

# Be Not Deceived

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### Part 4

#### Satan's Disguises

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 says: ***For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.***

The Greek word for transformed is the word metamorphous. It's what happens when a caterpillar is changed into a butterfly. It is such a radical change that it's hard to believe that a beautiful butterfly was once an ugly caterpillar.

These verses show us how Satan and his ministers deceive people. They are transformed, they undergo a metamorphous, that is, they change their true identity. They do not appear to be the person they really are. Most people assume the devil appears as someone mean, cruel, vicious, horrible, terrifying, evil, ugly, and harsh. But the truth is, the devil and his ministers never appear this way. They always disguise their true identity. They always appear as something or someone they are not to deceive you.

#### Satan's disguises

***Matthew 7:15-16 says: Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits.***

***Matthew 7:20 says: Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.***

The reason the Lord said to judge men by their fruits and not by their outward appearance is because Satan and his ministers never appear to be who they really are. In these verses they are wolves who kill, but they outwardly appear as innocent sheep. That is why so many people are deceived by them. Sheep and wolves are complete opposites.

Sheep are shy, wolves are vicious.

Sheep are harmless, wolves are treacherous.

Sheep are the picture of innocence, wolves steal and kill.

Sheep are dumb, wolves are wise and crafty.

Sheep are gentle, wolves are wild.

Sheep are a danger to no one; wolves are a danger to everyone.

Sheep are loved, wolves are hated.

No one fears a sheep, everyone fears wolves.

We are relaxed around sheep, we are terrified around wolves.

\*Satan and his ministers are wolves, but they appear as sheep.

\*They appear as harmless men, when in truth they are vicious killers of souls.

\*They appear as humble and innocent men, when they are really treacherous men who beguile innocent people.

\*They appear as gentle men, when in truth they are wise and crafty men who lie in wait to deceive.

Most false teachers are loved by the masses, but they are an abomination to God. People feel at ease around false teachers, when in truth they should avoid them.

Matthew 13:24-30 says: ***Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.***

The wheat and tares in this parable represent two types of people. The Lord identifies who they are in verses 36-38: ***He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one.***

The wheat represents true believers. The tares represent false believers. They are the children of the devil. But as tares they blend in with the wheat. The first time I saw a wheat field up close I couldn't tell the difference between the wheat and the tares. They looked alike to me. Someone with experience had to show me the difference between the wheat and the tares. So it is with Satan and his ministers. Many times they appear as true believers and it's hard for the average Christian to tell them apart. They can look, talk, act, and even dress as believers. They use the same clichés, go to the same places as believers and unless you know the difference, they will fool you. As tares blend in with the wheat, Satan and his ministers have learned to blend in with true believers. This is another reason so many people are deceived by them.

Matthew 23:27-28 says: ***Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness. Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.***

Satan and his ministers are like whited sepulchres that appear beautiful outwardly, but inside where you can't see, they are full of uncleanness and dead men's bones. The Lord uses this analogy of whited sepulchres to show us that as whited sepulchres appear beautiful outwardly, Satan's ministers appear outwardly righteous unto men.

This analogy shows us that Satan and his ministers are religious, very religious. The Pharisees were highly religious. They worshipped in the temple, they tithed their income, they fasted, they prayed, they gave alms to the poor and they were zealous of the religious traditions of their fathers. But Jesus said they were of their father the devil in John 8:44 and ministers of Satan.

Most heretics and false teachers appear outwardly righteous. Judging them by what you see, many people assume they are sincere devoted people. That is the impression they want you to have of them. But it's a cover up for what they really are. They are not like the beautiful whited sepulcher that covers the dead body; they are like the dead body the sepulcher covers. They appear as sincere, devoted, righteous people, when in truth they are dead in trespasses and sins and full of uncleanness and iniquity.

***The devil found out a long time ago that he can work far more effectively by counterfeiting the true man of God than by openly opposing him.*** That is why his ministers are transformed into the ministers of righteousness. They will never appear to be who they really are.

They will appear as ministers of righteousness when in truth they are ministers of Satan.

They will appear as beautiful whited sepulchres when in truth they are graves full off dead men's bones.

They will appear as wheat when they are really useless tares which appear as wheat.

They will appear as harmless innocent sheep when in truth they are mean vicious wolves.

