

AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE... NO HALLOWEEN



Origins of Halloween

Halloween originated among the ancient Celts of Europe and was called the festival of *Samhain* or *All Hallowtide*. It marked the end of the harvest and the beginning of winter, starting on the evening of 31 October. In ancient times, days were reckoned from evening to evening, not midnight to midnight.

For the Celts, 1 November was *All Soul's Day* and the beginning of a new year. At this turning point, they believed the 'veil between the worlds' was at its thinnest, allowing the living to communicate with the dead. Ancestors and so-called 'friendly' spirits were invited to join in the festivities, while the god of the dead was honoured. The truth is that demonic spirits are contacted and activated through these practices, whether done in jest or in seriousness.

Celtic beliefs and practices

- **Chaos and magic** – The night was considered a time outside of the normal order, filled with charms, divinations and attempts to predict the future.
- **Trick-or-Treat** – People imitated spirits by going house to house begging for food. Failure to provide 'offerings' could lead to mischief like blocking chimneys or stealing cattle. To avoid harm, people dressed like spirits to deceive them.
- **Jack-o-Lantern** – Originating from an Irish tale of 'Jack' who roamed the earth with a fiery coal inside a carved turnip. Today's pumpkins continue this tradition, symbolising a lost soul wandering in darkness.
- **Fire ceremonies** – Considered one of the great Celtic 'Fire Festivals'. Hearth fires were extinguished and rekindled from a central Druidic bonfire. Druids wore animal skins and heads to disguise themselves from spirits. Fires, candles, black cats and lanterns were used to welcome or honour the dead.

Druidic and satanic connections

Druid priests held ceremonies in sacred places such as forests, rivers and lakes. These often included human sacrifices.

Satanists later adopted these practices and still mark this period:

- **22–29 October** – Preparations for sacrifices.
- **30 October** – Satanic High Day, often linked to human sacrifice.
- **31 October** – All Hallow's Eve with blood rituals, occult ceremonies and sacrifices.

The Christian response

The early Church attempted to replace these pagan practices by introducing *All Saints' Day*. However, the beliefs never disappeared and witchcraft flourished in the Middle Ages. In the 20th century, paganism resurged in the West, reintroducing these feasts.

Today, Halloween remains a night when many unknowingly open doors to the demonic. Every act, from costumes to prayers for the dead, honours false gods and spirits. Scripture warns us not to imitate these practices.

Scriptural prayer guidelines

1. Overcome fear

"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."
(2 Timothy 1:7).

- Resist fear promoted through movies and Halloween imagery.
- Declare God's power, love, and peace over your family.

2. Reject occult practices

"Do not imitate the detestable ways of the nations... who sacrifices his son or daughter... practices witchcraft... or consults the dead." (Deuteronomy 18:9–14).

- Renounce all involvement, past or present, in Halloween.
- Ask forgiveness for the ways your town may participate.
- Pray for revelation of God's truth for those around you.
- **Prayer of Renunciation:** *"Father God, in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ of Nazareth, I renounce any involvement my family, forefathers and I have had with Halloween. I cancel every covenant made with the spirit world and any worship given to Satan. Cleanse me and my family with the blood of Jesus Christ, Your Son."*

3. Seek God, not the dead

"And when they say to you, 'Seek those who are mediums and wizards, who whisper and mutter,' should not a people seek their God? Should they seek the dead on behalf of the living?" (Isaiah 8:19).

- Call upon the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Submit to His ways and seek His revelation for your community.
- Pray for His love and purpose to be revealed in your town.

4. Be faithful to God

"So Saul died for his unfaithfulness... because he consulted a medium for guidance. But he did not inquire of the Lord; therefore He killed him." (1 Chronicles 10:13–14).

- Dedicate yourself and your family to serve the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Ask God to expose evil works on Halloween night.
- Pray protection over those targeted for sacrifices.
- Intercede for pastors, ministers and Christian leaders.
- Pray for the salvation of those trapped in occult practices.

Conclusion

Halloween may appear to be harmless fun, but its roots are steeped in pagan rituals, demonic worship and occult practices. As Christians, we must not compromise. Instead, we are called to resist fear, renounce darkness and proclaim the light of Christ.

"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light."
(Ephesians 5:8).

On 31 October, when many celebrate death and darkness, let us choose to stand in prayer, declaring the victory of Christ and shining as witnesses of His truth and life.