

Those who have seen the Wizard of Oz may remember the frightful scene where Dorothy, the Lion, the Tin Man and the Scare Crow entered into the large room and shook in fear when they saw fire and smoke, and a threatening image of someone speaking in a very loud and authoritative voice. Eventually, Dorothy's little dog Toto pulled back the curtain to reveal the lie—because everything was a deception—as buttons were pushed, levers were pulled, and the ominous face and thunderous voice were manipulated to intimidate.



Like Toto, during this lesson we will pull back the curtain to reveal Satan's lies—including the consequences of his lies. As we enter into the last days, we will witness a continual increase in deception as the Beast (the coming lawless one) will transform into the living personification of Satan. But what's more, those who reject the truth of Jesus Christ will become a victim of Satan's delusional deception.

The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and **lying wonders**, and with all **unrighteous deception** among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved." 2 Thessalonians 2:9-1

Jesus Warned About Deception During the Last Days

The disciples asked Jesus about the last days. What's revealing, His first response was a warning about deception. "Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, 'Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?' And Jesus answered and said to them: 'Take heed that no one deceives you.'" Matthew 24:3-4

Deception is defined as causing someone to accept as true or valid what is false or invalid. A deception misleads, hides the truth; or promotes a belief, concept or idea that is not true. But most important, a deception is based upon a lie.

To gain a broader spiritual understanding of lies, it is best to begin with the source of lies: Satan. Lying is Satan's strength, and he is more skilled at lying than any other created being. Jesus said regarding Satan "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.'" John 8:44

Focus on the first words Jesus used to describe Satan: "He was a **murderer from the beginning.**" There are two types of death, spiritual and physical. It is Satan's greatest desire to murder someone spiritually, or cause spiritual death because this type of death can be eternal. His secondary objective is to cause physical death—which is eternal—all through the use of deceptive lies.

For those who are able to spiritually see, what we are witnessing in the world today are the consequences of lies—which are propagated by Satan and his minions (fallen angels and demons). However, what we are witnessing is only a prelude and a "taste" of the diabolical lies that will occur in the future.

As it becomes increasingly difficult to separate truth from lies, the words of Jesus provide light and hope in the midst of darkness. Jesus said "I am the way, **the truth, and the life.**" John 14:6

Truths About Satan's Lies

Lying is defined as making an untrue statement with the intent to deceive. Here are some interesting concepts to consider.

1. Humans are the only living organisms on earth that has the capacity to lie—which is a component of our sinful nature. As such, every person (but one) has lied during their lives—some with good intentions, others with an intent to harm. For example, telling someone their new hair style looks nice (when it's not) may be considered a "good intention" lie. Whereas, a lie that's intended to swindle money from someone is a harmful lie.
2. Humans are the only living organisms on earth that have the capacity to believe in someone/something—including lies. A belief is defined as having confidence in the truth, the existence, or the reliability of something (without absolute proof).
3. When someone believes a harmful lie, both the believer and the liar are deceived.

To gain a greater insight into the influence of Satan's lies and his murderous intent, take time to deeply think about the following statement. Every war, every battle, every skirmish, every murder, every argument, every caustic word spoken, and every sin—began as a lie and culminated in spiritual death (separation from God) and/or physical death. (Note: Continue to reflect upon this truth. It will open your spiritual eyes and enable you to see what's going on in the darkness.)

To accomplish his objective he transforms his deceptive lies into something that is initially pleasing and desired. This manipulation of truth was first demonstrated by Satan in the Garden of Eden when he masterfully combined absolute lies with some truth to reposition the mandate from God, and deceived Eve and Adam into sinning against God.

God said to Adam ["Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day you eat of it you shall surely die."](#) Genesis 2:16-17

Satan said to Eve ["You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God knowing good and evil."](#) Genesis 3:4-5

Satan's words mixed truth with a lie. Adam and Eve did not physically die after eating the fruit from the forbidden tree. However, death occurred as God had promised. Adam and Eve died spiritually (they were separated from their relationship with God) because of their sin. This same process of spiritual death occurs today when we are controlled by the lies of sin.

Propagating (spreading, broadcasting, circulating) lies is Satan's core desire. But what's worse, he is a masterful liar. For example, an absolute lie is easy to identify and argue against. However, a lie that is mixed with some truth is more difficult to overcome. As such, there are different techniques used by Satan and his minions to "package" their lies to make them more believable. For example, they will:

1. Mix some truth with the lie.
2. Twist the truth into a different meaning.
3. Declare difficult to prove absolutes that support the lie.