Satan and his ministers are masters of disguise. Their outward appearance disguises their true identity and their poisonous doctrine. During WW2 the Germans dropped 1000's of beautiful bouquets of flowers from airplanes on

France. Inside of each bouquet was a tiny balloon designed to pop when someone picked the flowers up. Inside the balloon was poisonous gas that killed instantly. As soon as the bouquets began to fall French soldiers were sent out with gas masks to destroy the flowers and to warn the people not to touch them. But in spite of their warnings many people couldn't resist the urge to pick them up and the moment they did, they died of the poisonous gas inside the flowers.

Satan and his ministers are like those beautiful bouquets of flowers that fell upon France in the war. They appear outwardly beautiful, so innocent, so harmless, so helpful, so kind, so righteous, and so much like the real thing that in spite of all the warnings they have heard to stay away from them, millions of people have been taken in by these evil men and have been destroyed by their false and poisonous doctrine.

Don't judge a man by his outward appearance for if you do you will be deceived. Some of the biggest devils I have ever known were highly religious men and woman who were soft spoken, always smiling, courteous, good manners, never offended anyone, but their gospel sends millions to hell.

If the devil and his ministers disguise their true identity how can we identify and expose them? By judging men and woman by the gospel and the doctrines they teach.

In Galatians 1:8 Paul said: ***But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.***

The gospel Paul preached as well as the other apostles is the standard to judge men by. If a man is a true man of God he will preach the gospel Paul preached. If he doesn't, Paul says he is accursed. According to his gospel Christ died for our sins and paid for them in full and was raised again. We are saved by grace through faith alone without works and kept saved the same way. All sins and sinners can be forgiven according to his gospel. The devil and his ministers do not preach this gospel. They preach works to get saved and works to stay saved.

## **The Supernatural**

A miracle in the Bible is something that cannot be done by human hands or power. They are out of the physical realm. They are from the supernatural

realm. Miracles are something that are impossible for men to do. When a miracle is performed someone from the spirit world has done it. Both God and the devil live in the spirit world. They can both work miracles. God uses miracles to benefit his people. The devil uses miracles to deceive and destroy people. Every miracle the devil does in the Bible is done to hurt people. In John 10:10 Jesus said the devil comes *to steal, kill and destroy*. It is against the devil's nature to do good. His miracles are done to call attention to himself, to deceive and to destroy.

### ***The dangers of miracles***

In Revelation 13:11-16 John said: ***And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:***

These verses give us some important information about miracles and the supernatural that God's people need to be on guard against.

### ***Miracles are not always a sign that a person is of God***

In these verses it is the devil and his ministers working miracles. Every member of the satanic trinity work miracles. Revelation 16:13-14 says: ***And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, (devil) and out of the mouth of the beast, (antichrist) and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.***

Judas Iscariot worked miracles, but he was a devil. (Matt. 7:22) In Matthew 24:24 Jesus warned us: ***For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if***

***it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.*** The men who work miracles in this verse are false christs and false prophets. They are lost demon possessed men, but they work miracles.

### ***Miracles can be evil***

The miracles in Revelation 13:11-16 are used to persuade men to take the mark of the beast. In Revelation 16:14 miracles will be used by the satanic trinity to gather men together to fight against the Lord at the battle of Armageddon. These are examples of miracles being used for evil purposes.

### ***Miracles can be used to promote false religion***

In Revelation 13:14 the false prophet works miracles to persuade men to worship the antichrist and to promote the false religion of the antichrist. We see many examples today on TV and radio of how so called miracles promote false religion.

### ***Miracles can deceive you***

Revelation 13:14 says the false prophet: ***deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast;***

Matthew 24:24 says: ***For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.***

The last days preceding the coming of Christ will be a time of great deception due to the miracles, signs and wonders the devil and his ministers will work.

### ***Miracles can hurt you***

Revelation 12:14-16 says: ***And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent. And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.***

By miraculous means the devil will send a flood of water to drown and kill the woman of Revelation 12. But God will intervene with another miracle to

save her. This is an example of a miracle being used to hurt and even kill someone.

***Miracles can damn you***

Revelation 13:16 says: ***And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:***

All those deceived by the miracles of the false prophet will be damned when they take the mark of the beast. All those deceived into believing the false gospel of the fake miracle workers today will be damned.