

- Week 1      Let No One Deceive You
- What is Deception?
- How Deception Works
- How It All Began
- Resisting Deception - The Example of Yeshua
- Sources of Deception
- How to Guard Yourself Against Deception

The aim of this teaching is Foundational - building our ability to detect and resist deception

----- // -----

What is Deception?

- Dictionary Definition
  - Noun
    - 1. The act of deceiving; the state of being deceived.
    - 2. Something that deceives or is intended to deceive; fraud; artifice.
  - Synonyms            - Trick, Stratagem, Ruse, Wile, Hoax, Imposture.
  - Deception & Fraud are illegal - punishable in law
  
- What is Spiritual Deception
  - Deceive: Strong's Concordance (4105)
    - Greek: *planaō* meaning to cause to roam (from safety, truth or virtue), to go astray, to seduce
      - From safety - we become vulnerable when deceived - we stray from the protection of the shepherd
      - From truth - we imbibe lies which poison
      - From virtue - we are led into sin

- **Go astray** - The word *planaō* is translated as 'gone astray' in Matthew 18:12 (the lost sheep) and 2 Peter 2:15 (false teachers likened to Balaam)
- **Seduce** - we get seduced by deception because it looks good or it tickles our ears or it appeals to our vanity
- **Root Word: Strong's Concordance (4106)**
  - Greek *planē* meaning fraudulence, a straying from orthodoxy or piety
    - Fraudulence - robbing us by deception
- **Yeshua's Warnings**
  - **Take Heed!**

*'And Jesus answered and said to them: "**Take heed that no one deceives you.**"*  
*Matthew 24:4*

*'And Jesus, answering them, began to say: "**Take heed that no one deceives you.**"*  
*Mark 13:5*

- **These are parallel passages of Yeshua's private briefing to His disciples**

*'And He said: "**Take heed that you not be deceived.** For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He,' and, 'The time has drawn near.' Therefore, do not go after them."*  
*Luke 21:8*

- A similar passage to Matthew 24 & Mark 13 but a different occasion where Yeshua is teaching in the Temple
- **I have just given a clue about avoiding deception - careful reading and study of scripture**
  - Many mistakenly think these are the same event
  - Within Luke 21 there is a focus on the destruction of Jerusalem in AD70/AD135 and 'the times of the gentiles'
  - Matthew 24 and Mark 13 focus on the end times and the signs of its coming, and on 'the Great Tribulation'

- **Watch Out!**
  - **Note that in all three passages Yeshua says "take heed that no one deceives you" (KJV/NKJV) - other translations say 'watch out' or 'be careful'**

- **There will be deceivers - Yeshua tells us** - it is Satan's attack upon Christ's body, the called-out ones, the mishpacha (the Church)
- **Personal responsibility - "let no one deceive you"**
  - **You must be active in this - it's up to you - don't be passive**
  - **On your guard** - taking heed, watchful, careful
  - **Don't rely on others** - your church or your leaders and elders, they can be deceived too
  - **Don't rely on your knowledge or experience** - only the truth defeats the lies of deception
- **Context of Prophecy** - In Matthew 24: 4, Mark 13:5 and Luke 21:8 the context is the end-times and prophecy - these are areas of Bible understanding rife with deception, false teachers and false prophets
  - It has been so throughout the ages
  - It is especially true today
- **Anyone can be Deceived**
  - **Many will be deceived in the end times**

*'Then many false prophets will rise up and **deceive many.**'* *Matthew 24:11*

  - **Even David was deceived - by Satan** **1 Chron. 21**
  - **Peter was deceived** **Matthew 16:22-23**
    - This, just after Peter had declared "You are the Christ"

### How Deception Works

- **The Small Lie**
  - **Slipping In Under The Radar - False Teaching or Assertions**
    - **'Little White Lies** - by which we mean a lie that is so innocuous its harmless, even good - but this itself is a lie...all lies are harmful

- **Detecting Little White Lies** - can be difficult because they often sound right and are appealing
- **False Teachers slip 'lies' into their messages**
  - ❖ They can go almost unnoticed, but
  - ❖ They are poisonous, 'deadly' deceptive
- **'Little Sayings'** - False Teachers use catch phrases that appear to be true, and the more often these phrases and ideas get repeated the more often they are assumed to be true. Popular pastors often have memes with their own sayings that are nothing more than mere assertions - usually meant to make people feel good - but they introduce a non-biblical falsehood. Some examples:
  - **Joel Osteen:** 'Take a step of faith, you can't play it safe and expect to reach your highest potential'
    - ❖ He's saying 'You need to use your faith in order to accomplish the victorious destiny that God has for you - you're gonna do something great and it's right around the corner', etc... and these assertions are derived from a non-Christian, man-centred viewpoint; they are very appealing because they tell us what we want to hear - it's no wonder that many people assume they must be true. But If you understand the Word of Faith movement (with some Positive Thinking along side), you'll see how these sayings stem from that belief system.
  - **Bill Johnson:** 'We've been designed as a resting place for the Spirit of God, changing every environment that we walk into'
    - ❖ He's expressing a type of mystical, Gnostic belief system; really, the only thing it shares with Christianity is the use of some similar Bible words and phrases - these type of assertions put man at the centre of our faith, but on top of that, they denigrate the use of thinking, reasoning and the objective, written Word of God.
- **Little Lies are appealing - they 'tickle our ears' - in fact they appeal to our vanity and pride**
  - Paul warns of smooth words and flattering speech which deceive the hearts of the simple ***Romans 16:18***
- **A Little Leaven**

*'Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that **a little leaven leavens the whole lump**? Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened.'*  
1 Corinthians 5:6-7a

- **Paul is writing to a church (Corinth) that tolerates sexual immorality'**

*You ran well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? This persuasion does not come from Him who calls you. **A little leaven leavens the whole lump**. I have confidence in you, in the Lord, that you will have no other mind; but he who troubles you shall bear his judgment, whoever he is.*  
Galatians 5:7-10

- **Paul is writing to a church (Galatia) where some were teaching the need for circumcision**
- **The cleverest and most cunning lie is the one mixed in with the truth**
  - They start of as 90% truth and 10% lie - they mature to being 50% of each - they end up as being 90% lie and 10% truth
- **Going Off Course Gradually - the little lie, inevitably gets followed by another, and then another - and soon you are way off course and you lose the ability to know what is the truth and what is a lie**
  - **Think about Pie/Pi - Rounding Pi - Pi is 3.14159...etc (it goes on forever - it's an irrational number) - if NASA rounded Pi to, say, 3.14 their space shots would miss the moon by thousands of miles**
  - **Where Will It Lead? - Every day we make little decisions which determine our course - and you never know where they will lead... little lies, swallowed one after another are like that - where will you end up?**
    - Robert Frost poem 'The Road Not Taken'
    - 27th February 1970 - John Godfrey personal example
  - **Mithridates - the king who took poison**
    - Mithridates VI (135-63 BC), was king of Pontus and Armenia Minor in northern Anatolia (now N. Turkey) from about 120-63 BC
    - He took a little poison every day so that he could tolerate normally lethal doses - as a protection against being poisoned

