

Question: Some Pentecostals have begun engaging in a practice called "grave sucking", where they think that spiritual gifts/anointing can be transferred from the deceased to the living, especially if they go to the graves of godly people. How does this line up with the Bible?

Answer: This practice is not at all supported in the Bible, and aspects of it are actually strongly condemned.

The only instance of spiritual empowerment being transferred from one human to another is from Elijah to Elisha (2 Kgs 2:9-10). Note that they were both ALIVE when this happened, and if Elisha had not seen Elijah when Elijah was caught up to God, the transfer would not have occurred. The only other case which is close to this is where God "took of the Spirit who was upon [Moses] and placed Him upon the seventy elders" (Num 11:24-30)--once again, Moses and the elders were all alive. There are no other instances of this. The resurrection miracle which occurred when the dead man was tossed into Elisha's tomb involved resurrection, not some transfer of anointing or spiritual gifts from the dead to the living (2 Kgs 13:21).

When the Apostles laid hands on people and those people received gifts of the Holy Spirit (e.g., Acts 8:17), it was not a transfer of power from the Apostles, for Jesus is the one who baptizes in the Holy Spirit (Matt 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16). The gifts of the Holy Spirit which come upon a person are determined by the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 12:11), not humans who might lay hands on another.

Necromancy (communication with the dead) and similar occult practices are explicitly forbidden in the Bible (Deut 18:9-14; Lev 20:27; Rev 21:8). When Saul contacted Samuel through a medium (2 Sam 28), the Bible treats this act of treachery as incredibly evil (1 Chron 10:13), even though Samuel--a true prophet of God--actually showed up (1 Sam 28:14-19).

It thus amazes me that some Pentecostals are engaging in occult practices by visiting graves of godly people who have died, thinking that the "anointing" upon the deceased can transfer to the living. This "grave sucking" practice is about as pagan as it gets (cf. Isa 65:4). If you have gotten caught up in this pagan, syncretistic practice, flee it today, and do all you can to pull other people back to the Truth.

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