Familiar Spirits: What You Should Know

**What is a "Familiar Spirit"?**

A familiar spirit, is a spirit, or entity that appears "familiar" to the living. It will appear by visual, action, scent, and/or sound as a person who has since passed away. They also may appear as someone who is still living, almost mocking them. They have the power to look, sound, smell and act like a human in "spirit" form. They may even come in the form of a pet that has passed away. While many view these beings harmless, they are quite the opposite, in fact, they are not spirits at all, but demons of trickery and mockery. In Leviticus 19:31; 20:6; 27 and Deuteronomy 18:9-14 the bible refers to “mediums and familiar spirits” and forbids being involved with them. Why? It is an abomination to the Lord and very, VERY dangerous to try to have relationships/communication with these "spirits".

**What is a Medium?**

*A medium is a person who acts as a pathway or "go-between" to supposedly contact and communicate with the dead. In modern times they were called sorcerers and witches. This practice was banned in Israel and the punishment for practicing such things was death. ie: the witch of Endor*

**What is a Familiar Spirit's purpose?**

Familiar spirits (demons) are under the control of Satan. They are used to manipulate, control, and confuse us. They often cause us to fight with our family members in our homes. They will cause vicious fights between siblings, problems between husband and wife and even provoke thoughts and feelings one would normally not have all in order to torture us. They can even cause physical pain and disease. Many will travel throughout families. They are then called "Generational Spirits" and with them, they bring "Generational curses"! Don't for one second think anything about them is good... THEY ARE DEMONS!

**How does one come in contact/contract with a Familiar Spirit?**

These demons can gain entrance into someone's life thru divination, transcendental meditation, visualization, necromancy, witchcraft, drugs, and alcohol. They can also enter into one's life by means of an object that carries deep rooted curses. Even newly made objects still can carry a curse, such as a "dragon". The dragon symbolizes the Devil, hatred, pride, power, control and supreme strength. Any dragon object could carry a curse with it and yet if it does not, it surely acts as an open window into your life and home for a demon to enter. That is just one example, there are MANY objects that can let these "spirits" into your life. Even hidden symbols can unlock portals to the demon realms.

We must remember that the only spirits/ghosts that we come in contact with are DEMONS. We, the living, have NO WAY of contacting with our dead loved ones. We don't have the power or authority for this. The only spirits who can freely come and go are DEMONS and ANGELS; That is it! We are not to mess with demons in any way, shape or form. You do not want the company of a demon, regardless of how "harmless" it may seem. They are evil beings who want to destroy your life.
Deuteronomy:18:10-13 “There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee. Thou shalt be perfect with the LORD thy God.”
"What are familiar spirits?"

The word *familiar* is from the Latin *familiaris*, meaning a "household servant," and is intended to express the idea that sorcerers had spirits as their servants ready to obey their commands. Those attempting to contact the dead, even to this day, usually have some sort of spirit guide who communicates with them. These are familiar spirits.

*Leviticus 19:31; 20:6, 27; and Deuteronomy 18:9-14* refer to "mediums and familiar spirits" and forbids being involved with them, as they are an abomination to the Lord. A medium is one who acts as a liaison to supposedly contact or communicate with the dead on behalf of the living. In reality mediums are contacting demons who convince the mediums that they are "familiar" and can be trusted and believed. The practices associated with mediums and familiar spirits were banned in Israel, and the punishment for practicing such things was death.

Familiar spirits and spirit guides are under the control of their master, Satan. They influence people to spread lies and deceit in order to thwart the kingdom of God. To knowingly open oneself to the work of demons is an evil thing: "Let no one be found among you who sacrifices his son or daughter in [a] fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the LORD" (*Deuteronomy 18:10-12a*).

Some avenues through which demons or "familiar spirits" can gain entrance into a person's life are divination, *transcendental meditation*, visualization, necromancy, witchcraft, drugs, and alcohol. These are all activities that believers are exhorted to avoid. Instead, we are to be filled with the Holy Spirit, with love, with joy, and with the fullness of life that comes from Jesus Christ. We are also to be on guard, "for 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*).
How Do We Deal with Familiar Spirits?

