

Research Confirms Alarming Proportion of Youth Spark Occultic Uptick

Read Time: 2 Minutes 7 Seconds

A substantial proportion of young people are engaging in herbs and crystals as part of routine spiritual practices, according to a research firm that specializes in surveying youths.

Springtide Research Institute told CBN's Faithwire it found 44% of young people between the ages of 13 and 25 "engage with herbs/crystals as a spiritual practice." Shockingly, 21% do so on a weekly basis.

These results were found in the polling firm's "State of Religion & Young People 2022" report, underscoring the reality that young people are finding alternative sources of religion and spirituality in an era of rampant secularism and less attachment to Judeo-Christian values.

With culture skewing away from the faith, a vacuum is in its place and young people are desperately looking to fill the holes.

"Young people today are lonely and desperate to experience a deep sense of connection," Kevin Singer, head of media and public relations at Springtide, told CBN's Faithwire. "If that isn't happening in churches and other faith communities, they will find it elsewhere—typically online—where independent spiritual teachers are making their living."

Crystals and herbs are two New Age practices some believe hold the power to offer healing or ward off evil spirits, with these elements and practices sparking concern among many Christians.

As explains, “According to crystal healers, the careful placing of crystals on a patient’s body is supposed to line up with or stimulate the body’s chakras and promote healing.”

Considering the Bible’s stance on avoiding occult practices, the use of crystals and herbs for such purposes has sparked no shortage of controversy. Yet young people, increasingly being raised disconnected from scriptural influence, seem to be more fervently turning to these mechanisms.

“Crystals, in particular, are fostering connection between young people without the added baggage they fear comes with traditional religion,” Singer said. “They also feel crystals are an inclusive expression of spirituality, whereas traditional religion excludes.”

 It should be noted and reaffirmed that the Bible warns against occult practices and other elements that seek to place faith in tools, people and elements outside of God and Scripture. Here are some scriptures to back that statement up:

- **1 Chronicles 10:13:** “Saul died because he was unfaithful to the LORD; he did not keep the word of the LORD and even consulted a medium for guidance ...”
- **1 Samuel 15:23:** For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has rejected you as king.”
- **2 Chronicles 33:6:** “He sacrificed his children in the fire in the Valley of Ben Hinnom, practiced divination and witchcraft, sought omens and consulted mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the eyes of the LORD, arousing his anger.”

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