



GOOD NEWS

for the unsaved WORLD!

(#109)
Defective faith: Being deceived (2)

DEFECTIVE FAITH

⇒ Is this my FAITH?

- Genuine fact-based living FAITH is a saving faith.
- But what if my faith is...

<p>✓ Defective in its FACT foundation?</p> <p>TODAY (PT. 2) ✓ False (= deception) ✓ Rejected (= unbelief) ✓ Missing (= ignorance)</p>	<p>✓ Defective in its LIVING expression?</p> <p>✓ Absent (= not there) ✓ Small (= "little faith") ✓ Wavering (= doubt)</p>
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A FALSE FACT FOUNDATION.

This has to do with deception and error, being led astray, wandering from the truth, etc.

<p>LAST TIME</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The causes of deception. The victims of deception. The results of deception. 	<p>Deception often begins with SMALL DISTORTIONS in foundational matters – often indirectly, by distracting you with surface issues. (Once the foundation is changed, false conclusions come more naturally.)</p>
<p>TODAY</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Examples of deception. Responding to deception. 	

Deceivers may also get you to focus on **HALF-TRUTH**... which leaves you open to half-lie. (Eventually, the lie wins.)

WHAT DO DECEIVERS DECEIVE ABOUT??

★ **EXAMPLES OF DECEPTION.** ★

- Most deceivers don't think they are deceiving you. They lack the "renewed mind" (Romans 12:2) needed for recognizing it.
- Most of these examples concern matters that can be detrimental to one's spiritual growth. Some may even have eternally devastating consequences.
- Some of these examples describe the actions of deceivers; others are warnings against deceptive concepts.

IT IS TRUE that God will protect his people. But part of the means he uses for that protection is this: *His people will recognize and oppose deception!* (The fakes won't do this.)

① ⇒ Deceivers attack **FACTS**.

✓ DECEPTIONS ABOUT GOD.

- Denying God as the source of all good, and not evil.

Don't be **deceived**, my dear brothers and sisters. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

James 1:16-17 (CSB)

(Verse 13: We should not blame God for our temptations.)
- Thinking we can serve God without first dealing with our sin.

If anyone thinks he is religious without controlling his tongue, his religion is useless and he **deceives** himself.

James 1:26 (CSB)

✓ DECEPTIONS ABOUT JESUS.

- Who he is (his nature).

... many **deceivers** have gone out into the world. They deny that Jesus Christ came* in a real body. Such a person is a **deceiver** and an antichrist.

2 John 1:7 (NLT15)

* [Or: "will come" (in the future). The parallel passage in 1 John 4:2 definitely refers to Jesus' first coming.]

Who is the liar but the person who denies that Jesus is the Christ? ... These things I have written to you about those who are trying to **deceive** you.

1 Jn 2:22a, 26 (NET)
- Jesus' return for his people.

Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him: ... Don't let anyone **deceive** you in any way.

2 Thessalonians 2:1a, 3a (CSB)

✓ **DECEPTIONS ABOUT PEOPLE AND HUMAN NATURE**
(including the deceiver's own self-deception).

- Denying the sinfulness of people (here, a self-deception).

If we claim to be without sin, we **deceive** ourselves and the truth is not in us.
1 Jn 1:8 (NIV11)

- Claiming to have (or be) the answer to the world's problems.

Then [Jesus] said, "Watch out that you are not **deceived**. For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he,' and, 'The time is near.' Don't follow them."
Luke 21:8 (CSB); see also: Matthew 24:4-5, 11, 24; Mark 13:5.

- Denying the future resurrection of people.

[To those] ... who say there is no resurrection ... [Jesus said,] "You are badly **mistaken**."
Mark 12:18b, 27b (NIV11) See v. 18-27 for the details.

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② ⇒ Deceivers attack **CONSEQUENCES** and **ACTIONS**.

✓ **A DENIAL THAT MORAL CHOICES HAVE CONSEQUENCES THAT CANNOT BE ESCAPED.**
(THEY MAY EVEN DENY THAT MORAL ISSUES EXIST!)

- The basic principle that they deny.

Do not be **deceived**: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.
Galatians 6:7-8 (NIV11)

- Denying the effects that peers can have on us.

Do not be **misled**: "Bad company corrupts good character." Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning; for there are some who are ignorant of God—I say this to your shame.
1 Corinthians 15:33-34 (NIV11)

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✓ **CLAIMING THAT PEOPLE CAN REMAIN IN SIN AND STILL BE SAVED.**

- Thinking they can live in sin and be part of God's kingdom.

Don't you know that wicked people won't inherit the kingdom of God? Stop **deceiving** yourselves!
1 Cor. 6:9a (GW); v. 9b-10 give examples of sin that will keep you out of God's kingdom.

