



## “Winning The War Against The Spirit of Deception”

Bishop Frank and JoeNell Summerfield

**Texts: Revelation 12:7-17, II Corinthians 2:11, II Thess. 2:9-12, Proverbs 20:17, Colossians 2:8, III John 1:7**

Why do so many people who know what is true and right end up choosing to do what is wrong? Why do so many of God’s people break their position and cycle of consistently walking with God and slip into lack lustre actions with little to no hunger or thirst for the things of God: i.e. His word, taught or spoken, praise worship and fellowship at the house of God with the saints of God.

Many people fail to realize that The Spirit of Deception causes all these things. Deception is the primary device the devil uses in Spiritual Warfare to destroy God’s people and get them out of fellowship with God and out of His divine will. It’s very satanically subtle and very hard to detect and goes unnoticed by those deceived unless someone helps them become aware of it and convinces them to get free and break its grip on them.

Deception of course comes from the word deceive, so let’s define deceive- mislead, delude, beguile, or lead astray, or frustrate usually by under handedness, implies imposing a false idea or belief that causes ignorance, bewilderment, or helplessness, to cause to believe what is not true.

Let’s take a scriptural look at how the devil, the

master deceiver came into the world to cause so much deception.

**Revelation 12:7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,**

**8: And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.**

**9: And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.**

The devil knows that his time on the earth is short so he is launching an all-out attack against the church to deceive as many of God’s people out of the will of God that he can. Don’t become one of his deceived victims.

**12: Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.**

**17: And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.**

The woman represents the church, and the remnant are those who are still remaining in

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the earth in these last days prior to the return of Jesus.

Deception is the devil’s primary weapon against God’s people in Spiritual Warfare. Many Christians are ignorant of this, that’s how they get deceived.

**II Corinthians 2:11 Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.**

Once Satan causes deception in one’s thought patterns he can cause thoughts that seem to be right, but in actuality are totally out of the will of God. Those thoughts can cause one to be totally blind to how wrong they are.

If negative satanic deceptive thoughts are not recognized and cast down they take up residence in the deceived persons mind and begin to control their decisions and actions. That’s why we must continually renew our mind with God’s word so it can alert us to deceptive thought attempts by the devil to invade our lives. According to Proverbs 23:7 as a man thinketh in his heart so is he. If we think deceptively because we’ve been deceived we’re going to live that deception and even contaminate our close relationships with people with it.

**II Corinthians 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:**

**4: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)**

**5: Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;**

Mind renewal on a regular basis is an absolute necessity to avoid The Spirit of Deception.

**Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.**

**Ephesians 4:22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;**

**23: And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;**

The Spirit of Deception when not detected causes a person to reject truth and believe Satan’s lies which is always opposite to God’s word. Without truth you become bound to the

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deception Satan is using on you. This can be very dangerous and disastrous.

**II Thessalonians 2:9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, 10: And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11: And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: 12: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.**

As spirit filled people of God we can't afford to be ignorant of Satan's devices and tactics. He is a deceiver and does all he can to infiltrate our minds with deception to get us out of God's divine will. Sometimes deceit seems sweet and good because the deception blocks the reality of how things really are.

**Proverbs 20:17 bread of deceit is sweet to a man; but afterwards his mouth shall be filled with gravel.**

When a man is deceived in his mind and lured into an inappropriate sexual relationship it seems sweet, but ends up tasting like gravel in

his mouth. The Spirit of Deception never warns or announces it is coming so it gains control and takes one out of the will of God before one knows it. Please see Proverbs 2:10-19, Proverbs 5:1-20, Proverbs 6:20-32, and Proverbs 7:1-27.

The following are some signs or indicators that The Spirit of Deception has entered your life and is affecting and even altering your thoughts, feelings, attitude, and behavior patterns.

1. You start spending time away from reading, studying, and meditating on God's word that get longer and longer with no conviction or concern on your part. You don't even realize it's happening until someone else who knows your normal patterns ask you about it or expresses concern.
2. Your periods away from hearing the spoken word and assembling together with fellow believers at the house of God get longer and longer with no conviction or effort to change on your part. You become more and more comfortable with this behavior.

**Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one**

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**another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.**

**Psalm 27:4 One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.**

**Psalm 122:1 I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord.**

3. The Joy of the Lord that causes motivation, enthusiasm, energy, and a positive attitude seems to be on a decline or absent causing a negative affect on some of your closer personal relationships. The people closest to you notice your changing but you don't because you're a victim of The Spirit of Deception and can't tell your changing.

Another thing The Spirit of Deception does is keep you from accepting or receiving Godly correction and instruction that can correct the behavior you've been deceived into. The more deceived you are the more you'll refuse and reject Godly correction, instruction, and wisdom. Please bare in mind that often times correction precedes wisdom as clearly stated in Proverbs 3:11-13.

**Proverbs 9:8 Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee.**

Once the Spirit of Deception makes you its victim and prevents you from receiving correction and instruction which gives you wisdom you'll block your opportunity to receive success and prosperity. Satan knows if he can deceive you enough for you to reject correction and instructions he can get you out of the divine will of God so you never get the wisdom you need to prosper and succeed.

**Proverbs 3:11 My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord; neither be weary of his correction:**

**12: For whom the Lord loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.**

**13: Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.**

**14: For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold.**

**15: She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her.**

**16: Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honour.**

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No wonder the devil uses The Spirit of Deception so hard against God’s people. He knows the tremendous prosperity and success God has in store for us that comes through His divine wisdom. When we’re deceived we can’t get God’s wisdom because we think we’re right the way we are and don’t need any correction.

**Proverbs 8:10 Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold.**

**11: For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.**

**12: I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions.**

**15: By me kings reign, and princes decree justice.**

**18: Riches and honour are with me; yea, durable riches and righteousness.**

**19: My fruit is better than gold, yea, than fine gold; and my revenue than choice silver.**

**21: That I may cause those that love me to inherit substance; and I will fill their treasures.**

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