➤ The more lies we swallow - the more we tolerate deception

- **Leaven in Today's Church - Just as Yeshua told us, today - in these end-times. There are many false prophets and false teachers...all of them speaking 'little lies' and 'big lies', lies mixed in with truth - to deceive the unwary disciple** **Some Examples:**

- **Kenneth Hagin:** "Spiritual death means something more than separation from God. Spiritual death also means having Satan's nature... Jesus tasted death--spiritual death--for every man."
- **Kenneth Hagin:** "He (Jesus) tasted spiritual death for every man. And his spirit and inner man went to hell in my place. Can't you see that? PHYSICAL DEATH WOULDN'T REMOVE YOUR SINS. He tasted death for every man. He's talking about spiritual death."
- **Kenneth Copeland:** "He [Jesus] allowed the devil to drag Him into the depths of hell....He allowed Himself to come under Satan's control...every demon in hell came down on Him to annihilate Him....They tortured Him beyond anything anybody had ever conceived. For three days He suffered everything there is to suffer."
- **Kenneth Copeland:** "Satan conquered Jesus on the Cross and took His spirit to the dark regions of hell."
- **Benny Hinn:** "Never, ever, ever go the Lord and say, 'If it be thy will....' Don't allow such faith-destroying words to be spoken from your mouth."
- **Kenneth Hagin:** "Man was created on terms of equality with God"
- **Benny Hinn:** "I am a little messiah walking on earth,..... You are a little god on earth running around."
- **Tony Campolo:** "What I am trying to say is that Jesus who incarnated God 2,000 years ago is mystically present and waiting to be discovered in EVERY person you and I encounter."
- **Creflo Dollar:** "But there's a difference between The Truth and A Truth. 'The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away. Blessed be the name of the Lord.' See that is A Truth. What's true about it? It's in the Bible. What's false about it? God didn't say it. And that's not The Truth. God does not give and take away. Job said it in a deranged mind. But God doesn't give and take away. So, Satan will use A Truth to cause deception."

- False teachers make many such statements in the midst of supposedly expounding a verse or a passage of scripture - and because they are said in impassioned tones and in the middle of a much-hyped meeting, they can pass almost unnoticed - but they are deceptions
  - False teachers build false teachings on one little lie after another - and soon the mountain of lies is so huge you can't see the truth anymore
- **The Big Lie**
    - **A Propaganda Technique - make the lie big, make it simple, keep saying it, and eventually they everyone believes it - politicians use this technique**
      - **Media Mind Control**
        - The 'big lie' expression was coined by Adolf Hitler, when he dictated his 1925 book *Mein Kampf*, about the use of a lie so "colossal" that no one would believe that someone "could have the impudence to distort the truth so infamously."
        - An example today are the oft repeated lies about Israel - 'illegal settlements' or 'occupied territories'
      - **Spiritual Brainwashing - the technique works in spiritual matters too - the biggest deceptions have sprung from the biggest lies**
        - Deceptions that are repeated time and time again
        - Deceptions that are taught from the pulpit - or that are the bedrock of the theology & teaching of the church
        - Deceptions that are taught in the theological colleges - where priests and pastors are trained
    - **The Big Lie of Replacement Theology**
      - **The Beginnings of this Big Lie are found as early as the 2nd century BC**
        - The Gentile Church losing its Hebraic roots
        - Growth of an allegorising hermeneutical approach

- **Increasingly Anti-Semitic Christian Apologists** - from the Epistle of Barnabas (100AD), Justin Martyr (100-165AD), Irenaus (130-202AD), Tertullian (155-230AD), Origen (185-254AD), the Council of Nicea (325AD), John Chrysostom (349-407AD) to Augustine (354-430AD) and many more
  - It led to Crusades, which murdered hundreds of thousands of 'Christ-killers) and in the 19th & 20th century, to pogroms, and the Holocaust
  - **Today Replacement Theology is taught in most Bible Colleges and is the theology of most western churches** - including the Anglican church, the Methodist church, as well as the Roman Catholic church
  - **Its modern expression is in Christian Palestinianism** and churches (like the Methodist church) are joining the **Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions movement**; and it is seen in the 'Christ at the Checkpoint Conference' held in recent years annually in Bethlehem
  - **This Deception is Deadly** - it leads to many other fundamental errors such as Amillennialism - and it leads to spiritual blindness, anti-Semitism and even apostasy  
*Romans 9:3-5; 11:1, 28-29*
- **The Big Lie of Catholicism**
  - **The Beginnings of this Big Lie are found in the conversion of Constantine in 306AD**
  - **The church became the state church** - and pagan priests simply donned Christian vestments
  - **The Hebrew calendar and Feasts of the Lord were replaced with Christmas and Easter** (both with pagan origins) and other 'Christian' festivals
  - **Successive Popes sought temporal power not spiritual things**
  - **Mother Church became the means of salvation** - not by grace through faith in Yeshua *Ephesians 2:8-9*
  - **Its modern expression is in adherents who have to attend confessionals and masses** - and in **biblical and spiritual illiteracy** in millions, whose **worship** encompasses **Mary and saints** and **icons and relics**

- This Deception is Deadly - many (probably most) are deluded that they are saved when they are not
  - The Key to these Big Lies is the same as that in Nazi propaganda - repeat, repeat the lie; teach the lie; stop independent thought and search for truth - these big lies are so all pervasive that they are accepted as truth, and amazingly they go almost unnoticed by many
  - There are other Big Lies - too many to go through - but they include the Big Lie of Evolution, the Big Lie of Humanism and the Big Lie of Ecumenism
- Spiritual Mixture - a Mixture of Spirits...the Holy Spirit and another spirit

*Beloved, **do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God**; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 1 John 4:1*

- The Mingling of Truth and Error
  - A common feature of many modern deceptions - such as Word of Faith, Dominion Theology, Kingdom Now Theology or Mystical Christianity - and of many of today's so-called Apostles and Prophets
  - Spiritual Biblical Truth mixed with Humanistic Philosophy

