

Sunday, October 26, 2025 AM
AUTHENTIC FAITH: Truth or Consequences 5
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John has been warning us of the marks of false teachers or those who possess the Spirit of antichrist. These are those who are attempting to lead us away from understanding and following Christ and His way.

Today we will begin to look at the last mark of a False Prophet: THEY TRY TO DECEIVE THE FAITHFUL. We will see that these false prophets desire to seduce (KJV), most of the time, the weak or ill-equipped or non-believers to follow their rules and methods of Salvation or a fuller life sometimes promising something deeper and /or more meaningful than what Christ alone can grant us.

Thankfully, God has provided for us a way to discern these false prophets and to steer clear of these doctrines of demons. We will look closely at this provision and learn to exercise it in the way Jesus intended for us to use it. Let's read our focal passages for today and see how it can apply to our lives.

FOCAL PASSAGE

I John 2:26-29

²⁶ I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray. ²⁷ As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him. ²⁸ And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming. ²⁹ If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him.

THE FALSE PROPHETS ARE OUT TO _____ THE FAITHFUL

I John 2:26

²⁶ I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray. The King James Version says it like this: These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you.

1. NOTE THEIR _____

It is interesting to note that antichristian groups rarely try to lead unbelievers to their false faith. They spend much of their time trying to convert professing Christians (and church members), to their own doctrines. One group even visits on Sunday mornings. If you are home, how can you tell them you are committed to your church? They are out to seduce or lead astray the faithful.

2. THEIR _____

The word “seduce” carries the idea of “being led astray” (NIV). We have been warned this would happen.

I Timothy 4:1

¹ The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.

Jesus calls Satan the “father of lies”.

John 8:44

⁴⁴ You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

The devil's purpose is to lead weak Christians astray by teaching them false doctrines.

II Corinthians 11:3-4

³ But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. ⁴ For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the Spirit you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough.

II Corinthians 11:13-15

¹³ For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. ¹⁵ It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.

We should not accept everything a person tells us simply because he claims to believe the Bible. For it is possible they "twist" the Scriptures to make it say or mean almost anything we want.

II Corinthians 4:1-4

¹ Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. ² Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. ³ And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴ The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

We have to realize that Satan is not an originator – he is a counterfeiter. He imitates the work of God. For example:

Satan has counterfeit "MINISTERS"

II Corinthians 11:13-15

¹³ For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. ¹⁵ It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.

Who preach a counterfeit "GOSPEL"

Galatians 1:6-9

⁶ I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—⁷ which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. ⁸ But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse! ⁹ As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God's curse!

Who depend on a counterfeit “**RIGHTEOUSNESS**”

Romans 10:1-4

¹ Brothers and sisters, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. ² For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge. ³ Since they did not know the righteousness of God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. ⁴ Christ is the culmination of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.

Which produces counterfeit “**CHRISTIANS**”

Matthew 13:24-30

²⁴ Jesus told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. ²⁵ But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. ²⁶ When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. ²⁷ “The owner's servants came to him and said, ‘Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?’ ²⁸ “‘An enemy did this,’ he replied. “The servants asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’ ²⁹ “‘No,’ he answered, ‘because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. ³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.’”

Matthew 13:36-43

³⁶ Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field.” ³⁷ He answered, “The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸ The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. The weeds are the people of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. ⁴⁰ “As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. ⁴² They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear.

They were PLANTED together, they were allowed to PROGRESS together, and They were PROCESSED together. Satan's chief strategy during this age is to plant the counterfeit wherever Christ plants the truth. And it is important you are able detect the counterfeit and separate the teachings of Christ from the false teachings of antichrist.

HOW TO _____ FALSE TEACHINGS

I John 2:20

²⁰ But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth.

I John 2:27-28

²⁷ As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him. ²⁸ And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming.

1. THE _____ OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

How does a believer detect false teachings? By depending on the teaching and leading of the Holy Spirit. Each true believer has experienced the anointing of the Holy Spirit, and it is the Spirit who teaches us truth.

John 14:16-17

¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—

¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

False teachers are not led by the Spirit of truth; they are led by the spirit of error.

1 John 4:1-3

¹ Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ² This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³ but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

2. THE _____ OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

There is so much misunderstanding about the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives today. The inhabiting of the Holy Spirit in our lives begins at the moment we trust Jesus as Savior. When we are saved we have everything necessary for the Christian life – we do not get a portion now and then a second blessing or portion later on. Just like when a baby is born everything thing that baby will need is included, it may not be developed but it is included. The work of the Holy Spirit in our lives today is vital . . .

NEW BIRTH AND REGENERATION

The Spirit brings about Spiritual transformation, giving new life in Christ. Remember it was God through the Holy Spirit that sought us for a relationship with Jesus. (**Ephesians 2:1-5**)

INDWELLING AND EMPOWERMENT

He resides within every believer, providing the strength, wisdom, guidance needed to live the Christian life. (**1 Corinthians 6:19; Romans 8:26**)

CONVICTION OF SIN AND GUIDANCE INTO TRUTH

The Spirit helps believers understand and apply God's Word, revealing God's thoughts and the whole counsel of God. (**John 16:8,13**)

INTERCESSION IN PRAYER

He assist in prayer, interceding on behalf of believers according to God's will. (**Romans 8:26-27**)

PRODUCING CHRIST-LIKE CHARACTER

The Spirit works to develop the "fruit of the Spirit" in believers' lives, such as love, joy, peace, and patience. (**Galatians 5:22-23**)

GIVING SPIRITUAL GIFTS

He bestows Spiritual gifts to believers for the function and building up of the body of Christ, the church. (**1 Corinthians 12:4-11**)

SEALING AND GUARANTEEING

The Spirit indwells believers as a pledge, or guarantee, of their eternal inheritance and status as God's Children. (**Ephesians 4:30**)

EMPOWERING WITNESS

He empowers believers to live for Christ and to share their faith with others. (**Acts 1:8**)

This should be true of every born again believer in Christ – it is not received as a second blessing! We get all of this when we are born again – though it will not be fully developed. The word “anoint” reminds us of the Old Testament practice of pouring oil (symbolic of the Holy Spirit) on the head of a person being set apart for special services.

A Priest was anointed – Exodus 28:41

A King was anointed – I Samuel 15:1

A Prophet was anointed – I Kings 19:16

A New Testament Christian is anointed, not with literal oil, but by the Spirit of God—an anointing that sets them apart for ministry as one of God's Priest – **I Peter 2:5, 9**. It is not necessary for you to pray for “an anointing of the Holy Spirit”. If you are a true Christian, you have already received this special anointing at the time of your new birth. This anointing “abides in us” and therefore does not need to be imparted to us. If you are not experiencing and have not experienced the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in your life then you may want to think about your Salvation experience – It could be you are probably a tare – have a false or counterfeit experience with Christ.

LIVE IT OUT

Are you secure in your relationship with Christ? Is He really the Lord of your life?

Are you being guided by the Holy Spirit in your life?

Has the Holy Spirit warned you about something that is counterfeit you are reading or listening to?

Don't allow pride to prevent you from following the lead of the Holy Spirit today.