Scripture identifies familiar spirits as demons (not fallen angels) which can empower human beings with supernatural ability (*Acts 16:16-19 NIV*). Familiar spirits are the source of power behind all forms of magick, witchcraft, sorcery, enchantments, and any activity which falls under the umbrella of the occult.

(Familiar/demonic spirits can also oppress human beings.)

As Christians, we need to be aware of the spiritual battle which wages in the unseen world around us. We are drawn into this battle through temptation and spiritual attack by the enemy. This is a reality we don't need to overemphasize (ie: blaming every bad or difficult situation on demonic spirits) but acknowledge with wisdom and discernment.

The original question is "How do we deal with familiar (demonic) spirits?" The answer is found in *Ephesians 6:10-20 (NLT)*

"A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

Therefore, put on every piece of God’s armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God’s righteousness. For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere. And pray for me, too. Ask God to give me the right words so I can boldly explain God’s mysterious plan that the Good News is for Jews and Gentiles alike. I am in chains now, still preaching this message as God’s ambassador. So pray that I will keep on speaking boldly for him, as I should."

As we can see from these verses, God has equipped us to stand firm in the spiritual battle we find ourselves in. When we accept JESUS as Savior and Lord, we are given the authority of His name—which familiar/demonic spirits are compelled to obey (*Mark 16:17 NLT*). We don't want to give the enemy too much credit or dismiss him entirely, but we also have no reason to be fearful.

Dealing with familiar/demonic spirits as a Christian means we always remember who we serve.

God is our strength and shield (*Psalm 28:7 NLT*). He walks beside us (*Psalm 23:4 NIV*) even when we are not aware of presence. He is faithful to keep His promises, We are called to stand firm in the authority of Jesus name, not giving into fear. We can stand boldly in power, love, and self control.
Where Did Demons Come From

In Genesis 6:1-4, we read the following….

And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, that the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose. And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years. There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.

One of the key phrases in the passage above is “and also after that”. Most serious students of Bible prophecy understand that there were giants on the earth before the flood, but many do not realize that the Scriptures also tell us that there were giants on the earth after the flood.

One of these races of giants was known as the Rephaim.

Rephaim rendered in English as Rephaite refers to dead spirits (shades), who are residents of the Netherworld, or to a race of giants occurring in the Hebrew Bible as well as other, non-Jewish ancient texts from the Middle East.

Rephaim can also describe ancient “tribes” of giants in (1300 – 600 BC) in Iron Age Israel, or the places where these individuals lived.

The area of Moab at Ar, (the region East of the Jordan) before the time of Moses, was also considered the land of the Rephaite. Deuteronomy 2:18-21 refers to the fact that Ammonites called them “Zamzummim”. The Zamzummim were a people called Anakite (or Rephaite) a race of giants who lived in the lower Mediterranean coastal plain until the ancestors of the Philistines expelled them. Chedorlaomer, in Genesis 14, defeated them. The Zamzummim may have originated from the ancient Caphtorites whose ancestors are identified as Cretans’ (Miriam Lichtheim, Ancient Egyptian Literature, 2:37-38; ANET 138). Crete is steeped in Greek mythology.

In Arabic Zamzummim is zamzama it means to murmur, drone according to the theological dictionary of the OT, and Wikipedia defines it as “to rumble”, “roll” and “thunder”. Nefilim bene Ana’ḳ used in Num. 13:33 is reported in the Koran as “jabbarun”, or ”jabbar” (sura v. 25) meaning in English a giant.

Also written as raf’-a-im, ra-fa’-im, but the Codex Vaticanus omits it while the Codex Sinaiticus and Codex Alexandrinus have Rhapha(e).

Deuteronomy 2:20, “That also was accounted a land of giants: giants dwelt therein in old time; and the Ammonites call them Zamzummim;”.

The many references to repha’im in the Hebrew Bible in contexts involving Sheol and dead spirits strongly suggests it refers as well to the residents of the Sheol. In the Bible, examples of this usage are Isa. 14:9, 26:14, 19; Ps. 88:11; Prov. 2:18, 9:18, 21:16; Job. 26:5.

