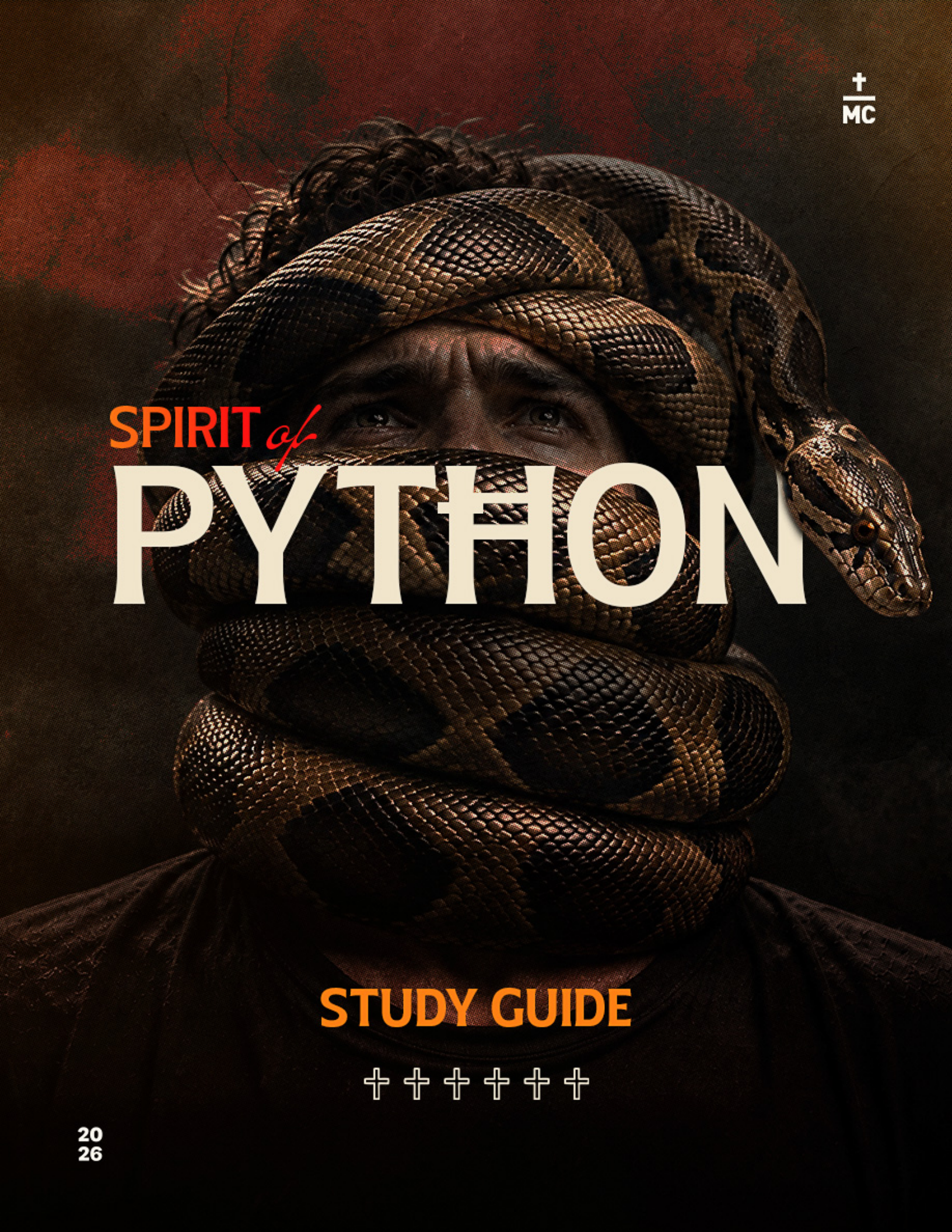


SPIRIT of PYTHON

STUDY GUIDE

2026

Historical Context and Biblical Facts

ACTS 16:16-26

EPHESIANS 6:12

"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places."

GREEK

Πύθων (Pythōn) = Mythical serpent associated with Delphi; a spirit associated with divination. Pronounced POO-thohn.

Python

In Greek mythology, Python was a serpent associated with Delphi, a religious sanctuary in Greece. One ancient account describes Python guarding the oracle until Apollo killed it and took possession of the oracle.

Apollo

The Greek god associated with prophecy at Delphi. Worshipers believed the oracle's answers communicated his guidance.

Pythia

The title of Apollo's priestess at Delphi. She delivered oracular responses while seated on a sacred tripod.

The Oracle

People and cities consulted Delphi for supernatural guidance. Its answers influenced major decisions, including where cities established colonies.

> Plutarch was a Greek writer, philosopher, and priest of Apollo at Delphi. His comparison to ventriloquists concerns a voice supposedly speaking through a person. It does not describe snake sounds.

Through its association with Delphi's oracle, Python became a term associated with divination and people believed to speak through a divining spirit. That historical association explains its use for the girl's "spirit of divination" in Acts 16:16.

HEBREW

קֶסֶם (qesem) = Divination; describes practices used to obtain hidden knowledge or direction.

In the ancient world

Diviners interpreted omens, consulted spiritual beings, and used rituals to seek answers. Ezekiel describes Babylon's king using arrows, household gods, and an animal's liver to decide which direction to attack.

In Ancient Greece

People consulted oracles such as Delphi, believing a priestess could communicate guidance from a god.