*For if he who comes **preaches another Jesus** whom we have not preached, or if you **receive a different spirit** which you have not received, or **a different gospel** which you have not accepted—**you may well put up with it!** 2 Corinthians 11:4*

#### Features of Spiritual Mixture:

- Scripture is used deceptively - verses out of context, allegorising scripture, or misquoting, or using strange translations
  - Appealing to the Soul not to the Spirit - use of Soul Power whose source is in fact Satanic
  - Emphasis on 'Experience' not on 'Truth'
- The Impact on the Believer
    - Progressive Loss of Discernment - an inability to distinguish truth from error
    - Progressive Loss of Spiritual Reality - replaced with fake experiences

- Increasing Diversion from the Lord - the focus shifts to 'me'
- Increasingly Lost - no spiritual compass
- Eventual Bewilderment and Disillusion - when the well runs dry
- Diversion of Focus from the LORD
  - The Lordship of Christ and the Sovereignty of God are played down and even deprecated
  - Elevation of Experience over Biblical Knowledge and Study - seeking spiritual goose-bumps (false spirituality)
  - Seeking Signs and Wonders - rather than the Lord Himself
  - Taking your Eyes Off Yeshua - leads to openness to deceptive spirits

- Greek Thinking vs. Hebraic Thinking

*'For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, **Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.**'*

*1 Corinthians 1:22-24*

- Greek Thinking: A Root of Deception - because it:
  - Is Based in humanistic philosophy
  - Ignores the Jewishness of Scripture and of Yeshua
  - Overlooks the divine election of Israel
  - Is Blind to God's prophetic purposes for Israel
    - Disregards the identity of the Coming King **Revelation 22:13 & 16**
- Israelology - The Lost Chapter in Systematic Theology
  - Systematic Theology study will include:
    - Theology Proper - The study of the character of God
    - Biblical theology - The study of the Holy Bible
    - Christology - The study of Christ (Messiah) Pneumatology - The study of the Holy Spirit
    - Soteriology - The study of salvation

- Theological Anthropology - The study of the nature of humanity.
- Hamartiology - The study of sin
- Angelology - The study of angels
- Ecclesiology - The study of the Church
- Eschatology - The study of the end times
- **But Israelology is missing - yet it is the focus of the Old Testament and its prophetic fulfilment is in the New Testament (Revelation)**
  - Cannot fully understand or know the Lord or His word without understanding the place of Israel in God's purposes
- **Greek Thinking: Cripples Biblical Understanding**

*"Then I said, 'Behold, I have come - **in the volume of the book it is written of Me** - to do Your will, O God."* *Hebrews 10:7 (Psalm 40:7)*

- **Knowing the real Jesus - Yeshua, the Jewish Messiah**
- **Knowing the whole Word of God - many discard the Old Testament**

- **Greek Thinking: Limits Prophetic Understanding**

*'For **the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.**'* *Revelation 19:10*

- **Different Understandings of Prophecy**
  - Greek Thinking - Prediction and Fulfilment
  - Hebraic Thinking - Pattern
- **Prophets and Prophecy - areas awash with deception today**
  - Yeshua's warnings in **Matthew 24, Mark 13, Luke 21** are all in the context of the prophetic passages about the end times
  - Prophecy Buffs - everyone is at it today!

## How It All Began

- Lessons from the Garden of Eden - **Genesis Chapter 3** - insights for us from deceptions' very beginning
  - The Serpent (Satan) is More Cunning (v.1)
    - The ultimate source of deception is Satan - the cunning deceiver
      - More Cunning - better at it than anyone or anything
      - Can even appear as an angel of light **2 Cor. 11:14**
  - The Subtle Question (v.1)
    - Misquoting God's Word - compare **Gen. 3:1** with **Gen. 2:16-17**
      - 'Has God said "You shall not eat of every tree"' **Gen.3:1**
      - "Of every tree...you may freely eat, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat" **Gen 2:16-17**
    - Planting Doubt and Confusion - this is what deception does
  - Eve - Misquoting and Adding to God's Word (vs.2-3)
    - Eve Misquotes God's Word: 'The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil' - she calls 'The Tree in the Midst of the Garden'
    - Downplays its Significance - deception often downplays something significant in scripture
    - Eve Adds To God's Word: 'Nor shall you touch it' - God did not say that
      - Adding to God's Word is a much-used trick of false teachers
      - Adding to (or Taking Away From) God's Word is forbidden

*'You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.'*  
Deuteronomy 4:2

*'For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: **If anyone adds to these things**, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and **if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy**, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.*  
Revelation 22:18-19

- The Direct Contradiction of God's Word (v.4)

- Satan's Big Lie - denying the truth of God's Word

*'You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.'*  
John 8:44

- Compare **Gen. 3:4** 'You will not surely die', with **Gen. 2:17** 'you shall surely die' - complete contradiction of God's word
- The 'little lie' has become a 'big lie'
- Declaring a 'Secret Truth' and a Seduction (v.5)
  - The Serpent implies that God has kept some 'truth' from Eve (that eating the apple will open her eyes) - and he (Satan) is telling her of it
    - New or Secret Knowledge - the deception of Gnosticism, and like the false teaching of Word of Faith / Kingdom Now theology
    - Secrets are tantalising and seductive
  - Mingling of Truth with Lies
    - By eating the apple Eve's eyes will be opened...that is true...after eating the apple their eyes were opened (**Gen. 3:7**)- the trick of deceptive teaching is here...mixture!
    - There is Truth - but Mixed In with a Lie - 'You will be like God'...that's untrue because being like God is more than having 'eyes opened' - God is also holy, just, righteous, omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent
  - Seduction - to be like God - a deceptive appeal to vanity and pride
    - Deception appeals to our pride - Word of Faith, Dominion Theology and Kingdom Now teaching says that we have power and authority in and of ourselves  
...it really is saying 'you will be like God'
    - Knowing good and evil - but they already knew good!  
Why would they choose to know evil?
- The Lure of the World (v.6)

*'Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is*

*passing away, and the lust of it; but **he who does the will of God abides forever.***