Sometimes Rephaim and Nephilim are used interchangeably. Giants in the Hebrew text are described as those “who ruined the world” (by their violence, (Enoch vii. 3, 4). These giants are descended from the fallen angels and the daughters of Adam. They comprise three classes: the original giants, who begot the Nephilim, to whom in turn, were born the Eliud (Book of Enoch, vii. 2).
There are three names employed to describe these “fallen ones” “Nephilim,” “Gibborim,” and “Anakim” In the Book of Jubilees these Nephilim “fought with one another” to their destruction.

In Rabbinic literature, the Rabbies concede that these giants had many names. They were called, “Emim,” because whoever saw one of them was seized with terror, “Rephaim,” because their sight made people “soft” (fearful) like wax. “Gibborim,” because their brains alone measured 18 ells, (45 feet by this authors calculations) “Zamzummim,” because they inspired fear and were fierce warriors, “Anakim,” because they wore huge necklaces in great numbers, “Avim,” because they destroyed the world and were themselves destroyed, “Nefilim,” because they caused the world to fall and fell themselves (Ber. R.27).

Cabalistic writer Recanate in particular alleged that giants were called, “Men of the Name” because they imparted to men the mysteries of the names of demons. This is confirmed by the indication in the Book of Jubilees that the fallen angels taught men enchantments.

In addition, several rows of teeth were attributed to giants (Ḥul. 60a). They were alledged to eat as many as a thousand oxen, horses, and camels each day according to the Midrash (Abkir). When these were exhausted, they eat the inhabitants of the land.

The Fallen Angels created the Nephilim, and Rephaim and the Nephilim became the mighty men of old, and later in death the demons or “shades”.

“Let not the dead live, let not the giants rise again…” (Douay-Rheims Version, Isaiah 26:14)

Giants are the, “Demons”

You would think by the rarity of mention that demons must not exist or perhaps wander in the trash dumps. The Book of Enoch as well as the Bible tells us what became of these departed spirits of the Nephilim. The Nephilim became what we know now as “demons.” This is seen in Lev. 17:7; Deu. 32:17; II Chr. 11:15; Psa. 106:37,Job 26

“The Rephaim are formed, Beneath the waters, also their inhabitants”.

“The dead are in deep anguish, those beneath the waters and all that live in them”.

Noah’s flood destroyed their bodies, but now they are disembodied spirits looking for a body through which it might once again affect its evil ways.

ENOCH 15:8

“And now, the giants, who are produced from the spirits and flesh, shall be called evil spirits upon the earth, and on the earth shall be their dwelling. Evil spirits have proceeded from their bodies; because they are born from men and from the holy”

In the New Testament, they are called “demons,” “unclean spirits,” and “evil spirits.”
The Earlier Church Fathers on Demons and Giants

Fathers of the Third and Fourth Centuries: Lactantius, Venantius, Asterius, Victorinus, Dionysius, Apostolic Teaching and Constitutions