Consequences of Lies

As our spiritual eyes open, not only does it become easier to see lies, it also becomes easier to see the numerous consequences of lies. What's more, if a lie is clandestine (concealed, hidden), the consequences of the lie (which are more apparent), are excellent indicators of the existence of a lie, and may possibly reveal the lie and indicate the source of the lie.

For example, lies initially a cause division to occur—from a polarizing force within our heart and soul, to divisions within our country and between nations. Additional consequences include destruction and devastation. The ultimate goal of Satan is to cause darkness and desolation as spiritual and/or physical death occurs.

Each of the following seven stages define the deteriorating consequences of lies. It is important to understand the relevance of each stage is applicable for individual persons, families, groups and nations.

- **Division** is a separation of something into parts. Satan's lies initially cause a division (or polarizing force) between:
 - Our flesh and spirit as we encounter the temptation of sin.
 - Those who believe in the lie and those who do not.
- **Destruction** is an action or process of an entity (person, family, group, nation) being destroyed—which begins as the lie takes control of the deceived.
- **Devastation** is defined as significant destruction or damage—which occurs over time as the cancerous lie consumes life.
- **Darkness** conveys a condition of no light and an inability to see—which precedes desolation and death.
- **Desolation** is a state of anguish, emptiness and hopelessness.
- **Death:** includes both a spiritual and physical separation.
 - Spiritual death occurs when we are separated from God.
 - Physical death occurs when our soul is separated from (leaves) our bodies.
- **Damnation:** Eternal punishment in the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:14-15)

Examples of these consequences can be found everywhere.

- Consider someone you know who is bound by the lies of addiction. What stage are they at?
- Do you know of a family that has been torn apart because of the lies associated with sin?
- Look at the present conflicts within and between nations—which are consequences of lies.
- Consider:
 - The consequences associated with lies used to rally America into war: including Domino Theory, Weapons of Mass Destruction, stopping terrorism at the source, and so forth.
 - The satanic-driven lies that "justified" the suicidal 9/11 attack on America by the terrorists who flew the planes—including the consequences that are still occurring today.

"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places." Ephesians 6:12

Proliferation of Conspiratorial Lies via News, Internet and Social Media

Never in the history of man have there been more channels of communication than what's available today. Twenty years ago there were three primary means to disseminate (and obtain) information: television news, print (newspapers and magazines), and radio. Meanwhile, we have witnessed a global expansion in both the number of sources of information and in ways people can communicate with one another—all facilitated by the rapid growth of the Internet and improvements in cell phone technology. Social media platforms such as Facebook, YouTube, WhatsApp, Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter, blogs—including Internet-based news sites—have become a primary source of information and means of social interaction for many.

On the surface this transformation in technology seems beneficial for the masses. However, it provides an expanded opportunity for the dissemination (and reinforcement) of harmful lies embedded within conspiracy theories.

A conspiracy theory is a belief that some secret but influential organization is responsible for an event or phenomenon. And yes, a conspiracy theory may be true. However, a very large percentage of conspiracy theories are false, based upon one or more lies, and have caused significant negative consequences as they permeate minds and proliferate within our global society. In addition, those who have a cynical view of the world—i.e. a belief that “entities” (government, business industries, companies, and groups) are primarily motivated by self-interest, ambition, desire, greed, fleshly gratification, materialism, and so forth—are more likely to initiate or fall into the trap of a conspiracy theory.

A conspiracy theory will often occur when a person:

- Forms an unfounded assumption and negative perception of an event or situation.
- Believes the event or situation was/is caused by the clandestine work of the sinister “entity.”
- Promotes and propagates the perceived theory to anyone who will listen.

People who initiate, promote and propagate conspiracies will:

- Use broad-brush accusations and declarations that:
 - Seem convincing.
 - Lack detailed specifics and verifiable evidence.
 - Reference public statements made by persons who are unqualified and/or who are misguided by lies.
- Portray the actions of the “sinister people” as:
 - Fulfilling their self-serving interests.
 - Causing harm to others.
- Reject, deflect or avoid objections based upon fact/truth.
- View factual evidence of truth as part of the conspiracy.
- View themselves as victims who are taking a stand against the conspirators.