*1 John 2:15-17*

- **Eve looks and sees the tree - the Serpent, by deception, has taken her eyes off the Lord and onto things of the world**
  - **Accepting what is false as true** - has put Eve under Satan's control and he has led her astray
  - **The tree was 'good for food'** - it looks nourishing
    - ❖ **The lure of deceptions are often that they seem to offer something that will feed us spiritually**
  - **The tree was 'pleasant to the eyes'** - it looks good
    - ❖ **False Teachers and Prophets look good** - they put on a good show - even signs and wonders - 'the X Factor' in church!
    - ❖ **False Teaching sounds good** - it is appealing
  - **The tree was 'desirable to make one wise'** - it appeared to offer something more
    - ❖ **The spiritual disciple rightly seeks more of God...but**
    - ❖ **Deceptions often seem to offer the believer something more** - more spiritual depth (Gnosticism), greater experiences (spiritual highs), more power (soul power)
    - ❖ **The Lord Himself is the source of wisdom & truth**  
***Job 28:28***
- **Getting something for yourself, by your own efforts, is seductive**
  - **The Lust of the Flesh**
  - **The Lust of the Eyes**
  - **The Pride of Life**
    - ❖ **These things are not of the Father** - they will pass away
    - ❖ **Doing God's will is the key to abiding in Him**
- **Deception leads to Rebellion (vs. 7-13)**

- Eve rebels against God's word and law - she takes and eats the apple
- She ignores the consequences - God said 'you will surely die'
- Satan's deception has led to rebellion - deception always leads from bad to worse - for Adam & Eve it will lead to:
  - Greater sin
  - Greater alienation from the truth
  - Changes for the worse in lifestyle
- Eve, the deceived, now becomes Eve the deceiver - she seeks to lead Adam astray
- Adam takes and eats also - but he is knowingly rebelling
  - Paul tells us that Adam was not deceived **1 Tim. 2:14**
    - ❖ He took the apple knowing it was against God's word
    - ❖ He took the apple because he desired to be with his wife
- Rebellion through Deception can lead to Wilful Rebellion
- Deception has led Adam & Eve to fall into the Enemy's hands by Rebellion **Isaiah 1:19-20**

### Resisting Deception - The Example of Yeshua

- Lessons from Jesus' Temptation - **Matthew 4:1-11**
  - Yeshua was led by the Spirit (v.1) - one key to Yeshua's ability to resist deception is being led by the Spirit...always....all the time
    - Led into the wilderness
    - Led there specifically to be tempted
    - Yeshua Fasted (v.2)
      - Possibly in spiritual preparation for being tested
      - Fasting is a Spiritual Discipline - Yeshua said to His Disciples 'when you fast'...not 'if' **Matthew 6:16-18**

- **Attacking at the Weak Point (v3) - Yeshua was hungry**
  - Satan begins with a subtle statement - 'If you are the Son of God'
    - Satan knew very well that Yeshua is the Son of God
    - Certainly, his demons knew **Luke 8:28**
  - The enemy's deceptions and temptations come at our weak points
  - Yeshua refuses to use His spiritual power for selfish purposes
- **Yeshua recognises the deception - satisfy yourself**
  - Yeshua answers with scripture (v.4) quoting **Deuteronomy 8:3**
  - Yeshua told his disciples "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work" (**John 4:34**)
  - Later, Yeshua would multiply loaves and fishes (**John 6:1-14**) because of His compassion for the multitude who came out to see and hear Him, and as a sign of He was the Messiah
  - Recognise when Satan's deceptions tempt you to be selfish - such as deceptions that appeal to our desires (food) or needs
- **Challenged to 'Put on a Show' (vs.5-6)**
  - Again, Satan begins with a subtle statement - 'If you are the Son of God'
  - Satan quotes scripture - **Psalm 91:11-12**
    - Deceivers are good at quoting scripture - just because a teacher quotes scripture in support of their teaching does not authenticate their word - check the scripture and context
    - This Psalm is about Yeshua, but also applicable to all disciples because it is about the safety of abiding in God's will and presence
    - Satan plucks the verse out of its context of 'Abiding in the Most High', and he omits a key part of the quotation referring to 'all your ways' - which for Yeshua were the Father's ways

- Yeshua recognises the deception - testing God to prove His word simply for self-centred motives (v.7)
  - Yeshua again answers with scripture - quoting *Deut. 6:16*
  - The proofs that Yeshua is the Son of God are not in such absurd shows - nor is the proof of the Father's power and love
  - Yeshua's agenda was very different - *Luke 4:18-19*
  - Much of the teaching of the 'Word of Faith' movement actually involves putting God to the test
  - Recognise when Satan's deceptions tempt you to put God to the test like the Israelites did at Massah (*Exodus 17:1-7*)
- The Appeal to the Flesh (vs.8-9)
  - Yeshua is offered 'all the kingdoms of the world and their glory'
    - The Flesh desires wealth, power and esteem - and here is the deception - it can be gained by 'selling your soul to the devil'
    - Interestingly, Yeshua does not dispute that Satan can give Him these things - Satan is 'the god of this world' (*2 Cor. 4:4*) and the 'prince of the power of the air' (*Eph. 2:2*)
  - Yeshua will come again to take back the earth from the usurper
    - Bowing down and worshiping Satan will not achieve this
  - Yeshua recognises the deception - worshiping Satan, the god of this world, to achieve fleshly desires (v.10)
    - Yeshua commands Satan to go - literally 'get behind me'
    - Yeshua again answers with scripture - quoting *Deut 6:13 & 10:20*
    - Yeshua's focus never shifted from serving, honouring and loving the Father - neither should ours
    - Recognise false teaching that panders to the flesh - appearing to offer more...e.g. wealth, health, power or esteem

- **Recognise** deceptions which seek to divert focus on the Father to something else...such as ourselves or our spiritual experiences
- **The Contest is Over - For Now (v.11)**
  - In Genesis, Adam and Eve sinned because they did not know precisely what God had said, not as well as Satan did; in Matthew, Jesus was victorious because He knew Scripture better than Satan
  - **Satan leaves Yeshua...until an opportune time**
    - Beware, the enemy may go away for a time...but he will not give up, he never gives up - so watch out, take heed!
    - Satan will wait for an opportune time - when you are vulnerable; so watch out for your vulnerabilities (tiredness, lack of spiritual food or fellowship, over-busyness, etc)
  - **The angels come to minister to Yeshua - after His trials**
    - There are ministering angels who will care for us in times of trial and deception **Hebrews 1:14**
    - Often, they come in human form - e.g. the two Johns' (John Godfrey personal example)

## Sources of Deception

- **Satan and his Agents - the ultimate source of deception**
  - **Satan's Principal Role (toward us) is to Deceive - he is 'The Deceiver'**
    - **The Serpent in the Garden**

*"Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate." And the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "**The serpent deceived me, and I ate.**"* *Genesis 3:12-13*

*'But I fear, lest somehow, as **the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness**, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.'* *2 Corinthians 11:3*

- **The Serpent in the End Times**

*'So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, **who deceives the whole world**; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.'*  
Revelation 12:9

*'He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, **so that he should deceive the nations no more** till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.'*  
Revelation 20:2-3

