

"Living In the Days of Deception"

The Spirit of Distraction

Acts 16:16-18

INTRODUCTION:

1. After the events of last week I feel it's my responsibility to address what had happened.

a) Explain the situation.

2. **This past week I had many people come to my office to talk with me about the situation.**

a) **Some were scared when it happened.**

1) Some hit the floor, some bolted out of here.

b) Some were really confused.

c) Some were **scared and confused**.

d) Some wondered '**What was that? What in the world just happened?**'

3. So, I have a mess to clean up! And to help us understand what happened.

4. Turn to **Acts 16:16-18**

a) **Paul and his team were on their 2nd Missionary Journey**

1) Acts 16:11-15 (O how beautiful)

5. **AGAIN**, the title is: "***Living in the days of deception***"

a) Definition - "***Deception***" - "***deceived***" - Whatever causes you to wonder, to go astray, to be led away, or become misguided.

b) We must fight out temptation to be emotionally directed, or misguided by a false teacher, or reality.

c) We must be ready to watch out when somebody, communicates, or displays something that causes us to pull away from what the Bible clearly teaches.

1) **2 Timothy 2:15**

2) It is absolutely possible for people to be in church and still wonder away from TRUTH.

6. We must fight the temptation to be emotionally directed in our Theology to respond to how we feel.

7. Be very careful of PERSONAL EXPERIENCE that can not be substantiated in Scripture.

a) Joseph Smith had a personal experience in 1820

KEY TRUTHS TO UNDERSTANDING SPIRITUAL GIFTS

I. OUR FINAL AUTHORITY

1. *2 Timothy 2:15* NLT

2. *2 Timothy 3:16-17*

3. God's Word (THE BIBLE) is His OBJECTIVE TRUTH to us.

a) Within the guardrails of God's absolute truth, we have SUBJECTIVITY and FREEDOM.

4. *2 Peter 1:19*

5. *1 Corinthians 7:1*

a) The believers @ Corinth wrote to Paul with questions concerning things that were going on in the church.

6. PERSONAL EXPERIENCE DOES NOT REPLACE THE WORD OF GOD.

II. SATAN IS THE GREAT COUNTERFIETER

1. *2 Corinthians 11:13-14*

2. *One commentary wrote - So, when 2 Corinthians 11:14 tells us that "Satan disguises himself as an angel of light," it means that Satan capitalizes on our love of the light in order to deceive. He wants us to think that he is good, truthful, loving, and powerful - all the things that God is. To portray himself as a dark, devilish being with horns would not be very appealing to the majority of people. Most people are not drawn to darkness, but to light. Therefore, Satan appears as a creature of light to draw us to himself and his lies.*

3. *How can we discern which light is of God and which light is of Satan? Our minds and hearts are easily confused by conflicting messages. How can we make sure we are on the right path?*

a) Psalm 119:105

1) *"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path"*

b) Psalm 119:130

1) *"The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple"*

c) *The words of God have power.*

- 1) *Just as God's voice spoke physical light into existence, it can speak spiritual light into our hearts.*
- 2) *Exposure to His voice - in His Word - will help us recognize the difference between the good light of God and that which is counterfeit.*

4. **When Eve was deceived by Satan in the Garden, she did not have a sin nature.**

a) ***Eve was as pure as a new fallen snow!!!***

b) Her and Adam walked in the Garden with God in the cool of the day.

1) They had fellowship with God.

5. ***Genesis 3:1-7***

6. **Eve decided that what God said wasn't enough!!!**

7. If Eve can be deceived, then don't think for one minute that you can't.

III. GOD IS NOT THE AUTHOR OF CONFUSION

1. ***1 Corinthians 3:1-3***

2. ***1 Corinthians 7:1***

3. ***1 Corinthians 14:33***

4. The letter to the Corinthians is a Corrective letter.

IV. GOD IS A GOD OF ORDER

1. **SPIRITUAL GIFTS OF GRACE LIST**

a) ***Romans 12:3-13***

b) ***Ephesians 4:4-16***

c) ***1 Corinthians 12-13-14***

2. **THE GIFT OF TONGUES WAS A KNOWN LANGUAGE**

a) ***ACTS 2:1-11***

b) ***Acts 1:8***

1) Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, Uttermost

3. What about Paul - he spoke with tongues.

a) ***1 Corinthians 14:18***

4. What about Angelic Language
 - a) **1 Corinthians 13:1, 2-3**
 - b) Paul is using hyperbole

5. What about a prayer language?
 - a) **Romans 8:26**

6. GOD DETERMINES WHO GETS WHAT GIFTS

- a) **1 Corinthians 12:1-11**
 - 1) Donna Owade - she had the gift of giving.

- b) **1 Corinthians 12:27-30**

7. ORDER IN THE CHURCH

- a) 1 Corinthians 14

CONCLUSION:

1. We are living in the days of distraction!!

2. **John 10:10**

.