

# BEWARE OF DECEIVING SPIRITS.

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## 1. What the Word says

**“But the Spirit expressly says that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and teachings of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, being seared in their own conscience,”  
(1 Timothy 4:1-2).**

**This message carries a warning, and calls for a spiritual awakening in the face of so many things, which are expected to happen in the last days, including deception through the teachings of false doctrine. This deception, coming from the enemy, targets mainly the Faith of the elect in Jesus Christ, who have remained faithful to the TRUE God. But those who have rejected Christ and returned to the things of the world, are no longer the target of the enemy since they are no longer committed to his cause.**

Nevertheless, there is still hope for the latter, for the grace of God in Christ remains available, and the mission of the Church is to bring them back to the house of the Lord.

In this regard, the Word clearly warns us: "take heed that no one deceives you." (Matthew 24:4; Colossians 2:8). Here, the Word warns those who are God's own, because the enemy seeks to TAKE them AWAY from the inheritance of the saints, which God has in store for them in Jesus Christ: ETERNAL LIFE.

Regularly referring to eternal life as the "priority and ultimate hope" may seem routine and trivial, even to baptised and mature Christians, especially given the time of waiting (for Christ's return), which to human eyes seems very long and indefinite.

Of course, in the face of adversities in this world, human beings are impatient, and impatience is one of the ways

used by the enemy to weaken the believer, burden him with worries, and destroy his Faith. The above quoted scripture "some will abandon faith" was written to help us escape this spiritual fall brought by Adam. And this was accomplished by Jesus Christ, the last Adam, who came as the word made flesh among us, was taken up from the world and sent us the Holy Spirit.

These end-time events are obvious and they appear to be the work of Man, whereas they are the work of evil and deceiving spirits, who act through Man, by means of multiple and diverse schemes to the point of FASCINATING even the chosen one. They are basically teachings whose foundation is the doctrines of demons, for these teachings are subtle tools, full of craftiness, to condition the heart and intellect of man to decline as it faces this world's solicitations and constraints.

## 2.The name of Jesus as a cover

One can recall that the devil himself used the Holy Scriptures as a cover when he tempted Jesus Christ, saying "it is written..." Unfortunately, in his habitual deceit, the devil tried to use the Word to seduce Him who is the Word Himself.

By using the name of Jesus as a cover, the deceivers communicate human thought and deceit, as a way to address Man's daily worries and impatience, and thus offer them immediate and fascinating benefits.

That's why people prefer more a local church where the gifts are operational than a church founded on the word of life; they prefer personal leadership and financial power than the grace and the work of the Holy Spirit, they are attracted by the creature instead of the Creator, and ultimately fall into idolatry of any kind.

**They strive to KNOW more than what is revealed, and to HAVE more than what is granted by God. Men become wise in their own eyes, fall into pride towards God, allow themselves to be attracted or captured by deceitful spirits, and end up in rebellion!**

**In fact, the strategy of deceiving spirits is to disguise themselves. They act like fishermen, who cover the hook with the bait, and attract the fish, while inside the bait lies death.**

### **3. Warning against deception**

**Once again, the Apostle Paul warns us against deception in his letter to the Corinthians: "For, I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ." But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your mind may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For IF HE WHO COMES PREACHES ANOTHER JESUS whom we have not preached, or IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED A DIFFERENT SPIRIT which**

you have not received, or ANOTHER GOSPEL which you have not accepted - you may well put up with it! These men are so-called apostles, DECEITFUL WORKERS TRANSFORMING THEMSELVES INTO APOSTLES OF CHRIST. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness whose end will be according to their works. (2 Corinthians 11: 2 - 4, 13 - 15).

It is very unfortunate to notice how these teachers of lies and their message are received and well supported than those who bring the message of Truth.

It is therefore good to seek DISCERNMENT, on the basis of the teachings of the Prophets, Christ and the Apostles, as recorded in the Holy Scriptures, and we will then do a useful work, like the noble disciples of Berea, by meditating on the Scriptures every day, to see if what we are taught is correct (Acts 17:10-11).

**This is why God, in His providence, had foreseen, as announced by prophet Joel, that in the last days He would pour out His Spirit on all flesh. This Spirit will speak the Truth, to confront the false teachers and their doctrine.**

#### **4. Keep your heart from covetousness**

**It is important to note that false teachers and preachers of lies offer Man what he desires and seeks, according to the selfishness and covetousness of his heart, which are linked to the passions in his flesh and the solicitations of this world.**

**The selfish and coveting man seeks at all costs personal comfort, self-glorification, self-celebration and the pleasure of the flesh, through the frantic quest for money and material goods, power, success, physical attraction and beauty, and by means of all kinds of abominations and the like. Thus, deceiving spirits, acting through false teachers, promise these things to man, and ultimately, give him fake, similar to glitter, in place of truth.**

In fact, the aim behind these seductive teachings is to establish a sect in which everyone who becomes a believer will be subject to a sort of "guru", erroneously called a spiritual father, mentor... who bestows on himself all the best titles and elevations of the priestly rank, to the point of bringing EVERYTHING back to his image and his person.

These clever gurus simply begin by talking all the time about themselves and their completed form of sanctity, then they make their image omnipresent in photos attached to the personal or biblical messages they spread, then they start talking more about themselves than about God, making themselves out to be the source of blessings, and finally, they lead themselves astray, becoming tolerant of what the Word calls abomination and idolatry, and thus leading into perdition all those who have fallen for their teachings.

*“That’s why, stick carefully to the teaching you received from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning*

remains in you, you will also remain united to the son and the Father. And this is the promise he made to you: ETERNAL LIFE. I have written to warn you about those who are trying to deceive you” (1John 2:24-26 The Message).

## 5. The remnant of the Lord

So what will we say about all this?

The Word expressly answers us: Likewise the Almighty Lord had reserved for himself seven thousand men, who have not bent the knee to Baal, so, in this present time, there is a remnant, which the Lord reserved for himself, according to the election of grace. (Romans 11:3-5)

**MAY YHWH OUR GOD GRANT US THE FAVOR OF BEING PART OF THIS REMNANT HE HAS RESERVED!**