- **The Serpent at the End of the Millennium**

*'Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison **and will go out to deceive the nations** which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea.'*  
Revelation 20:7-8

*'**The devil, who deceived them**, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.'*  
Revelation 20:10

- **Deceiving not just individuals, but nations**
- **Satan is the ultimate source of deception - he is at the root of it**
- **The Coming World Leader & the False Prophet**
  - **Satan's Agents in the End-Times and the Tribulation**

*'The **coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan**, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. '*  
2 Thessalonians 2:9-10

- **Deception then is accompanied by 'lying signs and wonders'**
  - **It was true in ancient times - e.g. Moses & Aaron before Pharaoh**
  - **It is true today - false prophets & false teachers counterfeit signs and wonders**
  - **It will be true in the time of Tribulation**
- **The Beast from the Sea** **Revelation 13:1-10**
  - **Often referred to wrongly as 'the Anti-Christ' - it is more accurate to describe him as 'the Coming World Leader'**

- The Bible simply calls him 'The Beast from the Sea, or the Beast
- The Bible refers to 'Anti-Christ' as a Spirit that Denies that Christ has come in the Flesh, rather than as a person; or that denies His divinity - though it manifests in people, like the Beast and the False Prophet- see **1 John 2:18, 22; 4:3 and 2 John 1:7**
- The False Prophet (The Beast from the Earth) **Revelation 13:11-18**
  - Principal role - to deceive and encourage worship of the Beast
  - He performs signs and wonders to deceive - just like false teachers and false prophets do today

*'And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived.'* Revelation 13:14

- The Unholy Trinity - Satan (the Dragon in Rev. 13) gives his power to the Beast from the Sea, who along with the Dragon is worshiped, and he speaks blasphemies (not Truth) and the False Prophet seduces the worlds by false signs to worship the Beast and to take his mark
  - The Dragon (Satan) - a false God the Father
  - The Beast (the Coming World Leader) - a false Christ, like a son - but the 'son' of the dragon
  - The False Prophet - a false Holy Spirit, encouraging worship of the false christ (the Beast)
- The Coming World Leader and the False Prophet

*'Then the beast was captured, and with him **the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.*** Revelation 19:20

- Their Fate - for their Deceptions - is the Lake of Fire
- Spiritual Hosts of Wickedness
  - Satan's Agents in the World - Now

- **Satan's Wiles (Deceptions) can come through hosts of unholy spirits - Principalities, Powers, Rulers, Spiritual Hosts of Wickedness**

*'Put on **the whole armour of God**, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.' For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but **against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.** Ephesians 6:11-12*

- **We have to be strong in the Lord's power and might - not our own**
- **We have to put on the armour of God in order to resist**
  - **Not simply to resist the enemy's temptations and assaults, but...**
  - **To resist his wiles - his Deceptions - so that we may stand, withstand and, having done all, stand!**
    - ❖ Paul tells the Corinthians 'we are not ignorant of his (Satan's) devices (schemes or wiles) **2 Cor.2:11**
    - ❖ To resist Satan's wiles, we have to be aware of them and to put on the armour of God and stand
  - **Therefore - all the elements of the armour and weaponry are important in resisting deception:**
    - ❖ Truth
    - ❖ Righteousness
    - ❖ Readiness with the Gospel
    - ❖ Faith - as a shield
    - ❖ Salvation - as a protection of our mind
    - ❖ The Sword of the Spirit - The Bible, the Word of God
    - ❖ Prayer & Supplication
    - ❖ Watchfulness
    - ❖ Perseverance
- **Satan's Dealings with Men**
  - **Scripture speaks of Satan in many different guises - sometimes as tempter (**Matthew 4:3**), sometimes as devourer (**1 Peter 5:8-9**), sometimes as destroyer (**Revelation 9: 11**), slanderer &**

liar (**John 8:44**), sometimes as accuser (**Revelation 12:10**) and sometimes as deceiver (**Revelation 12:9**), sometimes as an enemy (**Matthew 13:39**), and even as an angel of light (**2 Corinthians 11:14**)

- We encounter Satan or his agents in these ways
- Satan's Deceptive Dealings with Men - always deceiving somehow:
  - Unregenerate Man - deceived by sin
  - Carnal Christian - deceived by compromise
  - Pious Christian - deceived by accusation
  - Spiritual Christian - deceived by wiles (subtle tricks, evil strategies and lying spirits)
- It is the Spiritual Christian, the disciple who seeks to know more of God and to have a deeper relationship with Him, that is the one who is the most vulnerable to the Devil in his role as 'Deceiver'
  - By deception he tries to divert the Spiritual Christian away from the Lord into that which is idolatrous and counterfeit
  - This is true of churches also - the spiritual church that is seeking more of God is the one most vulnerable to deception
- False Christs
  - Yeshua warned against False Christs - particularly in the end times
    - In Matthew 24

*'And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, **saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.**'*

*Matthew 24:4-5*

*'For **false christs and false prophets will rise** and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand.'* *Matthew 24:24-25*

- In Mark 13

*'For many will come in My name, **saying, 'I am He,' and will deceive many.'***  
Mark 13:6

*“Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or, ‘Look, He is there!’ do not believe it. For **false christs and false prophets will rise and show signs and wonders to deceive**, if possible, even the elect. But take heed; see, I have told you all things beforehand.”*  
Mark 13:21-23

- In Luke 21

*'And He said: “Take heed that you not be deceived. For **many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He,' and, 'The time has drawn near.'** Therefore, do not go after them.’*  
Luke 21:8

- Characteristics of 'false christs'

- They come in His (Yeshua's) name
- They show great signs and wonders
- They deceive many, even the elect (Israel)
- People go chasing after them

- A Way of Understanding 'false christs'

- There have been those in history who have claimed to be Messiah - but I suggest that these passages allude to another understanding also...
- Not as those who claim to be the returned Messiah - because these scriptures tell us that they come 'in His name', but rather as:
- Deceiving 'New Moves of God' or 'Prophets with New Revelation'
  - Purporting to bring new insights and teaching about the Lord
  - Purporting to be new manifestations of the power of God
  - Purporting to be new and deeper experiences of God
  - Purporting to be accompanied by signs and wonders
- Groups and Individual False Teachers & Prophets which have been 'false christs' in recent times would include



- Don't let them pray for you or lay hands on you! - to do so may mean that another spirit attaches to you - and it will harm you and your soul
  - If someone from these groups has laid hands on you, or prayed for you, may need prayer for release from imparted spirits!

