

A hand-drawn illustration on a light blue background. The words "fake news" are written in a cursive, red font. Below the text, a thick red underline is drawn, which is still being completed by a hand holding a red marker on the right side of the frame.

fake news

OVERCOMING DECEPTION IN TODAY'S WORLD

John 8:32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free

Jesus Warns Against Deception and How It Will Come

Matthew 16:5–6, 11-12 — 5 When the disciples reached the other side, they had forgotten to bring any bread. 6 Jesus said to them, “Watch and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”...11 How is it that you fail to understand that I did not speak about bread? Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.” 12 Then they understood that he did not tell them to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

Mark 8:15 — 15 And he cautioned them, saying, “Watch out; beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod.”

What is Leaven?

Natural Leaven with Spiritual Parallels

Yeast used in making of bread is one form of leaven

- a. Converts starch to sugar and sugar to alcohol and releases carbon dioxide causing the bread to rise
- b. Takes a small amount of yeast to raise an entire loaf of bread.
- c. Conditions must be right for the process to work
- d. Takes time for the process to take place
- e. Yeast itself can be undetected visibly in the bread before, during and after the process. **Only the effects are visible.**
- f. “Starter” is a portion of the old that is used to influence the new loaf of bread (Joshua’s)

What is Leaven?

Spiritual Leaven

1. Leaven in the Spiritual Life

- a. Something that penetrates and changes at a deep level.
- b. Something of powerful influence...both good and evil that will bring about a visible change
 - i. Kingdom of God Mt 13:33; Luke 13:20-21
 - ii. Sinful influence 1 Cor. 5:6; Gal. 5:9
- c. Has a “*life of its own*” and can take over and become great as the *seed of sin* or the *seed of faith as a mustard seed*
- d. Takes time to develop and will often be at work without notice until the results are seen

Deception Will Come

Matthew 24:4–6 — 4 And Jesus answered them, “See that *no one leads you astray*. 5 For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will **lead many astray**. 6 And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet.

Matthew 24:24 — For false Christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as **to lead astray**, if possible, even the elect.

Motivation of Deceivers

2 Peter 2:1-3 But there were also false prophets in Israel, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will cleverly teach destructive heresies and even deny the Master who bought them. In this way, they will bring sudden destruction on themselves. 2 Many will follow their evil teaching and shameful immorality. And because of these teachers, the way of truth will be slandered. 3 In their greed they will make up clever lies to get hold of your money. But God condemned them long ago, and their destruction will not be delayed.

Colossians 2:4 (NLT) I am telling you this so no one will deceive you with well-crafted arguments.

Satan Is The Source

2 Thessalonians 2:9–10 — 9 The coming of the lawless one is *by the activity of Satan* with all power and false signs and wonders, 10 and with all *wicked deception* for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

1 Timothy 4:1–2 — 1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to *deceitful spirits and teachings of demons*, 2 through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared,

Characteristics of Those Prone for Deception

"Protection from Deception" by Derek Prince

1. Rely on Subjective Impressions and emotions
2. Blind Trust of Human Beings because of Position, Notoriety or Title
3. Accepting Supernatural Signs as a Guarantee of Truth
4. Refusing Suffering or Persecution and belief that only good things will happen
5. Ignorance of Scripture

Overcoming the Spirit of Deception

#1: MUST KNOW 'WHOSE' YOU ARE! YOU ARE A SON/DAUGHTER OF GOD

- a. Must be born again: John 3:3 (NLT)** Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God."
- b. Learn obedience through suffering: (Hebrews 5:8)**
- c. Have relationship with God: John 1:12**
- d. Hear God's Voice: (John 10:27)**

Overcoming the Spirit of Deception

#2: MUST DEVELOP A LOVE FOR THE TRUTH: GOD'S WORD

- a. **John 17:17** “His Word is Truth”
- b. **Psalms 119:160** The sum of His Word is Truth and it is Eternal
- c. **Psalms 119:9** The Word keeps our ways pure
- d. **Acts 17:11** —Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.

DON'T BE AFRAID OF TRADITION, BUT DON'T LET IT OVERRULE SCRIPTURE
TRADITION CAN BE A VALUABLE GUIDE, BUT IT SHOULD NOT VOID THE
TRUTH OF GOD'S WORD (Mk. 7:13)

Overcoming the Spirit of Deception

#3: MUST BE ACCOUNTABLE FOR PERSONAL BIBLE INTERPRETATION

- a. **2 Peter 1:20** —knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation.
- b. **2 Timothy 2:15 (ESV)** —Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.
- c. **2 Peter 3:16** —Speaking of this as he does in all of his letters. There are some things in those [epistles of Paul] that are difficult to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist and misconstrue to their own utter destruction, just as [they distort and misinterpret] the rest of the Scriptures.

Overcoming the Spirit of Deception

#4: MUST PRAY FOR DISCERNMENT

- a. **1 Corinthians 12:10** ...to another discerning of spirits
- b. **1 John 4:1** Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.
- c. **Matthew 24:5** For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah,' and will deceive many.
- d. **2 Corinthians 4:4** For the god of this world has blinded the unbelievers' minds [that they should not discern the truth]