

## Doctrine of Spiritual Deception

1. Spiritual deception casts doubt upon the Word of God (Genesis 3:1). In the matter of pain and suffering the Enemy comes to suggest a question to the mind which asks, "*Would a good and loving God inflict pain and suffering upon His children?*" The Satanic answer expected is, "*No! Because God is good and kind and merciful He does not want His children to suffer.*"

Once the mind accepts this presuppositional thought then the Evil One can continue to lead and mislead the soul step by step from the Sovereign and from true spirituality in the same way a child who has been spanked by a loving parent can be led and thus misled to believe his parent does not "*really*" care for him.

2. Spiritual deception denies the Word of God (Genesis 3:4). In the matter of pain and suffering there is the simplicity of God's word to Moses as He takes full responsibility for creating the dumb, the deaf and the blind (Ex. 4:11). However, the Evil One comes to snatch the good word of God from the heart by boldly denying what God declares.
3. Spiritual deception pretends to honor God but debases Him. In the name of protecting one part of God's essence such as His love or mercy another part of God's essence is sacrificed such as His sovereignty over the universe including pain and suffering. That is taken and ascribed to Satan, Sin or Self.
4. Spiritual deception offers to the mind an alternative spiritual but mythical reality (Gen. 3:5). Specifically, every false teacher eventually declares that man is a god, shall be God or at the very least is God like to an extent, the *Bible* never authorizes.
5. Spiritual deception blurs the distinction between the Creator and His creation because the original intent of Satan has never been repented of which is to be like God. *Isaiah 14:12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! 13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.*
6. Spiritual deception does not allow for the rule of reason or objective reality. No thinking person diagnosed and dying of terminal cancer would articulate words to the contrary or pretend they were healed while undergoing chemo treatment apart from spiritual deception. It is only when people divorce themselves from objective reality they know the judgment of God who sends them false prophets to follow, and a lie to believe, because they rejected the truth. *Jeremiah 7:8 Behold, ye trust in lying words, that cannot profit. 2 Thessalonians 2:11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:*

7. Spiritual deception takes biblical words and gives them new meaning. One biblical word that is given a new meaning is the word “*faith*.” The *Bible* defines faith in Hebrews 11:1 “*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*” Faith has substance. Faith is not a mystical idea but has an object and it is always the object of faith that receives the merit. The sinner is command to look to Christ and live. Christ is the object of faith. *John 3:14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: 15 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.*

The soul is also commanded to believe in God. God is the object of faith and receives the merit. *Mark 11:22 And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.*

Faith never sets aside objective reality to believe what is not real. Only God can declare what is real, not self. Therefore, until God gives a person permission to believe in a healing, or a job or a source of income, having faith in faith that such and such will be acquired, or happen, is a delusion of grandeur and borders on the psychotic, not the spiritual. For example, Paul was never given permission to believe he would be healed. In fact, God told him just the opposite. It would have been foolishness, not faith, had Paul insisted that his throne in the flesh be removed despite the fact he prayed three times for its removal.

In contrast, when Hezekiah was given permission to believe he would live for fifteen more years it would have been foolish for him to have worried about dying before then. *2 Kings 20:6 And I will add unto thy days fifteen years; and I will deliver thee and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will defend this city for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake.*

9. Spiritual deception does not want the soul to have faith in God and so the object of faith is redirected.

Faith is redirected to Satan. The Evil One is given honor and glory and power which he does not have though he lies and claims to have the power to give the kingdoms of this world to those who will worship him. But that is not possible, “*For the earth is the Lord's , and the fullness thereof*” (*1 Corinthians 10:26*).

The Evil One lies and pretends he has the Godlike authority and ability to administer sickness and disease and death but in *Scripture* it is never apart from divine permission. All Satan can do is roar like a hungry lion seeking whom he may devour.

According to biblical teaching Satan is a defeated enemy, a bound foe, and without power to hurt anyone though he may desire souls, as he did Peter to shift him as wheat. Why could Satan not get to Peter? Because Christ had prayed for him. *Luke 22:31 And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: 32 But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.*

Faith is redirected to self. It is appalling to listen to the testimonies of those who believe their faith is something to tell and retell on their journey to health and wealth and prosperity – even when in reality they are not healthy, wealthy or prosperous.

10. Spiritual deception makes merchandise of God's people. One of the most clever forms of making merchandise of God's people is by persuading individuals that if they support a particular ministry with Seed Faith money, always money, there will be a financial reward many times over in return. That is not spirituality, that is simply a good business transaction. In the *Bible* the emphasis is upon divesting oneself of riches in order to help others. To make merchandise of God's people the opposite has to be practiced and today it is being done.