- False Prophets and False Teachers

>> Lessons from Yeshua's warnings and the Letters of Paul and Peter

- Yeshua warned against false prophets - particularly in the end times

*'Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.'*      *Matthew 24:11*

*'For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand.'*  
*Matthew 24:24-25*

- Judging Prophets and Prophecy - judge them by:
  - Their Fruits      *Matthew 7:15-20*
  - The Word of God      *Proverbs 30:5-6*
  - Other True Prophets      *Isaiah 8:20; Jeremiah 28:8-9*
  - Whether their Prophecies Come True      *Deut. 18:21-22*
- False Prophets are often associated with false signs and wonders - Yeshua warned us that this would be so
- Paul warned the Roman church about false teachers

*'Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.'*      *Romans 16:17-18*

- The Nature of the false teacher - they bring false doctrine contrary to scripture...sometimes dressed up as new understandings
- The Character of the false teacher - serving themselves
- The Ways of the false teacher - smooth words and flattering speech...tickling people's ears and appealing to their vanities

- **The Effect of the false teacher** - they cause divisions and give offence ...splitting churches and being critical of those who disagree with them
- **The Judge of Teaching is not personality or persuasiveness, but the Bible**

- **Paul warned the Corinthian church about deceptive teaching**

*'Do you not know that **the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived.** Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.'*  
*1 Corinthians 6:9-10*

*'**Do not be deceived:** "Evil company corrupts good habits." Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for **some do not have the knowledge of God.** I speak this to your shame.'*  
*1 Corinthians 15:33-34*

- **False teaching can lead into sinful practice** - just like the Lord's criticisms of the churches at Pergamos and Thyatira
- **If unrighteous or unbiblical practices are being advocated, then the teaching is false-** such as the toleration of sexual sin or the advocating of 'drunkenness in the spirit' or uncontrolled laughter
- **Teaching which blurs biblical truth** - for instance, about marriage and homosexuality - **is entirely false and a deception**
- **Tolerating false teaching (and teachers) leads you astray** - one lie, then another - and you don't know where you will end up

- **Paul warns the Ephesian and Colossian churches about humanistic teaching**

*'For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. **Let no one deceive you with empty words,** for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.'*  
*Ephesians 5:6*

*'**Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit,** according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.'*  
*Colossians 2:8*

- **Teaching that tolerates sin is deception**

- **Philosophy (Greek humanistic thinking) and traditions of men** - they are of the world and not of God - they cheat (deceive) the believer
- **Many false teachers today espouse ideas that come out of human philosophy, dressed up in 'Christian words and phrases', which are little more than positive thinking and the use of soul power**
- **Paul warns Timothy about false teachers**

*'Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, **giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons**, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,' 1 Timothy 4:1-2*

*'But **evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived**. But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 2 Timothy 3:13-15*

- **The Source of false teaching**
  - **Deceiving spirits**
  - **Doctrines of demons**
  - **Evil men** - many start out simply as being deceived themselves, but they continue in false teaching and thus become deceivers themselves - knowing what they teach is false
  - **Imposters** - pretending to be what they are not - often to simply make money and live a millionaire lifestyle off of those they deceive
- **The Effect of false teaching**
  - **Deceiving believers** - many
  - **Deceived teachers with seared consciences** - they know that what they are doing is a deception
  - **Lies spoken in hypocrisy** - i.e. in false pretences (such as to make money or achieve position or fame)
- **How to stay on course**

- Continue in the knowledge of scripture - gaining understanding
- Continue on in the inner assurance of the Lord - by His Spirit
- Grow in the wisdom of scripture - by study

- Peter warns about false teachers

*'But there were also **false prophets** among the people, even as there will be **false teachers** among you, **who will secretly bring in destructive heresies**, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed.'*

*2 Peter 2:1-2*

- They bring in heresies secretly (hidden in fine words)
  - Their teaching is destructive - destroying faith and assurance in the believer
  - They deny the Lord - casting doubt on His deity or His humanity, on His redemptive sacrifice, on His coming again, and much more - all this we see in the church today
- Humility is the mark of a true 'Man of God' - humble men of God do not proclaim themselves as prophets - like those of the New Apostolic Reformation

*'So likewise, you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, **'We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.'***

*Luke 17:10*

- The Lord is teaching His disciples about Faith and Duty

*'So it was that he stayed many days in Joppa with Simon, a tanner.'* Acts 9:43

- Peter had just healed Aeneas (paralysed and bedridden for 8 years) and raised Dorcas (Tabitha) from the dead!
- No speaking tour, no TV appearances - just humbly 'tarrying'
- Because Peter 'tarried', the Lord was able to give him a vision and prepare him for the arrival of Cornelius' servants from Caesarea

- Deceptions of the World

- The Sorcery of the Allures of the World

*'Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, "Thus with violence **the great city Babylon shall be thrown down**, and shall not be found anymore. The sound of harpists, musicians, flutists, and trumpeters shall not be heard in you anymore. No craftsman of any craft shall be found in you anymore, and the sound of a millstone shall not be heard in you anymore. The light of a lamp shall not shine in you anymore, and the voice of bridegroom and bride shall not be heard in you anymore. For your merchants were the great men of the earth, **for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived.**'*  
*Revelation 18:21-23*

- Men are deceived by the World's Allurements - money, sex and power

- The Love of the World - a deception that invades the Church

*'Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but **he who does the will of God abides forever.**'*  
*1 John 2:15-17*

- It is in opposition to the love of the Father
    - Just like Eve, Satan can cause us to 'look and see' - and we are deceived by what we see - **Gen.3:6**
      - We think it will feed us - nourish and enrich our life
      - We see it as pleasing - making us happy and content
    - Ultimately it brings death - because the world is passing away

- The Deception of Compromise (Loving the World)

- The Churches at Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis & Laodicea were deceived by false teaching and false prophets into compromise with the world
      - The Effect of Compromise
        - ❖ Teachings which encourage compromise and sin
        - ❖ Doctrines which the Lord hates
        - ❖ Reputations of being alive - but they are dead spiritually
        - ❖ Defilement - defiled garments

- ❖ Neither hot nor cold - lukewarm, no spiritual cutting edge
- ❖ Counterfeit - everything they think they are and purport to be they are not; not in the eyes of the Lord

➤ **The Result of Compromise**

- ❖ The Lord will come and fight against them
- ❖ The Lord will bring judgement on the false teachers
- ❖ The Lord's return will be 'as a thief in the night to them'
- ❖ The Lord calls for repentance - He longs to restore

- **We Deceive Ourselves - The Flesh**

- **By Giving Way to Our Own Fleshly Desires**

*'But each one is tempted when he is **drawn away by his own desires and enticed**. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.'* James 1:14-16

