



## WEEK 1 – “Deceptive Experiences”

### CONTEXT MATTERS

Before we begin our series, we must be clear. The Bible teaches that the Antichrist will do SIGNS and LYING WONDERS in the Tribulation Period (which could begin tomorrow). They will be similar to what is being purported as “Christian” in our day. We are not mad at *Charismatics* and do not believe all are lost – just like not all *Baptists* are saved. We know many are godly people that love God, hate sin, and desire for the lost to be saved. Some of you have had this testimony in the past.

This study is designed for the Bible Baptist Church so that its members are properly equipped to DISCERN activities in “Christianity” happening around us today.

This study will not just teach us about deceptive teaching but cause us to understand God’s Word and love Him more. Every church should “major” on preaching and teaching “What the Bible Says!”

### INTRODUCTION

**Acts 2:1-36** – Acts 2 opens with one of the most controversial issues in the religious world. There is much DIVISION among individual Christians and churches concerning “TONGUES” and its biblical purpose. The Pentecostal and Charismatic movements have put an intense emphasis on the gift of speaking in **UNKNOWN** tongues, a phenomenon they refer to as “*speaking in tongues*.” This has turned into a very controversial subject throughout all Christianity. This series will help us to identify this issue of “speaking in tongues”; it will address other surrounding issues of modern-day apostolic healing, and basic information about the activities and history of the Pentecostal and Charismatic movements. We will answer the question: Are these signs and wonders for us TODAY?

Everyone, at times, has some unusual spiritual or religious **EXPERIENCE**. It is at that time we must COMPARE our situation or experience to the infallible standard which God gives us...the holy Bible. It is then that we can determine exactly how God wants us to respond through His revealed truth.

### HOW TO JUDGE ALL SIGNS, WONDERS AND SPIRITUAL GIFTS

1. Laying a biblical foundation for discerning truth
  - a. **John 7:24** - Jesus is involved in a controversy with Jews. The controversy began as Jesus taught the SCRIPTURES in the temple. They marveled at the authority he demonstrated as he taught the Scriptures. They also became angry with him because of the way He was teaching and his actions. He draws the controversy to a conclusion by directing them back to the source of their faith, the **SCRIPTURE**. They should *not* judge according to what they **THINK**, but according to what the Bible says.
    - How else can you make a “righteous judgment”?
    - We have the MIND of Christ – **1 Co. 2:16**

- 
- b. **John 17:17** - Jesus desires that we be SET APART (*sanctified*) from this present world system through the truth. That “truth” is the **WORD** of **GOD**.

**NOTE** Because modern *Charismatic* SIGNS and WONDERS do not (as we will see) withstand the scrutiny of the Bible, they cannot be sanctifying. Therefore, they are not from God.

- c. **Psalm 119:105, 130** - When things are dark (**HIDDEN**) and not clear to us, we must hold the word of God up to those situations and let the Bible enlighten us.

**NOTE** Anyone witnessing a “signs and wonders” *Charismatic* meeting must question its validity.

For example:

- Why are people “healed” in church meetings only?
- Why not go to the **HOSPITAL** cancer ward right now? Or Akron Childrens Hospital?
- Why are they speaking in unknown words?
- The answer to these questions is hidden without the Bible.

- d. **Proverbs 22:20-21** – God’s Word does indeed have specific, detailed **ANSWERS**.

## 2. Judging all experiences

- a. We must judge EVERY EXPERIENCE by the infallible standard which is **GREATER** than ANY EXPERIENCE.

- **2 Peter 1:16-21** - Peter **SAW** Jesus revealed in His glory and **HEARD** the audible voice of God but said the Scripture is a “*more sure word*”. This was in comparison to the real, valid event he experienced on the “*Mount of Transfiguration*” (**Matt. 17:1-4**).
- **2 Timothy 1:13** – When confronted with the truth of the Bible vs. a **seemingly real and valid experience**, the experience must be judged in the light of the Bible. If the experience does not line up with the Bible, we are faced with a decision. One must go in order to “hold fast” to the other. The experience **MUST** be the one to go. We must always “hold fast” to the Bible – no matter what!! (**2 Thess 2:9**)

- b. Habits must be developed – we must always ask the following questions:

- What does the Bible say?

**NOTE** This is not the same as “show me a verse”. A verse can be taken out of context. A verse can be used to prove just about anything! It does not matter what we think. It does not matter what we experience in regard to what is true – the Bible supersedes these things! Consider this – man makes decisions based on his immediate needs...and the Devil is in the deception business...

- Am I willing to change what I think and feel in light of what the Bible clearly says?

**NOTE** I always qualify any debate or controversy with this question. You should think about this point for the rest of your life!

**Matthew 7:21-29** - Jesus explains that just because a person uses His name and acts religious does NOT mean that the person knows Him. He then likens a man that hears his words and *doeth them* to a WISE man. In contrast, he likens a man who hears his words and *doeth them not* to a FOOLISH man. This study will be explained by using the best, most accurate textbook – the Holy Bible! Let’s be **WISE**!