Most conspiracies will “fall apart” over time as individual components (that collectively made up the conspiracy and gave it “life”) is disproved by factual reality. However, these contradictions between the conspiratorial lies and truth are often disregarded by those who are consumed and controlled by their unwavering belief in the conspiracy.

Perceptual and Behavioral Characteristics of Those Who Believe in a Lie

When a person believes in a lie, the lie becomes their truth and the truth become a lie. In addition, when a harmful lie spreads throughout the populace, a deeper division occurs between those who believe the lie and those who do not.

Listed below are perceptions and behaviors that occur by persons who believe in a lie—including those who are controlled by sin. In addition, each describes the consequential darkness that occurs. Take time to reflect upon each and determine if this describes you or someone you know.

Those who believe in a lie:

- Will often seek sources of lie reinforcement from like-minded persons and sources that propagate the deceptual lie.
- Are usually not inclined to consider alternative views.
- May become defensive, argumentative, and/or may use deflection because they view any attempt to discuss the truth as a personal attack.
- May use caustic words (demeaning, divisive, condescending, harsh and cynical) as a means to attack others who do not agree/comply with the lie.
- Will sometimes distort the truth to reinforce their belief in the lie.
- Will often create an internal barrier (mental and emotional) to circumvent the influence of truth.
- Will likely have anger and hatred in their heart towards anyone and anything that conflicts with their perception of reality.
- Are usually unwilling to accept the truth, even when there is indisputable evidence of the truth.
- Often replicates the lie (sometimes verbatim).
- Have a propensity to “see” the world through the distorted reality of the lie.
- May experience astonishment and bewilderment as they perceive the other side as having a delusional state of mind.
- May become consumed by the lie—indicated by socially unacceptable / inappropriate behavior.

Meanwhile, the lies of Satan—who deceives the whole world and weakens the nations—divides the very core of person’s hearts, and destroys the stability of the world we live in.

Satan

Satan was an anointed cherub angel created by God, was given much more than other angels, and may be considered one of the highest angels in heaven serving God directly. Satan had a perfect existence in the presence of God. But evil, darkness, a delusional perception of reality, and violence developed within the core of his being—because he wanted to become God and worshiped as God. To accomplish this task he knew he would have to go to battle. It is safe to assume Satan spoke lies to convince other angels to join him in an insurrection against God. Because if truth was spoken, they would have realized the delusional irrationality of attempting a rebellious act against God.

“You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering: the sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created. You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You

were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you. By the abundance of your trading you became filled with violence within, and you sinned. Therefore, I cast you as a profane thing out of the mountain of God; and I destroyed you, o covering cherub, from the midst of the fiery stones. Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground.” Ezekiel 28:12-17.

“And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.” Revelation 12:7-9

“How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’” Isaiah 14:12-14

Satan was in the presence of God. He had everything. He had a perfect existence that defines what every one of us hopes for. But because of Satan’s sin—which drove his delusional mind—he both desired and believed he could become God.

Take a moment and consider the lie that developed within Satan. Consider his motivations and mindset as he planned to unseat God. Consider the self-centered perception he had of himself (his beauty, he is special, and he is unique). Consider his self-centered pride. Consider his fantasies of power. Consider his driving need to be worshiped. Consider his willingness to violate and attack God’s “law” and rule. Consider his complete disregard for what is right versus wrong. Consider the types of lies he would need to communicate that would deceive and manipulate 1/3 of the angels to join him. Consider the disregard and lack of empathy as he manipulated the angels to participate in an insurrection. Consider the division caused by the lie. Consider the consequential destruction, desolation and spiritual death that occurred because of the lie. Now consider the darkness that is upon this earth because of his self-centered delusional lie.

What’s more, Satan has not changed, nor will he ever change.

