

Deception-Proofing Your Life

Revelation 12:9

...that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray...

Joshua 9:3-27

2 Corinthians 11:13-15

¹³For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ. ¹⁴And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. ¹⁵It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.

Matthew 24:24

For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to **deceive**, if possible, even the elect.

Last Days Deception

Matthew 24:4

Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one **deceives** you.

Matthew 24:5

For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah,' and will **deceive** many.

Matthew 24:11

and many false prophets will appear and **deceive** many people.

Matthew 24:24

For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to **deceive**, if possible, even the elect.

2 Timothy 3:13

...evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

Counterfeit

Discerning the Source

e.g. Moses, Aaron and Pharaoh's Magicians

Open Doors to Deception

2 Corinthians 11:3-4

³But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. ⁴For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the Spirit you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough.

1 Timothy 2:14

And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner.

Genesis 3:1-6

¹ Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'" ² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³ but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle

of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.”⁴ “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman.⁵ “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

Colossians 2:4

I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments.

Colossians 2:8

⁸See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.

1 Timothy 4:1-5

¹The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.² Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.³ They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth.⁴ For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving,⁵ because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.

Protection from Deception

Starting Point

Psalms 32:1-2

¹Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.² Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

Revelation 21:27

Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

The Word of God

James 1:22-25

²²Do not merely listen to the word, and so **deceive** yourselves. Do what it says.²³ Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror²⁴ and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.²⁵ But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

Acts 17:11

Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

2 Timothy 3:12-17

¹²In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,¹³ while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it,¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

The Word of the Lord

Joshua 9:14-15

The Israelites sampled their provisions **but did not inquire of the Lord**.¹⁵ Then Joshua made a treaty of peace with them to let them live...

Isaiah 11:1-4

¹A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. ²The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord—³and he will delight in the fear of the Lord. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; ⁴but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.

Love the truth

2 Thessalonians 2:8-10

⁸And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming. ⁹The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie, ¹⁰and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

Worship

1 Samuel 16:23

Whenever the **spirit** from God came on **Saul**, David would take up his lyre and play. Then relief would come to **Saul**; he would feel better, and the evil **spirit** would leave him.

Family

Proverbs 18:1

An unfriendly person pursues selfish ends and against all sound judgment starts quarrels.

Hebrews 3:12-13

¹²See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. ¹³But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.

Five-Fold Ministry

Ephesians 4:11-16

¹¹So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³until 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. ¹⁴Then 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. ¹⁵Instead, 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. ¹⁶From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.