“When, therefore, the number of men had begun to increase, God in His forethought, lest the devil, to whom from the beginning He had given power over the earth, should by his subtilty either corrupt or destroy men, as he had done at first, sent angels for the protection and improvement of the human race; and inasmuch as He had given these a free will, He enjoined them above all things not to defile themselves with contamination from the earth, and thus lose the dignity of their heavenly nature substantia, “essence.” He plainly prohibited them from doing that which He knew that they would do, that they might entertain no hope of pardon. Therefore, while they abode among men, that most deceitful ruler. See 2 Cor. iv. 4, “the god of this world.” of the earth, by his very association, gradually enticed them to vices, and polluted them by intercourse with women. Then, not being admitted into heaven on account of the sins into which they had plunged themselves, they fell to the earth. Thus from angels the devil makes them to become his satellites and attendants. But they who were born from these, because they were neither angels nor men, but bearing a kind of mixed Middle nature, were not admitted into hell, as their fathers were not into heaven. Thus there came to be two kinds of demons; one of heaven, the other of the earth. The latter are the wicked Unclean spirits, the authors of all the evils which are done, and the same devil is their prince. Whence Trismegistus calls him the ruler of the demons. But grammarians say that they are called demons, as though deiones. Plato approves of the etymology given by Lactantius; for he says that good men, distinguished by great honours, after their death became demons, in accordance with this title of prudence and wisdom. [See the whole subject in Lewis’ Plato, etc., p. 347. That is, skilled and acquainted with matters: for they think that these are gods. They are acquainted, indeed, with many future events, but not all, since it is not permitted them entirely to know the counsel of God; and therefore they are accustomed to accommodate. To combine, qualify, or temperate their answers to ambiguous results. The poets both know them to be demons, and so describe them. Hesiod thus speaks, “These are the demons according to the will of Zeus, Good, living on the earth, the guardians of mortal men.” And this is said for this purpose, because God had sent them as guardians to the human race; but they themselves also, though they are the destroyers of men, yet wish themselves to appear as their guardians, that they themselves may be worshipped, and God may not be worshipped. The philosophers also discuss the subject of these beings. For Plato attempted even to explain their natures in his “Banquet;” and Socrates said that there was a demon continually about him, who had become attached to him when a boy, by whose will and direction his life was guided. The art also and power of the Magi altogether consists in the influences and Aspirations of these; invoked by whom they deceive the sight of men with deceptive illusions, Blinding tricks, juggleries so that they do not see those things which exist, and think that they see those things which do not exist. These contaminated and abandoned spirits, as I say, wander over the whole earth, and contrive a solace for their own perdition by the destruction of men. Therefore they fill every place with snares, deceits, frauds, and errors; for they cling to individuals, and occupy whole houses from door to door, and assume to themselves the name of genii; for by this word they translate demons in the Latin language. They consecrate these in their houses, to these they daily pour out They lavish. The word implies profuse and excessive libations of wine, and worship the wise demons as gods of the earth, and as averters of those evils which they themselves cause and impose. And these, since spirits are without substance. Thin, unsubstantial, as opposed to corporeal. The ancients inclined to the opinion that angels had a body, not like that of man, but of a slight and more subtle nature. Probably Lactantius refers to this idea in using the word tenuis. How opposed this view is to Scripture is manifest. [Not so manifest as our translator supposes. I do not assert what Lactantius says to be scripturally correct: but it certainly is not opposed to many facts as Scripture states them; whether figuratively or otherwise, I do not venture a suggestion.] and not to be grasped, insinuate themselves into the bodies of men; and secretly working in their inward parts, they corrupt the health, hasten diseases, terrify their souls with dreams, harass their minds with phrenzies, that by these evils they may compel men to have recourse to their aid.”
Familiar Spirits In Scripture

**Exodus 7:11**
Then Pharaoh summoned the wise men and the sorcerers, and they, the magicians of Egypt, also did the same by their secret arts.

**Exodus 22:18**
“You shall not permit a sorceress to live.

**Leviticus 19:31**
“Do not turn to mediums or necromancers; do not seek them out, and so make yourselves unclean by them: I am the Lord your God.

**Leviticus 20:6**
“If a person turns to mediums and necromancers, whoring after them, I will set my face against that person and will cut him off from among his people.

**Leviticus 20:27**
“A man or a woman who is a medium or a necromancer shall surely be put to death. They shall be stoned with stones; their blood shall be upon them.”

**Deuteronomy 18:10**
There shall not be found among you anyone who burns his son or his daughter as an offering, anyone who practices divination or tells fortunes or interprets omens, or a sorcerer

**Deuteronomy 18:11**
Or a charmer or a medium or a necromancer or one who inquires of the dead,

**Deuteronomy 18:14**
For these nations, which you are about to dispossess, listen to fortune-tellers and to diviners. But as for you, the Lord your God has not allowed you to do this.