In Acts 16

The Greek verb μαντεύομαι (manteuomai) means "to practice divination" or "tell fortunes." It describes how the slave girl earned money for her owners. Python identifies the spirit; fortune-telling describes her activity. Its purpose: to discover hidden information, predict future events, or obtain direction for decisions.

God's Prohibition

Israel was forbidden to practice divination, interpret omens, or consult mediums and the dead.

- The term Python appears once in the New Testament, in Acts 16:16.
- The critical Greek text reads **πνεῦμα πύθωνα (pneuma pythōna)**, commonly rendered "a Python spirit."
- Another textual form reads **πνεῦμα Πύθωνος (pneuma Pythōnos)**, "a spirit of Python."

Samuel told Saul that rebellion is like the sin of divination. Saul had rejected God's Word and followed his own will (1 Samuel 15:23).

1 SAMUEL 16:14

"Now the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a harmful spirit from the LORD tormented him."

Saul's disobedience was followed by spiritual torment.

Later, Saul sought out a medium at Endor, asking her to bring up Samuel. The man who had rejected God's Word was now seeking direction through a source God forbids (1 Samuel 28:7-11).

"He rejected God's direction... then sought forbidden direction!"

God used David's playing to bring relief into Saul's torment. David was a worshiper, and this moment gives us a picture of music being used in spiritual warfare.

- The serpent deceived Eve. The serpent contradicted God and presented disobedience as an opportunity, causing Eve to question whose word she would believe.
- Aaron's serpent swallowed the others when Pharaoh's magicians produced a competing sign. God demonstrated His superior power through Aaron's staff.
- God sent serpents as judgment for Israel's rebellion, and when the people confessed their sin, He provided a way for them to live.
- Jesus connected the lifted serpent to His being lifted up on the Cross, where everyone who believes in Him receives eternal life.
- God once used a bronze serpent, but then people began worshiping it and it became an idol. Hezekiah destroyed it because past usefulness does not justify present idolatry.
- Jesus used serpent imagery to teach His disciples to exercise wisdom and discernment while remaining innocent.
- Satan is called the ancient serpent when Revelation identifies the ancient serpent as Satan, whose deception and power remain subject to God's judgment.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- Acts 16:16-26
- Deuteronomy 18:10-12
- 1 Samuel 28:7-11
- Exodus 7:12
- 2 Kings 18:4
- Acts 28:3-5
- Mark 16:17-18
- Revelation 2:4
- Romans 12:11
- Exodus 3:5
- 1 Samuel 15:23
- 1 Samuel 16:23
- Numbers 21:6-9
- Matthew 10:16
- Revelation 12:9
- 2 Corinthians 11:3
- John 2:17
- Psalm 69:9
- Ephesians 6:12
- 1 Samuel 16:14
- Genesis 3:4-5
- John 3:14-15
- Luke 10:19-20
- Revelation 20:2
- Matthew 22:37
- Ephesians 2:10

Warnings

- Do NOT seek to communicate with the dead.
- Snake handling is not a command.
- A sign of Python is profit from bondage.

WHAT IS THE PYTHON SPIRIT?

Python Spirit: A demonic spirit of divination that squeezes out spiritual life through oppression, deception, confusion, and discouragement.

PYTHON SIMPLIFIED

"A DEMONIC SPIRIT THAT OFFERS SPIRITUAL DIRECTION TO LEAD YOU AWAY FROM GOD."

Divination Definition

Seeking supernatural knowledge or guidance through a source God forbids.

EXAMPLES

- Consulting psychics
- Tarot, horoscopes, and astrology
- Seeking communication with the dead
- Accepting supernatural claims without testing their source and message
- Choosing your will and rejecting God's will

SIGNS YOU ARE DEALING WITH PYTHON

01 You are constantly frustrated.

02 You feel like you're carrying a heavy weight.

03 You are struggling to Daily Encounter.

04 Your worship has become routine.

05 You have an over-infatuation with yesterday's encounters.

06 You are drawn to drama more than the presence of God.

07 Confusion is pulling you away from God's house and call.

08 You are losing your desire to obey God.

09 You are drawn to unsupported spiritual claims.

10 You are obsessed with YOU and what benefits you.

THREE AREAS PYTHON STEALS YOUR PASSION

01 Python steals your love for God.

02 Python steals your passion for God's house.

03 Python steals your purpose.

SPIRITUAL WARFARE STRATEGY

RETURN TO GOD WITH ZEAL.

Zeal Definition: Prayer, praise, and passion for God. We respond to Python by returning to God with zeal.

ZEAL SIMPLIFIED "A HOLY PASSION FOR GOD."

HEBREW

קִנְאָה (qinʾāh) = Zeal, ardor, jealousy; in Psalm 69:9, intense concern for God's house.

GREEK

ζέω (zeō) = To boil or be hot; figuratively, to be fervent; the word behind "fervent" in Romans 12:11.

PRACTICAL ADVICE

- Pray in the Spirit when you feel heaviness.
- Worship God when you feel heaviness from the Python spirit.
- Ask the Lord for the gift of discerning the spirits every day.

REFLECTION

1. How do you deal with the spirit of Python?

2. Have you lost your zeal, passion for God? What will you do to step back into it?

3. Is there any area in your life you are seeking direction outside of God's Word or His voice?

PRAYER of ENCOUNTERS

This is where I tell You... I love You, I love You, I love You!

This is where I tell You... You're Holy, You're Holy, You're Holy!

This is where I tell You... Thank You, thank You, thank You!

This is where I tell You... I need You, I need You, I need You!

This is where I tell You... Speak Lord, Your servant is listening!