

GOD'S E.R.

FREED FROM ALL THINGS

Acts 13:39 and through Him everyone who believes is freed from all things

Class 2 – Basic Training for Christians - Lesson One

BE ON THE ALERT

(Avoiding Deception)

1 Peter 5:8-9 Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. **9** But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.

1 Corinthians 6:9 Or 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 effeminate, nor homosexuals,

1 Corinthians 15:33 *Do not be deceived*: "Bad company corrupts good morals."

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

James 1:16 *Do not be deceived*, my beloved brethren.

The Scriptures warn us many times not to be deceived by the enemy. So what does it mean to be deceived?

to steal, steal away, carry away

to deceive, lie, fail, grow lean, be disappointing, be untrue, be insufficient, be found liars, belie, deny, dissemble, deal falsely

to cause to stray, to lead astray, lead aside from the right way

to go astray, wander, roam about

to lead away from the truth, to lead into error, to deceive

to be led into error

to be led aside from the path of virtue, to go astray, sin

to sever or fall away from the truth

to be led away into error and sin

Deception **1.** to mislead by a false appearance or statement; **delude**:
2. to mislead or **falsely persuade others**; practice deceit

The problem is that deceived people don't know they are deceived. It requires a lot of prayer and a very introspective heart to become free of deception. Therefore, we should not allow ourselves to become deceived in the first place.

1 Corinthians 10:12 "Therefore let him that thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall."

Taking heed to yourself is to be alert and on guard, watching for any signs of snares, traps, questionable situations, or wrong attitudes, thoughts, and actions in your life.

Hebrews 4:12 “For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart”

The more we continue in God’s Word, the more we understand and grow in discernment.

Hosea 4:6 “My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge...”

Many Christians fail to gain knowledge of Scripture to establish what they believe and to strengthen their ability to recognize error. We need to read and study God’s Word daily to know right from wrong.

Proverbs 2:10-11 “For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul; 11 Discretion will guard you, understanding will watch over you”

Wisdom is the ability to rightly apply the knowledge. We cannot have a passive attitude! Strength that overcomes is being *watchful* - then recognizing, confronting, and resisting the enemy. When we think that we are beyond temptation, we are in danger. We are to focus on what God’s Word says concerning these temptations and apply His overcoming Power.

Ephesians 5:15-16 Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, 16 making the most of your time, because the days are evil.

We are at war spiritually. Our enemy does not sleep. We must stay awake and be sober and alert *spiritually*, cooperating with God’s wisdom and His delivering help in our lives.

HOW DO WE BECOME DECEIVED?

1. PRIDE:

Pride is an attitude of self-sufficiency. Pride causes a person to feel that they don’t need others but are sufficient in their own strength, knowledge, or talents. Humility is God’s requirement here for staying on track and not becoming deceived.

Obadiah 1:3 “The pride of your heart has *deceived* you...”

Pride causes a person to feel so capable of handling life that they don’t need to seek God daily for advice. A prideful person is not willing to receive correction because they feel that they are okay or they are justified by their actions. Those who are not quick to repent do not realize they are “dulling” their sensitivity to hearing God’s voice.

2. SELF-DECEPTION:

A person who is a hearer of the Word of God but does not apply it to his/her life by becoming a doer of the Word, is self-deceived.

James 1:22 “But be doers of the Word, and not hearers only, *deceiving* your own selves.”

There are individuals who mentally agree with and believe the Scriptures, but are not walking in the truth they believe. They have not brought their lives into subjection to the Word of God to live by it. When the storms come, their house falls because it was built on sand and not on the rock of being a doer of the Word.

Luke 6:46-49 "Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? 47 "Everyone who comes to Me and hears My words and acts on them, I will show you whom he is like: 48 he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid a foundation on the rock; and when a flood occurred, the torrent burst against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. **49 But the one who has heard and has not acted accordingly is like a man who built a house on the ground without any foundation; and the torrent burst against it and immediately it collapsed, and the ruin of that house was great.**"

4 FACTORS THAT FEED SELF-DECEPTION:

1. **Apathy** - lack of emotion, lack of interest and indifference, complacent.

When we do not seek to grow, we are actually backsliding and losing what we've received. We do not have the luxury of "coasting" – there is no "static" state in Christianity.

2. **Pride** - excessive self-esteem and conceit.

When we feel we have acquired enough knowledge of the Word that we can handle life without seeking God daily in the Word, we are headed to self-deception.

3. **Selfishness** - self-centered and self-seeking; acting for or thinking of one's own well-being alone. Some feel justified that they should be able to do whatever they want to do. The problem is that they forget Who it is that they should be trying to please.

4. **Continual Disobedience** - a person who willfully continues in disobedience in an area will become deceived.

Disobedience must be repented of, followed by a change in the person's lifestyle.

James 1:23-25 "For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; 24 for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. 25 But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does."

3. THE DECEITFULNESS OF SIN:

The Gospel is not a Gospel of convenience but of commitment. Our love for Jesus is supposed to endure until the end. This expectation is evidence that we are to turn away from our sinful habits and seek the Lord wholeheartedly. When we sin, we ask forgiveness and choose to turn away from sin and choose to follow the instruction of the Word.

Matthew 24:12-13 "Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold. 13 But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved."

2 Tim 3:13-14 – "But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, *deceiving and being deceived*. 14 You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them"

Deut. 11:16 "Beware that your hearts are not *deceived*, and that you do not turn away and serve other gods and worship them."

Sin is deceitful because it makes a person think they can get away with their disobedience when they don't see an immediate penalty for it.

Romans 6:1-2 “What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? 2 May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?”

Sin is man going his own way rather than obeying the voice of God. Sin causes a person to do what self wants rather than what God desires. Jesus came to redeem us from going our own way.

Isaiah 53:5 “But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed.”

1 John 1:6-7 “If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; 7 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.”

Hebrews 3:7-8, 13 “Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, “Today if you hear His voice, 8 do not harden your hearts as when they provoked Me, as in the day of trial in the wilderness, 13 But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called “Today,” so that none of you will be hardened by the *deceitfulness of sin*.”

WE MUST BE ON THE ALERT:

The Lord gave Pastor Sharon a Word on how the Christians would be deceived in the last days.

They will neglect these 4 areas in their daily lives:

1. Reading the Bible
2. Prayer
3. Right relationships to the Body
4. Laying down of self: sharing with others, witnessing and giving.

If you neglect any one of these, it will be like a weak leg on a chair, unstable, rocky. This will create vulnerability in your life.

2 Tim 2:15 – Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

Josh 1:8 – This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.

John 8 :31-32 - So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

Our life is made up of daily choices. Those choices can bless us or destroy us. Where you appropriate the Power of God in your life, nothing the devil throws your way can touch you. Daily use your shield of faith and sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. (Eph. 6:17)

2 Timothy 2:4 No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, this is so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.

**Next week we will study “Armor of God – Part 1” – All the Equipment
We need to Win the War!**