- **By Thinking we are Wise**

*'**Let no one deceive himself**. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise.'* 1 Corinthians 3:18

- **By Thinking we can Compromise with the World**

*'**Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived**. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.'* 1 Corinthians 6:9-10

- **Because of the Pride in our Hearts**

*'**The pride of your heart has deceived you**, you who dwell in the clefts of the rock, whose habitation is high; you who say in your heart, 'Who will bring me down to the ground?''* Obadiah 1:3

- **Pride in our hearts makes us very vulnerable to deception - deceptions appeal to our vanity and we get 'sucked in'**

- **By Thinking Disobedience has No Consequences**

*'**Do not be deceived**, God is not mocked; **for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap**.'* Galatians 6:7

- **By Thinking Faith can Be Enough without Actions**

*'But be doers of the word, and **not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.**' James 1:22*

- **By Denying Our Sinfulness**

*'If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.'*  
*1 John 1:8*

- **All these things come from within - and we see them in the Church today**

### How To Guard Yourself Against Deception

- **Commandment No 1**
  - **The Lord's Purpose For Us**

*'Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the first and great commandment.'*  
*Matthew 22:37-38*

- **This is God's Agenda for Us - the first and greatest commandment is to love Him**
- **Stay Focussed on this Above All - it will guard you against deception, which always seeks to divert us from loving the Lord**
- **Deception's Diversions from Loving the Lord your God:**
  - **Loving ourselves** - the focus becomes my spiritual gifts (healing & prophecy are the favourites), my power to 'make things happen', my authority to 'declare what will be', my status and kudos - yes, it is like becoming like a god
  - **Loving spiritual experiences** - the focus becomes seeking continual spiritual 'highs', ecstatic or mystic experiences - yes, it is like being on drugs
  - **Loving false gods** - deception diverts us so that our focus becomes a god who is unlike the God of Abraham, Isaac & Jacob - yes, it is idolatrous worship
- **Loving the Father**
  - **He is the source of our life, not ourselves** *Psalm 103:1-5*
  - **Knowing His Character** - Holy, Sovereign, Righteous, Merciful, Faithful

- Loving His Ways - His ways, not Our ways *Psalm 86:8-13; Isaiah 55:9*
- Trusting Him - for all things and in all circumstances *Psalm 91:14-16*
- Knowing the Son
  - Learning to distinguish the voice of the Shepherd *John 10:27*
  - Knowing His Character - Holy, Humble, Submitted, Sacrificial
  - Becoming like Him *Philippians 3:7-11*
  - Rejoicing in Him and Because of Him *Ephesians 1:3-14*
- Discerning the Spirit
  - Understanding His Nature and His Work *John 16:13-15*
  - Becoming like Him - Growing the Fruit *Galatians 5:22-26*
  - Test the Spirits *1 John 4:1-6*
  - Always Looking unto Jesus *John 16:14*
- Abiding *John 15:1-17*
  - Abiding is a key to guarding yourself against deception
  - Abiding in Yeshua, the True Vine
    - We can do nothing of ourselves
    - Abiding is the key to fruitfulness and joy
    - Obedience and Abiding, give Glory to the Father
  - Allowing the Vinedresser (Father) to do His work
    - Pruning is essential for spiritual health
    - Pruning is essential for ongoing fruitfulness
  - Dwelling in the Secret Place *Psalm 91*
    - Place of refuge & safety, strength & security, and salvation
- Two or Three Witnesses

*"One witness shall not rise against a man concerning any iniquity or any sin that he commits; **by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established.**"*  
Deuteronomy 19:15

*'Moreover, if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. But if he will not hear, **take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.'***  
Matthew 18:15-16

*'This will be the third time I am coming to you. **"By the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established."***  
2 Cor. 13:1 (see 12:12-31)

- By 2 or 3 Witnesses - Truth is Established
- By 2 or 3 Witnesses - Faults (Deceptions) are Exposed and Judged
  
- The Witness of The Word of God
  - The Supremacy of God's Word

*'I will worship toward Your holy temple, and praise Your name for Your lovingkindness and Your truth; for **You have magnified Your word above all Your name.***  
Psalm 138:2

- The Word of God is Living and Active

*'**For the word of God is living and powerful**, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart'.  
Hebrews 4:12*

- It is a living thing - it is always fresh
- It is surgical in its precision - separates the soulish from the spiritual
- It discerns and distinguishes - what lies hidden is revealed
  
- The Word of God Equips Us Thoroughly

*'All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is **profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness**, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.  
2 Timothy 3:16-17*

- All Scripture - whole counsel of scripture

- In assessing teachings - have regard for the whole counsel of scripture, not just one verse or passage - but 'all scripture'
- Beware of verses, or passages, taken out of context
  - ❖ A Verse out of Context is a Pretext (for Deception)
  - ❖ Example of 1 John 4:4

*'He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world' 1 John 4:4b*

- ✓ It is only part of a verse - a phrase
- ✓ The context of the passage is Discernment - testing the spirits and false prophets and false teachers and their prophecies and teachings
- ✓ It is not about using the 'Power of the Spirit' in You to defeat Satan, cast out demons or make proclamations which bring down strongholds - using this verse to teach these things is a deception and false teaching
- It is God's Inspired Word - don't Play With It, Belittle It or Change It
  - Beware of Paraphrases, Modern 'With-It' Translations
  - Beware of Those who use them in Teaching
  - Beware - False Teachers exalt their word above God's word
  - Beware of Flippant Modernisms
- 'Continue in God's Word' - it will give you 'Wisdom unto Salvation' 2 Tim. 3:10-15

- Be An 'Approved Workman' - Study

*'Remind them of these things, charging them before the Lord not to strive about words to no profit, to the ruin of the hearers. **Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.** But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort, who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some. Nevertheless, the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."*

*2 Timothy 2:14-19*

- Be Diligent - (Study in KJV)

- **Diligence** - 'the constant effort to accomplish, being attentive and persistent in doing'
- **Do you have regular times of Bible Study?**
  - ❖ **Devotional reading is good** - but to be equipped to discern truth from error you need to study
  - ❖ **Personal study** - regularly
  - ❖ **Group study** - regularly
  - ❖ **Many tools to help**
    - ✓ **Get a good bible** - KJV or NKJV or Hebrew Bible
    - ✓ **Concordances & Dictionaries** - e.g. Strong
    - ✓ **Commentaries** - e.g. Matthew Henry, F B Meyer, John Wesley, Believers Bible etc
    - ✓ **CD/DVD Bible Commentaries** - e.g. Chuck Missler
    - ✓ **I T Bibles & Commentaries** - e.g. E-Sword or the Blue Letter Bible - on your laptop, on your mobile!
    - ✓ **Internet sites about Deceptions** - the internet is a good resource for checking out about false prophets, false teachers or teachings
- **Rightly Dividing the word of truth** - meaning 'a straight cut', 'dissecting correctly' - not twisting the word but searching it out to fully understand
  - **The Model of the Hebraic way**
    - ❖ **P'Shat** - simple rendering - literal, grammatical, contextual and historical meanings
    - ❖ **Drash** - search out - compare and contrasting passages of scripture
    - ❖ **Remez** - a hint - a deeper understanding including typology, symbolism or analogy
    - ❖ **Sod** - a secret - the hidden or numerical meaning
    - ❖ **Allegorica** - one thing standing for another - understanding allegory and metaphor in scripture

