

Christian Ethics Individual Work 2025

Student Name: Elijah Maiga Barasa

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Instructor: Rev. Dr. Henry Majwala

Introduction

Spiritual communication is a fundamental aspect of many cultural traditions, reflecting humanity's deep-seated desire to connect with unseen forces that shape life's experiences. From a Christian perspective, these practices are evaluated against biblical teachings that emphasize a direct, exclusive relationship with God as the foundation for ethical living. This paper will examine each question in detail, breaking down key points with explanations, integrating a Christian view, and supporting with relevant Bible verses and their relation to the points discussed.

Question 1: Why is Communication with the Spirit World So Important? With Whom is This Communication Done, and Why? What are the Means of Communicating with the Spirit World? What is the Content of This Communication and What is it Expected to Achieve?

The Importance of Communication with the Spirit World

In traditional African religious thought, communication with the spirit world is crucial because it serves as a foundational practice for maintaining harmony in life, seeking guidance amid uncertainties, and ensuring overall well-being. This communication is seen as essential to connect the physical and spiritual realms, where the spiritual influences every aspect of existence, including fate, health, relationships, and daily challenges. Without it, individuals and communities risk imbalance, leading to misfortune, illness, or social conflicts. It fosters a sense of interconnectedness, allowing people to navigate life's unpredictability by aligning with unseen forces that govern the universe.

From a Christian view, while this desire for spiritual connection reflects humanity's innate longing for the divine, it often leads to practices that divert from

the one true God. Christianity teaches that true harmony comes not from communicating with various spirits but from a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ, who reconciles us to the Father. This redirects the pursuit of balance toward eternal peace rather than temporary fixes.

Bible Verse: Philippians 4:6-7 "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

This verse relates to the point by emphasizing that instead of seeking harmony through spirit world communication, believers should turn to God in prayer for all needs, resulting in a divine peace that surpasses human efforts to maintain cosmic balance.

With Whom is This Communication Done

Communication is primarily done with a hierarchy of spirit beings, including impersonal mystical powers that permeate nature and objects, non-human spirits (both benevolent and malevolent) that inhabit specific locations like trees, rivers, or burial grounds, numerous divinities or gods each overseeing particular aspects of life such as fertility, weather, or health, and occasionally the Supreme Being, who is recognized as the ultimate creator but seldom directly approached.

Ancestors, as spirits of the deceased, hold a special place, acting as intermediaries who link the living with the past and future generations, ensuring familial and communal continuity.

The reason for communicating with these entities is to build relationships that provide protection, wisdom, and prosperity. For example, ancestors are consulted for family guidance, while divinities are invoked for specific needs like rain or healing, reflecting a worldview where spiritual forces are integral to human flourishing.

From a Christian view, engaging with these beings risks idolatry, as it places trust in created entities rather than the Creator. Christianity affirms God as the only worthy recipient of worship and communication, warning against dividing allegiance among lesser spirits, which can lead to spiritual deception and bondage.

Bible Verse: Exodus 20:3-5 – "You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God."

This verse relates to the point by prohibiting communication or worship directed at any beings other than God, highlighting His exclusive claim on human devotion and the dangers of seeking relationships with spirits or divinities that rival Him.

Why is This Communication Done

This communication is undertaken to foster essential relationships that ensure security, resolve conflicts, and promote communal harmony. It addresses human vulnerabilities in a world perceived as filled with unpredictable forces, allowing individuals to seek intervention for personal crises, such as illness or disputes, and to maintain kinship ties that extend beyond the physical realm. By engaging the spirit world, people aim to align their lives with cosmic order, preventing chaos and inviting blessings that benefit the community as a whole.

From a Christian view, the underlying motivation seeking security and harmony is valid but misplaced when directed away from God. Christianity offers a superior path through faith in Christ, where true security comes from God's sovereignty, not from appeasing spirits, encouraging believers to build relationships centered on love for God and neighbor.

Bible Verse: Matthew 22:37-39 "Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

This verse relates to the point by redirecting the purpose of spiritual communication toward loving God supremely and others selflessly, providing an ethical framework for relationships that achieves lasting harmony without relying on spirit intermediaries.

The Means of Communicating with the Spirit World

The means include dreams and visions for receiving messages in altered states, vision quests for deliberate spiritual encounters, divination and ordeals using

tools like objects or animals interpreted by specialists, rituals and ceremonies involving sacrifices or offerings, and practices like incantations, magic, charms, fetishes, or even witchcraft to channel and direct spiritual energies. These methods are often facilitated by experts such as medicine men, diviners, or priests, and are governed by traditional rules to ensure efficacy and avoid backlash.