**Deuteronomy 18:9-14**
“When you come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominable practices of those nations. There shall not be found among you anyone who burns his son or his daughter as an offering, anyone who practices divination or tells fortunes or interprets omens, or a sorcerer or a charmer or a medium or a necromancer or one who inquires of the dead, for whoever does these things is an abomination to the Lord. And because of these abominations the Lord your God is driving them out before you. You shall be blameless before the Lord your God, ...
Now Samuel had died, and all Israel had mourned for him and buried him in Ramah, his own city. And Saul had put the mediums and the necromancers out of the land. The Philistines assembled and came and encamped at Shunem. And Saul gathered all Israel, and they encamped at Gilboa. When Saul saw the army of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart trembled greatly. And when Saul inquired of the Lord, the Lord did not answer him, either by dreams, or by Urim, or by prophets. Then Saul said to his servants, “Seek out for me a woman who is a medium, that I may go to her and inquire of her.” And his servants said to him, “Behold, there is a medium at En-dor.” ...  

And Saul disguised himself, and put on another 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. And the woman said unto him, “Behold, thou knowest what Saul hath done, how he hath cut off those that have familiar spirits, and the wizards, out of the land: wherefore then layest thou a snare for my life, to cause me to die? And Saul swore to her by the Lord, saying, “As the Lord liveth, there shall no punishment happen to thee for this thing. Then said the woman, “Whom shall I bring up unto thee?” And he said, “Bring me up Samuel.” 2 And when the woman saw Samuel, she cried with a loud voice: and the woman spake to Saul, saying, “Why hast thou deceived me? for thou art Saul.  

And when Joram saw Jehu, he said, “Is it peace, Jehu?” He answered, “What peace can there be, so long as the whorings and the sorceries of your mother Jezebel are so many?”  

And they burned their sons and their daughters as offerings and used divination and omens and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the Lord, provoking him to anger.  

And he burned his son as an offering and used fortune-telling and omens and dealt with mediums and with necromancers. He did much evil in the sight of the Lord, provoking him to anger.  

Moreover, Josiah put away the mediums and the necromancers and the household gods and the idols and all the abominations that were seen in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, that he might establish the words of the law that were written in the book that Hilkiah the priest found in the house of the Lord.  

So Saul died for his breach of faith. He broke faith with the Lord in that he did not keep the command of the Lord, and also consulted a medium, seeking guidance.  

So Saul died for his breach of faith. He broke faith with the Lord in that he did not keep the command of the Lord, and also consulted a medium, seeking guidance. He did not seek guidance from the Lord. Therefore the Lord put him to death and turned the kingdom over to David the son of Jesse.  

And he burned his sons as an offering in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, and used fortune-telling and omens and sorcery, and dealt with mediums and with necromancers. He did much evil in the sight of the Lord, provoking him to anger.
Isaiah 8:19
And when they say to you, “Inquire of the mediums and the necromancers who chirp and mutter,” should not a people inquire of their God? Should they inquire of the dead on behalf of the living?

Isaiah 19:3
And the spirit of the Egyptians within them will be emptied out, and I will confound their counsel; and they will inquire of the idols and the sorcerers, and the mediums and the necromancers;

Daniel 2:27
Daniel answered the king and said, “No wise men, enchanters, magicians, or astrologers can show to the king the mystery that the king has asked,

Micah 5:12
And I will cut off sorceries from your hand, and you shall have no more tellers of fortunes;

Nahum 3:4
And all for the countless whorings of the prostitute, graceful and of deadly charms, who betrays nations with her whorings, and peoples with her charms.

Luke 16:27-31
And he said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house— for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.’ But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.’ And he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ He said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.’”

Acts 8:9
But there was a man named Simon, who had previously practiced magic in the city and amazed the people of Samaria, saying that he himself was somebody great.

Acts 16:16-18
As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling. She followed Paul and us, crying out, “These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation.” And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And it came out that very hour.

Acts 19:19
And a number of those who had practiced magic arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted the value of them and found it came to fifty thousand pieces of silver.

Galatians 5:20
Idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions,

Revelation 18:23
And the light of a lamp will shine in you no more, and the voice of bridegroom and bride will be heard in you no more, for your merchants were the great ones of the earth, and all nations were deceived by your sorcery.
Revelation 21:8
But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”

Revelation 22:15
Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.