

Dear Beth,

Thank you for writing us at Christian Questions Radio. You told us that you love God with all your heart and soul and that you also embrace nature and the herbs that God has provided. You said that you wanted to help a friend with a house blessing. She recommended burning sage while praying in each room. To obtain the sage, you would need to go to a Wiccan store to get a sage smudge stick. You commented that you thought the whole thing was very ritualistic. You wanted to know if it would be acceptable for you to proceed with this event as long as long as you would be praying to Jesus while participating. Lastly, you wanted to know if there was another way to bless the house that would not be so ritualistic.

First, we must say that a Christian really should not be frequenting a Wiccan store. Wicca is a pagan religion. Pagan religions worship or hold sacred the created, such as nature, the universe, and the elements, etc., rather than the Creator. Wiccans are also polytheistic, believing in multiple gods and goddesses taken from various cultures and time periods. These two beliefs alone violate the first two of God's commandments, which state, "You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on 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." (Exodus 20:3-4) The LORD God, although loving, forgiving and merciful, is a jealous God. He requires us to worship him and none other. As a Christian you cannot pray to God or Jesus while you knowingly are participating in a ceremony that places nature above God.

When we deviate from God's word and start down the path of our own human explanations and reasoning, we tread on dangerous ground. God warns us that a double-minded man is unstable in all he does (James 1:8). Our relationship with God is hindered and, if we persist on this course, it is ultimately broken. "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death." (Proverbs 16:25)

Based on the above scriptural reasoning, we believe that it would not be appropriate for you to buy items from the Wiccan store in order to participate in this ritualistic house "blessing." God requires no such "blessing" ritual. However, we see no problem getting together as a group of fellow Christians and asking God to bless the house and its inhabitants. Perhaps some Psalms, hymns and prayers could be offered, recited or sung at the time.

We hope we have answered your questions. Be sure to sign up for CQ Rewind at www.christianquestions.net. The service is free without obligation and will provide you with scriptural perspective on many questions and topics.

Sincerely,

Christian Questions Radio