From a Christian view, these means are problematic as they often involve occult practices that the Bible condemns, potentially opening doors to demonic influences. Instead, Christianity promotes simple, direct prayer and the guidance of the Holy Spirit as the pure means of divine communication, free from manipulation or ritualistic burdens.

Bible Verse: Deuteronomy 18:10-12 "Let no one be found among you who sacrifices their son or daughter in the 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."

This verse relates to the point by explicitly forbidding the use of divination, sorcery, and mediums as means of spiritual communication, declaring them abominable and urging reliance on God alone.

The Content of This Communication

The content typically involves requests for guidance in decision-making, healing from ailments, protection against harm or enemies, intervention in crises like infertility or conflicts, expressions of thanksgiving for received blessings, and confessions or atonements to restore disrupted harmony. It may also include pleas for prosperity, fertility, or communal peace, reflecting practical concerns tied to daily life and survival.

From a Christian view, while the content addresses legitimate human needs, it should be directed solely to God, who provides for all aspects of life. Christianity transforms these requests into prayers that seek God's will, emphasizing spiritual growth over material gains.

Bible Verse: James 1:5 "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you."

This verse relates to the point by encouraging believers to seek wisdom and guidance directly from God in prayer, assuring generous provision without the need for spirit intermediaries.

What is It Expected to Achieve

The expected achievements include restoring cosmic and spiritual harmony, securing personal and communal well-being, averting evil influences, ensuring continuity of life through protection and prosperity, and maintaining kinship across generations. It aims to create a balanced existence where human actions align with spiritual forces for overall flourishing.

From a Christian view, true achievement comes from reconciliation with God through Christ, leading to eternal harmony rather than temporal balance. This perspective warns that reliance on spirit communication may yield short-term results but ultimately fails to address sin and separation from God.

Bible Verse: Colossians 1:19-20 "For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross."

This verse relates to the point by describing how Christ achieves ultimate reconciliation and peace for all creation, surpassing the temporary harmony sought through traditional spirit communication.

Question 2: Why is it Necessary for Man in Traditional Africa to Seek to Establish Links and Relationship with the Mystical and Spiritual Powers and Forces? What are Those Spiritual and Mystical Powers that Man is Searching For? What Does He Use These Powers For?

The Necessity of Establishing Links and Relationships with Mystical and Spiritual Powers

It is necessary to establish these links to gain control over an unpredictable world filled with threats like fate, evil, mortality, and chaos, thereby restoring harmony and ensuring survival. In this worldview, humans are vulnerable without spiritual alliances, so forging relationships provides security, enabling people to influence outcomes in health, agriculture, and social matters through access to unseen forces.

From a Christian view, this necessity stems from a God-given desire for protection but is fulfilled only in a covenant relationship with the Lord, who offers unshakeable security. Relying on mystical links can lead to fear-based living, whereas faith in God brings freedom.

Bible Verse: Psalm 46:1 "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble."

This verse relates to the point by affirming God as the ultimate source of protection and strength, making links with mystical powers unnecessary and redirecting trust to Him alone.

What are Those Spiritual and Mystical Powers that Man is Searching For

The powers include impersonal mystical energies embedded in nature and objects, spirit beings divided into non-human (good or evil) and ancestral spirits linked to reincarnation and possession, numerous divinities governing specific life domains like fertility or weather, and the Supreme Being as the highest but distant force. These are sought as sources of life force or vital energy that can be harnessed for influence.

From a Christian view, searching for these powers reflects a misunderstanding of authority, as all power belongs to God. Christianity warns against pursuing lesser forces, which may be demonic, and points to the Holy Spirit as the true empowering presence.

Bible Verse: Acts 1:8 "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

This verse relates to the point by promising divine power through the Holy Spirit for godly purposes, contrasting the search for mystical powers with empowerment for witnessing Christ's truth.

What Does He Use These Powers For

These powers are used for healing illnesses, protecting against harm, enhancing fertility or harvests, resolving conflicts through curses or blessings, maintaining communal kinship, and sometimes for malevolent purposes like harming

enemies via sorcery. They serve dual roles in promoting good (e.g., medicine) or evil (e.g., witchcraft), aiming to uphold holistic living.

From a Christian view, the use of such powers often mixes good intentions with unethical means, leading to moral compromise. Christianity advocates using God's power for love, justice, and service, rejecting any malevolent applications.

Bible Verse: Ephesians 6:12 "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."

This verse relates to the point by identifying true spiritual battles and urging believers to wield God's armor, not mystical powers, to overcome evil without resorting to harm.

Conclusion

In examining these questions, traditional practices reveal a deep human quest for connection and power, but Christian ethics offers a transformative alternative through faith in God. By integrating biblical principles, believers can achieve true harmony and ethical living.