

# THE DRIFT - The Psychology of Deception

📅 Date Delivered	@February 15, 2026
☰ Lesson Number	Lesson Three
☰ Primary Scripture	Ephesians 5:8-18
☰ Speaker	Apostle Tyronne McCreary
☰ Summary	A warning about spiritual deception and drifting into self as authority, with a call to guard the heart, renew the mind, and cultivate attention toward God to break cycles that lead to bondage.

## Driven – Lesson Three: The Drift - The Psychology of Deception

**Date:** February 15, 2026



**Primary Text:** *Ephesians 5:8-18*

### I. Introduction: Distortion of Perception

- The enemy's strategy has always been to distort perception.
- If the enemy can control what you see, the enemy can control how you think.
- If the enemy controls how you think, the enemy can drive how you live.
- This is spiritual psychology.

## II. Satan's Strategy: Exploiting Mishandled Process

### 2 Corinthians 2:11 (NKJV)

"Lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices."

#### ▼ Context

- Paul references earlier instructions (*1 Corinthians 5*) regarding a man involved in sexual immorality.
- **1 Corinthians 5:2** — "Remove the wicked man from among you."
- **1 Corinthians 5:5** — "Deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved..."
- In *2 Corinthians*, Paul emphasizes completing forgiveness and restoration so Satan does not gain advantage.



#### "Take advantage" (Greek: *pleonekteō* — πλεονεκτέω)

- To exploit
- To overreach
- To defraud
- To take more than is due

**Insight:** Satan "overreaches" when discipline and forgiveness are mishandled.

- Do not allow a temporary situation to become a long-term spiritual wound.

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## III. Satan Exploits Imbalance (Two Ditches)

- **Ditch 1: No discipline**
  - Permissiveness
  - Compromise
  - Contagion in the body

- **Ditch 2: No restoration**

- Condemnation
- Excessive sorrow
- Bitterness
- Division



Satan does not care which ditch. Satan only wants the church off the road.



**"Devices" (Greek: *noēmata* — νοήματα)**

- Thoughts
- Designs
- Mental schemes
- Mind-games
- Intentions

**Insight:** The devil's weapons are mental mechanisms.

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## IV. The Battle for the Mind and Attention

- The enemy studies:
  - Tendencies
  - Perceptions
  - Emotional triggers
- To produce:
  - Carnal behavior
  - Godless behavior

- Spiritual bondage

### Romans 12:2 (AMP)

“Do not be conformed... but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...”



#### Key terms

- **Conformed** — *syschēmatizō*: molded by a pattern
- **World** — *kosmos*: an organized system
- **Transformed** — *metamorphoō*
- **Renewing** — *anakainōsis*: restore to original function



**Kingdom Psychology:** attention equals transformation.

- What you consistently focus on, you become conformed to.

### The Message Translation

“Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God.”

## V. The Cycle of Deception

1. **Stimulus** → message or image enters
2. **Emotion** → provokes a reaction the heart responds to
3. **Belief** → the mind accepts it as truth because it feels true
4. **Behavior** → action follows emotion
5. **Bondage** → pattern repeats until normalized



If the cycle repeats, you have been programmed.

## Proverbs 4:23

"Guard your heart..."



### "Issues" (Hebrew: *towtsaah*)

- Boundaries
- What flows out defines what enters

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## VI. The Drift: Self as Authority



**Truth:** A heart governed by the world system becomes deceitful.

### Jeremiah 17:9 (AMP)

"The heart is deceitful above all things..."

When the heart becomes unhinged from truth:

- Emotion becomes authority
- Satisfaction becomes purpose
- Self becomes god

### Recurring pattern in Scripture

- **Judges 21:25** — "Everyone did what was right in his own eyes."
- **Philippians 3:19** — "Their god is their belly..."
- **2 Timothy 3:2-4** — lovers of self, pleasure
- **Romans 1:25** — exchanged truth for a lie

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## VII. The Law of Exposure and Agreement (Mark 4:24-25)

"Take heed what you hear... With the measure you use, it will be measured to you..."

- **Attention governs intake**
  - What you repeatedly hear shapes you.
- **Measure determines return**
  - *metron* = level of engagement.
- **Increase follows stewardship**
  - Whoever has (guards truth) receives more.
- **Loss follows neglect**
  - Truth not guarded is truth lost.



#### **Principles operate impartially.**

- A principle is a governing truth that is consistent and impartial.
- Satan exploits principles God established.
- The enemy cannot create truth. The enemy corrupts attention.

## **VIII. Repetition, Influence, and Direction**

- What you repeatedly receive, you rehearse.
- What you rehearse gains influence.
- Influence shapes direction.



Truth measured in multiplies freedom.  
Lies measured in multiply bondage.

Every voice carries a value system.

- It is either forming you for the Kingdom.
- Or conforming you to the world.

### **Psychological parallel**

- The Kingdom uses repetition for discipleship.
  - Darkness uses repetition for desensitization.
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## IX. Counterfeit Discipleship Pipeline

- Fight for the ear gate
  - Intensify exposure
  - Agreement produces increase
  - Truth erodes through neglect
  - Babylon disciples desire
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## X. The Antidote: The Mind of Christ

### Philippians 2:5

"Let this mind be in you..."



#### **Mind (Greek: *phroneō*)**

- Inner regulation
- Internal disposition

Christ's mind:

- Anchored in obedience
  - Unmoved by external pressure
  - Truth becomes compass
  - Peace becomes driver
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## XI. Practical Steps to Break the Drift

- **Silence the noise**
  - *Psalm 46:10* — "Be still..."

- **Feed on truth**
    - Scripture for mental reprogramming
  - **Guard emotional triggers**
    - Not every reaction deserves a response
  - **Community**
    - Isolation increases susceptibility
  - **Follow the Spirit**
    - *Romans 8:14* — led by the Spirit
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## Key Scriptures to Meditate and Memorize

- *Ephesians 5:8–18*
- *2 Corinthians 2:11*
- *Romans 12:2*
- *Proverbs 4:23*
- *Jeremiah 17:9*
- *Mark 4:24–25*
- *Philippians 2:5*
- *Psalms 46:10*
- *Romans 8:14*