- **It is for Everybody** - not just clever bible scholars - **but every believer should study to show themselves 'approved by God'**
- **Note the Context** - Paul teaches Timothy (the young Pastor in training) about deceptions in the church
  - **Striving about (re-defining the meaning of) words** - a favourite trick of false teachers - if you hear someone doing this, then beware
  - **Profane and idle babblings** - not just idle words, this could be what we see in the today's church - animal noises, etc
  - **False teaching** - e.g. Believer's resurrection (the rapture)
- **Be A Good Berean** - Avoiding the *Tragedy* of Being Deceived

*'Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and **searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.** Therefore, many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men.'*

*Acts 17:10-12*

- **Fair Minded**
  - Meek - open to teaching (not closed minds) - the Lord is always showing us new things from His word
  - Received the word with readiness - eager for good teaching, but...
- **Bible Based - Searched the Scriptures**
  - Checked out 'new teaching' with the Bible
  - Daily - a matter of practice for every teaching
  - 'Are things so?' - Is it what the Lord says in His word?
- **Faith Grows**
  - Searching the scriptures leads to understanding - knowing the Lord and His ways
  - It will grow your faith, your understanding and your relationship with the Lord

- The Witness of the Holy Spirit

- Our Divine Teacher and Guide

*However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, **He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak;** and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore, I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.* *John 16:13-15*

- He Guides us into 'all truth' - the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth
      - He does not lie - He is the Spirit of Truth
        - Discernment is about distinguishing truth from lies
      - He Guides - leads us - gently and lovingly, but clearly
      - He does not Speak on His Own Authority
        - Just like Yeshua who only did the works His Father showed Him, so the Ruach HaKodesh only speaks words that Yeshua gives Him
        - He speaks specifically - words for us in our situation - words that answer questions we have - words that speak of what will be
      - The Holy Spirit is The Expert on the prophetic and on teaching - He really knows - unlike today's self-proclaimed apostles, prophets and teachers
        - The Ruach HaKodesh speaks into our hearts and minds the words that Yeshua gives Him, specifically for us
    - He always Glorifies Yeshua - always points to Yeshua
      - One test of the spirit behind a teacher or teaching is - who is being glorified - the teacher? the teaching?, the individual?, or Yeshua?
      - Deceptions often seek to glorify something/someone other than Yeshua - e.g. Faith, or Experiences, or Health & Prosperity, or Power & Dominion
      - As Disciples our focus is to give glory to Yeshua and to the Father
    - He is the Helper - not the Source - the words the Holy Spirit speaks to us come straight from the Throne Room - not from the Spirit Himself

- All that the Father has, he has given Yeshua
- The Holy Spirit takes what takes what Yeshua has and declares it to us
  - The right words at the right time
  - The Truth from the Father, by the Son
  - The answers to our questions
- Discerning the Voice of the Holy Spirit
  - A Learning Process - learn to discern the voice of the Spirit
    - Distinguish from the voice of the enemy
    - Distinguish from the voice of the world
    - Distinguish from the voice of our own soul
  - Learning the Ways of the Spirit - learning His ways
    - The Light Touch - not the 'heavy hand'
    - The Breath that gives Life - not an air that kills
    - The Still Small Voice - not the strong wind, or the earthquake, or the fire 1 Kings 19:11-13
  - We are told to 'test the spirits'

*'Beloved, do not believe every spirit, **but test the spirits, whether they are of God;** because many false prophets have gone out into the world.'* 1 John 4:1

- Asking the questions
  - ❖ 'Is this of the Holy Spirit and The Word of God?'
  - ❖ 'Is this Truth?'
  - ❖ 'What is the Source?'
- He that is in you!

***'By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.'***

***You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because **He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.** They are of the world. Therefore, they speak as***

*of the world, and the world hears them. We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.'*  
*1 John 4:2-6*

- **Is greater than he that is in the world - i.e. the deceiver, Satan**
- **If you know the Lord, then you will hear the voice of His Spirit**
- **Marks of Unclean (Antichrist) Spirits and False Teaching**
  - **Denial or diminishing of Yeshua's humanity**
  - **Denial or diminishing of Yeshua's divinity**
  - **Worldliness - sounding like the way the world sounds, behaving the way the world behaves**
- **Word and Spirit Always Agree**
  - **The Word is God's divinely inspired word**
  - **The Spirit speaks Yeshua's word to us, which comes from the Father**
  - **How, then, can these two disagree?**
    - **The witness within agrees with God's inspired word**
    - **If they seem to Disagree, then:**
      - ❖ **Maybe it is not the Holy Spirit but another voice**
      - ❖ **Maybe you have not properly understood the Word of God**
      - ❖ **Maybe you need to ask a Third Witness**
- **The Witness of Your Brothers in Fellowship**
  - **The Strength of Good Fellowship** **1 Cor. 12**
    - **One Body - with many members with Christ the Head - joined in Him**
    - **Different gifts - all for building up the body**
    - **Some are Pastors and Teachers**

- Yeshua recommended consulting one's brothers as witnesses *Matt. 18:15-16*
  - Seek answers from those with whom you are in fellowship:
    - Experienced in the faith - not new disciples
    - Good scholars - know their Bible
    - Trustworthy - will tell you the truth in love
    - Prayerful - will pray with you and for you
  - Seek for wisdom more than knowledge

Resources - List of Resources...Books & Booklets, Websites, Commentaries  
- distributed at SYMF

Paul's prayer for the Ephesians

*Ephesians 1:15-23*

- A Prayer for Spiritual Wisdom
- Encouragement
  - Take comfort and courage - your love for the Lord and for His body, the saints, is a strength for your faith and your spiritual walk
  - The Lord is always faithful and He holds you in the palm of His hand
  - His Power, towards us to bless us, is exceedingly great
  - He is Lord of all - and His fullness, by His Spirit, is in you!