

*Luke 21:8*

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WHO IS REALLY  
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# DAYS OF DECEPTION PROPHESED

- **Matthew 24:24** For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles **to deceive** even the elect-- if that were possible.
- **2 Peter 2:1** 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.
- **1 Timothy 4:1** The Holy Spirit has explicitly revealed: At the end of this age, many will depart from the true faith one after another, **devoting themselves to spirits of deception** and following demon-inspired revelations and theories.

## THE DEVIL TARGETS OUR SENSE OF...

1. Identity: Who we are in God, i.e., created in the image of God
2. Influence: The authority and power we have over the devil, i.e., the resurrection power in Christ and the authority that comes as “Sons of God”.
3. Importance: The role we have as God’s representatives in the earth.

# HOW THE DEVIL STEALS OUR BLESSING

- 1. Deceives us to believe God is holding out on His promises**
  - a. Takes us out of our assigned place and robs us of destiny
- 2. Deceives us to believe God's Word is no longer relevant or unchangeable.**
  - a. *Devil knows that the blessing of God is tied to obedience to His Word*
  - b. *Devil knows that the Word of God is our spiritual weapon against him*
- 3. Deceives us to believe that God is angry at us and has withdrawn His Presence**
  - a. *Keeps us in state of shame, guilt and condemnation*
  - b. *Produces state of depression and giving up on dreams, visions, goals*

## CHARACTERISTICS OF A DECEIVED BELIEVER...

- ..he is a hearer, and not a **doer** of the Word of God (Jas. 1: 22).
- ..he says he has no sin (1 John 1: 8).
- ..he thinks himself to be "something" when he is nothing (Gal. 6: 3).
- ..he thinks himself to be wise with the wisdom of this world. (1 Cor. 3: 18).
- ..by seeming to be religious, when an unbridled tongue reveals his true condition (Jas. 1: 26).
- ..he thinks he will sow, and not reap what he sows (Gal. 6: 7).
- ..he thinks the unrighteous will inherit the kingdom of God (1 Cor. 6: 9).
- ..he thinks that contact with sin will not have its effect upon him. (1 Cor. 15: 33)

# DECEPTION COMES FROM LACK OF LOVE OF THE TRUTH OF GOD

- Romans 1:28–29 (NLT) — 28 Since they thought it foolish to acknowledge God, he abandoned them to their foolish thinking and let them do things that should never be done. 29 **Their lives became full of every kind of wickedness**, sin, greed, hate, envy, murder, quarreling, **deception**, malicious behavior, and gossip.

## Ephesians 6:11-12

11 Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your **stand against the devil's schemes**. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

***SCHEMES: method n. — a way of doing something (deceptive), especially in a systematic way; implies an orderly logical arrangement (usually in steps).***

## 1 Peter 5:8

Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour



## 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

**3** For although we live in the natural realm, we don't wage a military campaign employing human weapons, using manipulation to achieve our aims. Instead, our spiritual weapons are energized with divine power to effectively dismantle the defenses behind which people hide. **5** We can demolish every **deceptive** fantasy that opposes God and break through every arrogant attitude that is raised up in defiance of the true knowledge of God. We capture, like prisoners of war, every thought and insist that it bow in obedience to the Anointed One.

# Recognizing Deceptive Strongholds

*1 John 4:1 (ESV)*

*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.*

1. Are you living **free** from sin? (2 Cor 3:17)
2. Do you find it difficult to **walk** in the revealed will of God? (Ex. 36:27)
3. Do you find it difficult to live in self control and **freedom from fear** or to live with a sense of **hopelessness**? (2 Tim. 1:7; Romans 12:12 )
4. Is the **fruit of the Spirit** evident in your life? (Gal 5:22-23)
5. Do you struggle with **intimacy** with God? (Romans 8:15-16)