power. God sent Samuel back to deliver one final message of judgment.

Second, there is a sentence from the Lord. Skip down to verse 15 and listen to what Samuel says. He asks Saul, *"So why do you ask me, seeing the Lord has departed from you and has become your enemy?"* (1 Sam. 28.16). Samuel does not give Saul the comfort he wanted. Instead, he reminds Saul of his past rebellion against God's command regarding Amalek (1 Sam. 28.18) and pronounces his doom: *"Moreover the Lord will also deliver Israel with you into the hand of the Philistines. And tomorrow you and your sons will be with me"* (1 Sam. 28.19). The next day, Saul and his sons would join Samuel in the unseen spirit realm.

Third, there is a summary of Saul's life. Connect this with 1 Chronicles 10.13,14: *"So Saul died for his unfaithfulness which he had committed against the Lord, because he did not keep the word of the Lord, and also because he consulted a medium for guidance. But he did not inquire of the Lord; therefore He killed him."* 1 Samuel 28.6 says Saul inquired of the Lord, but 1 Chronicles 10.14 says he did not. Saul only wanted God's help when he was backed into a corner, not because he had a penitent heart that wanted to submit to God's will.

Disobedience to God is a serious thing. You and I cannot ignore God's word when life is easy and then expect Him to bail us out on our own terms when trouble comes. We do not need mediums, psychics, or worldly substitutes when we have the completed word of God right in front of us (2 Tim. 3.16,17). Are you truly inquiring of the Lord today with an obedient heart, or are you only looking for Him when you are in a bind?

CLP