

Questions About Spiritualism in Media

By Pastor Ed Anderson

Pastor Anderson uses a lot of movie and music references. He's actually quite entertaining. But I'm sad to hear his position that he cannot endorse "The Chosen". Can you please provide a side-by-side chart comparing The Chosen's portrayals with Scripture, or a visual breakdown of modern spiritualism in media.

Answer:

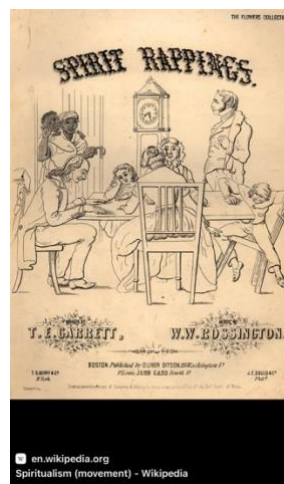
Thank you for sharing your request. Below is a **side-by-side chart** highlighting some key concerns about The Chosen in relation to Scripture, followed by a **visual breakdown of modern spiritualism in media**. I hope this helps you discern wisely, with both compassion and truth.

Chart: The Chosen vs. Scripture

Scene or Portrayal in The Chosen	Biblical Text / Principle	Concern & Notes
Characters who are raised from the dead (or appear from the dead) to comfort Jesus (e.g., John the Baptist, Ezekiel, Joseph)	Scripture teaches the dead are asleep until resurrection. See Ecclesiastes 9:5-6 ("the dead know not anything"). Also 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14	This introduces unbiblical spiritualism (dead appearing) which can distort the gospel message.
Jesus depicted as uncertain, emotionally unstable, needing external comfort from human/raised persons	Scripture depicts Jesus as fully God and fully man, with clear mission: John 10:17-18, Colossians 2:9	Over-humanizing Christ risks diminishing His divinity and undermines our trust in Him as Savior.
Creative liberties where Jesus or disciples speak or act in ways not recorded in Scripture, or scenes added that are not in the Bible	GotQuestions says the series "does take quite a bit of liberty" with events and dialogue.	While drama often requires filler, believers must remember fiction is not Scripture and should test what is

		added against God's Word.
Use of mystical spiritual atmospheres, frequent hints of spiritualism (communications with dead, visions)	Bible warns against mediums, communicating with the dead: Deuteronomy 18:10-12; Leviticus 19:31	This can blur the line between biblical faith and occult-type spiritualism, causing confusion for Christians and non-Christians alike.

Visual Breakdown: Modern Spiritualism in Media



Key Points to Notice:

- Spiritualism often emphasizes **continuing consciousness after death**, communication with spirits, or “visions” of the departed.
- Many modern films/TV shows (including faith-based ones) incorporate these themes to heighten drama or emotional appeal.
- The danger: When Christian media uses spiritualism elements without clearly distinguishing scripture from myth, viewers may absorb **unbiblical beliefs** (e.g., the dead can appear or speak).
- Discernment is required: Is the portrayal **biblical** (what God's Word says) or is it **entertainment fiction**?

My Compassionate Recommendation

- If you're watching *The Chosen* or similar, do so with a **notebook or Bible at hand**. Whenever you see a scene that *feels wrong or unbiblical*, pause and ask: "*Does Scripture teach this? Or is it added for drama?*"
- Use such shows as **starting points for Bible discussion**, not as replacements for it. Creator Dallas Jenkins himself has said: "If people got all of their scriptural beliefs from our shows, that would be an issue."
- Encourage your church or group to **discuss these issues openly**, rather than hiding concerns. Honest, gentle dialogue strengthens faith.