- "Empty arguments" that downplay the seriousness of sin.

Let no one **deceive** you with *empty arguments*, for God's wrath is coming on the disobedient because of these things.
Ephes. 5:6 (CSB); sexual immorality, impurity and greed, mentioned in vs. 3-5.

- Denying the connection between how you live and who you belong to.

Little children, let no one **deceive** you: The one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as Jesus is righteous. The one who practices sin is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning.
1 John 3:7-8a (NET)

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③ ⇒ Righteous people... falsely accused of being "deceivers."

☞ Actually, those who make such claims are the deceived and the deceivers. ☞

✓ **ACCUSING JESUS OF BEING A DECEIVER.**

Some were saying, "[Jesus] is a good man," but others, "He **deceives** the common people."
John 7:12b (NET)

Then the Pharisees answered, "You haven't been **deceived** too, have you?"
John 7:47 (NET)

... that **deceiver** ...
Matthew 27:63b (GW)

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✓ **THE APOSTLES – ACCUSED OF BEING DECEIVERS.**

- The accusation, contrasted with the real situation.

[Paul and others] ... regarded as **deceivers**, yet true; ...
2 Co 6:8b (CSB)

- Accusers may invent entirely fictitious situations!

In this passage, they say that the apostles might reinforce a deception that they claim Jesus made!

Jesus, the deceiver, claimed he would rise again. The disciples might steal his dead body and start telling others that he did rise from the dead!

"Then the last **deception** will be worse than the first."
Matthew 27:64b (GW)

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DECEPTION IS HORRIBLE! WHAT SHOULD WE DO ABOUT IT??

★ **RESPONDING TO DECEPTION.** ★

① ⇒ Oppose the **deception**.

✓ **MAKE SURE IT DOESN'T HAPPEN TO YOU!**

- Be on your guard; be careful about deception.

So be on your guard not to be carried away by the **deception** of people who have no principles.
2 Peter 3:17b (GW)

Be careful that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty **deceit** based on human tradition, based on the elements of the world, rather than Christ.

Colossians 2:8 (CSB); "philosophy"—referring to the world's way of thinking.

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- Watch out; keep away from deceivers.

Then he said, "Watch out that you are not **deceived**. For many [deceivers] will come ... Don't follow them." Luke 21:8 (CSB); see also: Matthew 24:4; Mark 13:5.

Now I urge you ... to watch out for those who create divisions and obstacles contrary to the teaching that you learned. Avoid them ... They **deceive** the hearts of the unsuspecting ... Romans 16:17, 18b (CSB)
- Recognize deceivers by the way they respond to the words of the apostles (= Scripture).

[This is the apostle John speaking.] We are from God; the person who knows God listens to us, but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of **deceit**. 1 Jn 4:6 (NET)

- ✓ IF DECEPTION DOES HAPPEN, FOCUS ON TURNING AROUND!
- If you have strayed, turn/return to Jesus!

For you were **going astray** like sheep but now you have turned back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls. 1 Pe 2:25 (NET)
- Encourage others who are deceived to turn back to the truth.

My brothers and sisters, if one of you **wanders** from the truth, someone can bring that person back. Realize that whoever brings a sinner back from the **error** of his ways will save him from death, and many sins will be forgiven. James 5:19-20 (GW)

Deceivers and deceived people tend to see reality "backwards" or "upside-down"; and because of that, they cling to what is false. We need to oppose this by promoting truth and reality!

God's people must minimize deception. Here are ways to reduce the effects of deception, and perhaps totally remove it. (Complete removal may be a process that takes time.)

② ⇒ Reinforce the truth.

- ✓ ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER.

But encourage each other daily ... so that none of you is hardened by sin's **deception**. Heb 3:13 (CSB)
- ✓ GROW IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH.

God's grace grows along with it!

So be on guard; then you will not be carried away by the **errors** of these wicked people and lose your own secure footing. Rather, you must grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. 2 Pe 3:17b-18a (NLT15)

- ✓ GOD'S PEOPLE (AS A "BODY") GROWING TO SPIRITUAL MATURITY. (Using the abilities God gave them for building each other up.)

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their **deceitful** scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. Eph 4:11-15 (NIV11)

OUR MISSION:

Pursue the **FACT-foundation** that makes saving **FAITH** possible!

After all... The Good News is incompatible with a false foundation (or any other deceptive practice)!

But our God gave us the courage to tell you his **Good News** in spite of strong opposition.

When we encouraged you, we didn't use unethical schemes, corrupt practices, or **deception**. ... We don't try to please people but God, ... we never used flattery or schemes to make money. ... We didn't seek praise from people, ... 1 Thes. 2:2b-6 (GW)

Credits

SCRIPTURE

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