



Berean Christian Fellowship

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Our Sin is Like Divination

“For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He has also rejected you from being king” (1 Samuel 15:23 ESV).

So often, we see our sin as beginning and ending in us. We don't always see the invisible spiritual “chemistry” going on in our hearts that inspires our rebellion against God's Word.

Whether “harmless” lies or unabashed genocide, all is sin against God—rebellion against His Word, which He says “*goes out from My mouth; it shall not return to Me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it*” (Isaiah 55:11). Rebellion against God's Word is just like divination. What does that mean? It comes from the Latin *divinare*, which means “to foresee, **to be inspired by a god.**” Sin is like being inspired by a god—the One True God, for God does not inspire us to rebellion against Himself. Ultimately, this “god” means satan, who through the first rebellion against God's Word has inspired rebellions against God ever since. He was the first to put his word over God's Word, inspiring the rebellion of the King of Babylon with these ancient words: “*I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High*” (Isaiah 14:13-14).

In essence, he was saying, “I will make myself my God, so I can have my own way.” But satan and all self-willed people will be “*brought down to Sheol, to the far reaches of the pit*” (Isaiah 14:15), for Jesus is coming “*to execute judgment on all and to convict all the*

ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way” (Jude 1:15b). Until then, satan remains the false god of this world whose inspiration leads man to rebel against God.

What does “inspiration” mean? It comes from the Latin *inspirare*, which means “breath or blow into.” What we say in our heart or by our mouth is often inspired. But by whom? This is precisely why Job asked Bildad, “*With whose help have you uttered words, and whose breath [spirit] has come out from you?*” (Job 26:4) God's Word comes by His Holy Spirit to man, for “*it is the spirit in man, the breath of the Almighty, that makes him understand*” (Job 32:8) (see also Acts 2:4). The Believer is inspired with God's breath: “*do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?*” (1 Cor. 3:16).

Similarly, man is also inspired by satan's spirit to rebel against God, committing all acts of wickedness and self-will, leading to spiritual and physical death. So, when we sin, we are practicing divination in God's eyes, because we do not seek the inspiration of His Word, but the corrupt and ungodly inspiration of Lucifer, to do for ourselves what we willfully desire (James 1:14).

While the unbelieving world is hopelessly under his influence, the Believer has great hope, because “*we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit Who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God*” (1 Cor. 2:12)—“*all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us to His own glory and excellence, by which He has granted to us His precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire*” (2 Peter 1:3b-4). Amen.