



MESSAGE – September 8, 2019 at Western Hills Church, OKC

**The Mystery of the Spirit: The Spirit of Truth**

Return – “Show Us Christ”

Prayer

REVIEW

Message 1 – I am the temple of the Spirit

Message 2 – The Spirit changes the nature of what He encounters

Message 3 – I am changed in my nature [focus on Brandon’s pics/frames – keep the center (black frame; new nature) in view] 1 Cor. 2:14 – “But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised [investigated, scrutinized].”

Message 4 – [The Spirit of Truth]

There are, by some accounts, in excess of 150 titles or roles attributed to the Holy Spirit; many of which express an answer to some of our greatest needs. For instance:

Comforter

Intercessor

Helper; Advocate

Teacher

Witness (that we are the children of God)

Deposit, Seal, Earnest

Presence of God

He is also called, The Spirit of...

...Life

...Grace

...Holiness

...Wisdom

...Justice

...Glory

and...The Spirit of Truth (see John 14:16-17, 24-26, 16:13-15; 1 Cor. 2:12-13 – glorious!!!)

John 14:16-17, 26 – “I will ask the Father and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of Truth whom the world cannot receive because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.”

John 6:13-15 – “But when He, the Spirit of Truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you.”

1 Corinthians 2:12-13 – “Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.”

### **Why do we need the Spirit of Truth?**

There are multiple warnings in the Scripture (we still live in the “black frame” and are still easily enticed and deceived; “prone to wander”). Listen to Paul (he would know; highly educated persecutor of the church; one of the most learned of his day; would be used by God as a link to Jew and Gentile):

Strategy to attack the Word (absolute truth)

2 Cor. 4:3-4 – “And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”

Tactic: temptation

1 Thess. 3:5 – “For this reason, when I could endure it no longer, I also sent to find out about your faith, for fear that the tempter might have tempted you, and our labor would be in vain.”

Tactic: deception

2 Cor. 11:3, 14 – “But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ. No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.”

**Why do these tactics work?** Because we are susceptible while in the “black frame.” Scriptural warnings...

See to it – Col. 2:8 – that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.

Be on the alert (be of sober spirit) – 1 Pet. 5:8 – Your adversary, the devil [and his demons], prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”

Take heed – 1 Cor. 10:12 – Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall. [vs. 13 – No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man...]

Watch – 2 John 1:7a, 8a – For many deceivers have gone out into the world. Watch yourselves, that you do not lose what we have accomplished.

Be on your guard – 2 Pet. 3:17 – so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness.

Beware – Matt. 7:15; Luke 12:15 – of false prophets; against every form of greed

Forget the Lord – Deut. 8:2

Base (worthless, wicked) thoughts – Deut. 15:9

Hearts deceived – Deut. 11:16

Ensnared – Deut. 12:30 – to follow the other nations

Characteristics of a snare or trap [or stumblingblock (skandalon, i.e. scandal)]

**It is concealed.** Most of the time, on your own, you won't know it is a snare until you've become snared...to late! [sin is like this]

**It is baited.** Often place in high traffic areas (encouragement of others...)

**The snare has an ultimate purpose.** To restrain (long term consequences) or to kill (immediate destruction).

## **The Sources of Deception and Ensnarement**

The Devil – we've already seen the passages and tactics above

The World system – Battle zone from all of history against the Kingdom of God; there is a mind behind the system – Rev. 12:9 – “And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceive the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.”

It permeates everything (do you see it?) in entertainment (media, arts), government, philosophy, literature, business, medicine, religion, science, etc. John 7:7 – “The world hates Me because I testify of it, that its deeds are evil.”; James 4:4 – “Friendship with the world is hostility toward God. Whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself as enemy of God”

The Flesh – see Romans 6-8 There is a fine line between demonic deception and self-deception. When is it a strange voice or my belief system? If we are honest we would admit we are our worst enemy. Sometimes we are the one deceived (victim), sometimes we are the one deceiving (victimizer), however, sometimes we are somewhere in-between where we enter into partnership with deceivers. One writer said it this way, “We do this because, to some degree, we *want* to be

deceived.” 2 Tim. 4:3 – “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.”

Listen to John MacArthur, pastor of Grace Community Church in CA [describe him]

“No one has a monopoly on truth. I certainly do not. I don’t have reliable answers within myself. My heart is as susceptible to self-deception as anyone’s. My feelings are as undependable as everyone else’s. I am not immune to Satan’s deception. That is true for all of us. Our only defense against false doctrine is to be discerning, to distrust our own emotions, to hold our own senses suspect, to examine all things, to test every truth-claim with the yardstick of Scripture, and to handle the Word of God with great care.”

Because we live on the earth and must deal with life in the flesh (black frame), we will be susceptible, on a daily basis, to deception. Let’s look at the life of David.

TEXT for today

Context – David as the younger brother and as shepherd (courage); slew Goliath; anointed to be king but didn’t disrespect God’s anointed (King Saul); when he became king he brought the Ark to Jerusalem and prepared to build a house for God; he instituted continuous praise in the sanctuary (skilled musician; wrote many psalms); declared a man after God’s own heart. Just a really, really good guy...

