

## Doctrine of Satanic Lying

1. If a key to spiritual victory is to tell the devil to stop lying to the soul and for self to stop believing the lies of the Enemy, how does one recognize satanic deception?
  - First, the lies of Satan are always contrary to the Word of God. The lies may be subtle at first as when Satan simply invited Eve to question God's goodness and grace but as the dialogue continues the lie will grow bolder until it is plain that the known will and Word of God is being violated. There is an audaciousness to sin.
  - Second, the lies of the Devil violate the conscience. The soul that is born of God is sensitive to sin. A question arises when the heart is doing or saying something that is contrary to holiness.
  - Third, the lies of Satan are reinforced by the world. When the thoughts of the Christian must find validation from the world then there is usually something wrong.
  - Fourth, the lies of Satan come in different phases or what is sometimes called "half truths". The intent is to mislead and misdirected from true truth, and in that way the lies of Satan can be detected. It is possible to play man a game of spiritual mental gymnastics in order to justify the unjustifiable.
  - Fifth, the lies of Satan can be identified for when the truth is plainly presented in a gospel message the heart is convicted of wrongdoing. One of the signs of righteousness and being filled with the Spirit is that the heart is not condemned.
  
2. Why does the heart embrace the lies of the Enemy?
  - The lies of Satan are believed because faith is weak. Faith is weak by natural spiritual dynamics for the believer is exhorted to grow in grace and in knowledge. *2 Peter 3:18 "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever. Amen."*
  - The lies of Satan are believed because of fear. Christians are like little children and are afraid of many things until there is a level of spiritual maturity to enjoy.
  - The lies of Satan are believed because they are persuasive. A good lie will have an element of truth associated with it. The closer to the truth a lie is the more effective it can be. If a believer does not think through a thought then a lie has a good chance of being embraced.
  - The lies of Satan are believed because they appeal to the flesh. The flesh enjoys the will to power and the principle of pleasure. The Christian is to mortify the flesh. *Colossians 3:5-6 "Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: 6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:"*