

DECEPTION

Truth of every kind makes free, while lies bind up in bonds. Ignorance also binds up because it gives ground to Satan. Man's ignorance is a primary and essential condition for deception by evil spirits. Even though the heart is renewed, and the will has turned to God, yet the deeply ingrained disposition of self-deception, and the presence, in some measure, of the blinding power of the deceiver on the mind, betrays itself in many forms, as the following statements from Scripture show.

- James 1:22 A man is DECEIVED if he is a hearer, and not a DOER of the Word of God.
- 1 John 1:8 A man is DECEIVED if he says he has no sin.
- Gal. 6:3 A man is DECEIVED when he thinks himself to be "something" when he is nothing.
- 1 Cor. 3:18 He is DECEIVED when he thinks himself to be wise with the wisdom of the world.
- James 1:26 He is DECEIVED by seeming to be religious, when an unbridled tongue reveals his true condition.
- Gal. 6:7 He is DECEIVED if he thinks the unrighteous will inherit the kingdom of God.
- 1 Cor. 15:33 He is DECEIVED if he thinks that contact with sin will not have its effects.

DECEIVED! How the word repels, and how involuntarily every human being resents it as applied to himself, not knowing that the very repulsion is the work of the deceiver, for the purpose of keeping the deceived ones from knowing the truth and being set free from deception.

All "truth" is in harmony with the only channel of revealed truth in the world--the written Word of God. All "teachings" originating from deceiving spirits:

1. Weaken the authority of the Scriptures.
2. Distort the teaching in the Scriptures.
3. Add to the Scriptures the thoughts of men.
4. Or put the Scriptures entirely aside.

The ultimate objective being to hide, distort, misuse or put aside the revelations of God concerning the cross of Calvary, when Satan was overthrown by the God-man, and where freedom was obtained for all his captives.

DECEPTION (continued)

There is also a degree of deception by deceiving spirits in connection with counterfeits of God and Divine things, which leads on to possession; and this, too, depends upon the extent of the counterfeits which have been accepted by the believers. Through "possession" by accepting the counterfeit of the workings of the Holy Spirit, believers can, unknowingly, be brought to:

1. Put their trust in evil spirits.
2. Rely on them.
3. Surrender to them.
4. Be guided by them.
5. Pray to them.
6. Listen to them.
7. Obey them.
8. Receive messages from them.
9. Receive Scripture text from them.
10. Help them in their desires and working.
11. Stand by them.
12. Work for them.

Believing they are in these attitudes towards God, and doing these things for God.

DEMON POSSESSION

Christians are as open to possession by evil spirits, as other men, and become possessed because they have, in most cases, unwittingly fulfilled the conditions upon which evil spirits work and, apart from the cause of willful sin, given ground to deceiving spirits through (1) accepting their counterfeits of the Divine workings and (2) cultivating passivity and non-use of the faculties; and this through misconception of the spiritual laws which govern the Christian life.

Jessie Penn-Lewis, War On The Saints; CLC: Fort Washington, N.d.