2 Samuel 12:1-7

We know what David did. Adultery with Bathsheba and murder of her husband, Uriah!

There is the need for a radical confrontation (intervention) to shake him out of his sin, but, Nathan must take care how he approaches the king (we don’t know how much time has passed...)

The Lord sent Nathan, who has waited for this right time (he knew of the sin)

Nathan tells a story (didn’t go saying, “David, what have you done?”)

Let’s David pronounce his own judgment

Thus says the Lord, “You are the man.” God reminds David of all the gracious acts He has accomplished in his life; then the consequences.

David repents and the Lord takes away the sin (“you shall not die”); however, the consequences nationally and personally are great.

There’s more here than just David not being with his army.

How many steps does it take to get to the point of convincing the mind that this type of behavior is okay? How many mental compromises were made by David, followed by how many moral compromises to get to the place of justifying his wicked behavior?

To go from dislike (or disagree with)...to hatred and murder?

To go from religious leader...to adulterer? And for David, murderer?

To go from a troubled heart...to addiction (self-destruction)?

To go from depression/loneliness...to suicide?

Remember, we are talking about a redeemed person in the black frame. The unredeemed person in the black frame does not have the ability to consider spiritual things to this degree.

**So, are we being deceived now?** Not considering the devil or the world; let's just look at the Scriptural warnings given to us. Let this be self-evaluative...("Oh, how we need the Spirit of Truth")

- Are there things in the Bible that the Spirit of Truth has revealed are right to do but you don't do them or you try to explain the authority of Scripture away in that area?
  - James 4:17 – "Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin."
- Do you live just an intellectual faith? In other words, you are comfortable with sitting under biblical teaching from week to week but have no urgency for the Gospel to affect your daily living.
  - James 1:22 – "But prove yourselves doers of the word and not merely hearers who delude themselves."
- When confronted with a sin by someone who cares about you, do you defend yourself or blame others, or blame your circumstances?
  - 1 John 1:8 – "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."
- Do you have a haughty (proud) attitude about your intelligence, your talent, your strengths, your social status, your clothes, your skill, etc.? Do you base your relationships on those things?
  - Galatians 6:3 – "For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself."
- Do you harbor hate in your heart toward anyone? Do you act mean or angry toward others (anyone)?
  - 1 John 2:9, 4:20 – "Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in the darkness. If anyone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar."
- When dealing with life issues is the Lord and His Word the last place you seek out for answers? Are your decisions always logical (make sense) according to you?
  - 1 Corinthians 3:18-19 – "Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For wisdom of this world is folly with God."
- Do you look and talk religious [ceremonial observance, worship], yet have trouble with your tongue (filthy talk, gossip, etc.)?
  - James 1:26 – "If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless."
- Does it seem to you that there are some things you have gotten away with because no one caught you OR are you apathetic about the seriousness of some of your actions/behaviors because no one knows about them? You do things that are wrong when no authority is present and act as if your actions have no consequence (or serious consequence).
  - Galatians 6:7 – "Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap."

- Do you believe your goodness earns some kind of favor with God; when bad things happen to people your thought is they are being punished and when good things happen to people your thought is they are being blessed by God? Do you compare your actions to the actions of others to make yourself feel better? Have you softened toward sexual sin because you know someone who is caught up in it and assume the love of God will win out over an unrepentant heart?
  - 1 Corinthians 6:9 – “Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.”
- Do you believe that those parts of the world system that you play with, read, or listen to have no affect on your soul? Do you think that regular companionship with those who have no desire for the things of the Lord will not affect you?
  - 1 Corinthians 15:33 – “Do not be deceived: bad company ruins [corrupts] good morals.”
- The big question: Do you think you can avoid deception (and error) and its consequences apart from the God’s Word?
  - Proverbs 1:24-33 – READ if time

Hopefully, the result of this excursion shows us that we are not as strong as we think we are.

### **What can we do to avoid being deceived?**

Continue in the Word – Psalm 119:11 – “Your word I have treasured in my heart, that I might not sin against you”;

Love Truth – John 8:31-32 – “So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, ‘If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine, and you will know [absolutely] the truth, and the truth will make you free.’”

Walk in the Light – 1 John 1:6, 7 – “If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.”

Keep His Commands – 1 John 2:3-6 – By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. The one who says ‘I have come to know Him,’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him; the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.”

Test the Spirits (with the Word) – 1 John 4:1 – “Beloved, 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.”

Be Humble (prerequisite for discernment)

Acknowledge our potential for self-deception – Jer. 17:9 – “The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it?”

Distrust personal feelings and scorn all self-sufficiency – 2 Cor. 12:5b – “On my own behalf I will not boast, except in regard to my weaknesses.” 1 John 2:27 – “As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things and is true and is not a lie and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.”

Pray for discernment – Psalm 119:125 – I am Your servant; give me understanding, that I may know Your testimonies.”; Phil. 1:9-10 – “And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ; having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.”

Practice Encouragement – Hebrews 3:13 – “But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called ‘Today,’ so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.”

Receive (accept, depend on) the ministry of the Holy Spirit (of Truth) – John 16:13-14 – “But when He, the Spirit of Truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. He will glorify Me for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you.”

\*Return to the pictures and prepare for response time and prayer.