

The Spirit of Deception

Deception means: To mislead by giving a distorted impression or false sense of reality. To trick; to cheat; to beguile. The ancient Greeks used the word to describe the pleasure that comes from watching the theater. Deception is being pacified and placated by unreality. Pain and confusion result from trusting false promises or believing a lie.

Have you ever ordered something from a catalog that looks like just what you wanted, but when the product arrives, it doesn't look nearly as good as it did in the catalog?

Deception is a very scary thing. Why? Because it's deceptive!

Interestingly, deception is only an option for the Christian believer. Non-believers are "led astray." In order to be deceived you must have some truth to measure the error by.

Gen. 3:1-5

The subtle attempt of Satan has always been to undermine the authority of the word of God. Deception compromises God's provision and protection.

Why does Satan deceive? Satan cannot create anything. All he can do is manipulate and maneuver what has been created. Since he cannot match God's power, Satan has to maximize the power he has, and deception is his strong suit. He has turned deception into an art form.

The greatest guard against deception is revealed, not communicated, knowledge. This knowledge concerning the tree had been communicated through Adam to Eve...not revealed to Eve from God. Adam was created and received God's instructions and then Eve was formed. It looks like Eve was operating on second-hand information. (If all you ever receive is second-hand truth, you're in trouble...you are in deception already...and don't even know it. If you are into second-hand knowledge then the enemy is filling your ears continually.)

Satan's weapon is his mouth. "Serpent" = nachash - "one who whispers, hisses, suggests."

Satan's deception always causes distrust for spiritual authority and doubt of the truth.

Why won't children naturally obey parents?

How deception works:

1. Distort what God says by changing the emphasis
2. Bring into question God's motive (always the result of twisted meaning)
3. Introduce reason that ultimately leads you to question God's goodness and integrity.

...Once that's accomplished it's easy to turn you against God's authority.

Satan made God look like a taker instead of a giver. "God's holding out on you. You don't have to put up with this. You deserve something better. Go ahead and do what you want. God won't do anything to you...He hasn't done anything yet, has He?"

A question for you: How many of you think that you probably have had some deception in your lives? Don't forget – Satan led 1/3 of the angels astray from the very presence of God in heaven, and caused Eve to disobey in a perfect environment (she had never been abused by a husband, frustrated by kids, used by a pastor, or mistreated by a boss).

Jeremiah 17:9 - "The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked."

James 1:16-17

Be not deceived, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift s from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom can be no variation, neither shadow that is cast by turning.

James is saying that if you believe there is any good outside of God's provision, then you can be deceived, just like Eve. No matter how good it tastes, looks, feels; no matter how rich, abundant, wise, or successful it may make you, if it is not from God, it will eventually lead you down a path of sorrow, regret, and in the end, death.

James 1:22-24

When a person hears the Word of God yet does not obey, deception enters his heart and mind. This person lives thinking he's on target when actually he's in error.

But, verse 25. This is the solution. If revelation and knowledge is the key to being free then I must learn to meditate on the word of God.

Isaiah 66:2 "But on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at my word.

The one who trembles at His word and instantly obey Him whether he sees the advantage or not.

Pham 25:14 "The secret of the Lord is with those who fear Him, and he will show them his covenant."

Psalm 119:165 Great peace have those who love your law, and nothing causes them to stumble (be offended)

Attending to "the word" Proverb 4:20-22,

Delighting in the word , Psalm 1:1-3

"Meditating" in the word Joshua 1:8

If you're stumbling, offended and have no peace you don't love the word.

Chewing the cud on the word! The word has to come out of your mouth. It must be digested and processed. When you walk the word, live the word, work the word express the word, etc. Then it is properly digested in your spirit.

So what have you ordered out if a catalog that didn't look right when it came in the mail? Every good and perfect gift is coming down from the Father of lights. (Isiah 66:2). And who trembles at my word?