

En Theos

Enthusiasm for the Faith

Q *Is it wrong to go to someone who claims to speak to the dead? I've been invited to go to see a medium and am not sure if I should.*

A The Bible is very clear that consulting with ghosts and spirits or seeking oracles from the dead are an abomination to the Lord. According to Deuteronomy 18:10-12, "Let there not be found among you anyone who [is a]...caster of spells, nor one who consults ghosts and spirits or seeks oracles from the dead. Anyone who does such things is an abomination to the LORD..."

There is something about the whole process of speaking with the dead that goes against faith and allowing God to be God. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* sums it nicely in paragraph 2116: "conjuring up the dead or other practices falsely supposed to 'unveil' the future...and recourse to mediums all conceal a desire for power over time, history, and, in the last analysis, other human beings, as well as a wish to conciliate hidden powers. They contradict the honor, respect and loving fear we owe to God alone." In other words, the church is not denying that such power may exist, but we live life as the Lord teaches us, trusting in his providence and relying on his will for our lives. We do not seek to grasp control, nor allow others—human or supernatural—to direct our lives. Such practices violate the first commandment.

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