- In Matthew 4 versus 1-11, we read Jesus had been fasting for 40 days and nights and how Satan tempted Him three times. The first temptation was with food, the second was an attempt to get Jesus to use His spiritual power, and the third demonstrates Satan’s eternal delusional mind when he took Jesus to a high mountain and showed Him the kingdoms of the world, and said to Jesus “All these things I will give you if you will fall down and worship me.”
- This is why the Temple in Jerusalem will be rebuilt during the last days so that Satan (via the Beast) can stand in the Temple and declare he is God. “Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.” 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

Angel of Light

Paul the Apostle declared [“Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.”](#) (2 Corinthians 11:14)

Satan and his minions exist within the spiritual realm. Spiritual entities have spiritual “voices” that are communicated within the spiritual realm. However, they do not have audible voices that can be heard within the physical realm. Therefore, to have an influence upon earth, they need to inhabit and manipulate persons who are willing to speak their lies and to do their bidding.

In this manner Satan is able to transform and portray himself as an angel of light to the unsuspecting masses, while hiding his true nature and intent. In addition, as Satan expands the influence and power of whom he manipulates, Satan is able to gain access to additional persons who are willing to submit to the authoritarian rule and manipulative directions of Satan’s puppet.

Adolph Hitler is one of the best examples of Satan’s skills in using lies to impact the world via one person. Satan transformed Hitler into an angel of light for the German people. Thereafter he was joined by his henchmen (Himmler, Goring, Goebbels, and other lackeys) as he quickly gained power, took control over Germany, caused world-wide devastation and millions of deaths. The documented evidence of this inhumane human is rife with lies, falsifications, deceptions and horrific consequences that are far beyond any other person who has ever lived.

For example, Adolph Hitler lied as he:

- Positioned himself as the “*savior*” of Germany—who could reclaim the glory of a “*victimized nation*” that had “*not*” been defeated in WWI; who was “*imprisoned*” by the Versailles Treaty; and who was “*denied the right*” of national self-determination.
- Falsely declared Jews:
 - Were responsible for Germany’s misfortunes in WWI.
 - Were responsible for their present difficulties.
 - Were their enemies.
 - Should be eliminated from the face of the earth via the “Final Solution.”
 - Are being “resettled” to disguise their genocidal activity.
- Disguised Nazi intentions of territorial expansion via war, by portraying Germany as a peace-loving nation that was forced to take up arms to protect its populace and defend against Communism.

Here are some additional truths regarding Hitler’s lies:

- Hitler said “If you tell a big enough lie and tell it frequently enough, it will be believed.” The reasoning is because the occurrence of a big lie is so unlikely, people are more likely to believe it.
- A masterful liar will divert from the truth by accusing their opponents of lies. For example, to deflect criticism of its actions, Nazi Germany’s leadership deceitfully accused the Allies and Jews of spreading malicious lies and atrocity stories (when they were guilty of malicious lies and atrocities).
- A propagator of lies will often use fear to intimidate those who do not comply.
 - This fear is initiated by a depiction of undesirable changes that will occur for non-compliance; such as the threat of losing their present wellbeing (job, security, lifestyle, etc.).
 - In Germany’s case, Hitler reinforced the depth of fear to drive compliance via the potential of receiving physical punishment, being thrown into prison, or being killed.

- The absolute darkness of this satanically-inspired man is also evidenced by what occurred at the end of WWII. When the loss of the war was imminent, Hitler demanded his troops to stand their ground and defend Germany at all costs (including death). This same lie was drilled into the mindset of Japanese soldiers by Emperor Hirohito, as they committed mass suicide rather than accept defeat. Both scenarios represent the outcome desired by Satan—for he is a murderer.
- Satan and his minions do not care about military victory or defeat. Their desire is to create destructive chaos, absolute devastation, global desolation, spiritual disconnection from God, and physical death.
- Hitler wrote in Mein Kampf “I believe that I am acting in accordance with the will of the Almighty Creator: by defending myself against the Jew, I am fighting for the work of the Lord.” This declaration was both a delusional lie (with regards to his justification for murdering millions of Jews), but yet included some delusional truth because he was fighting for the will and work of his lord: Satan.

Deceptive Messaging

Adolf Hitler used the following deceptive lies to rise into power and decimate the world. Therefore, using history as a reference, it is prudent to look for the following possible messaging of a Satan-inspired person who enters onto the global stage. For this person will likely:

- Declare:
 - What is wrong.
 - Who is responsible.
 - How things can be improved.
 - No one else can fix the problem.
- Convey some form of a religious / Christian affiliation.
- Have a charismatic speaking style that causes many to believe what is said is true.
- Be worshipped by those who believe his lies.
- Hide his true intentions as his actions cause division, destruction, devastation, darkness, desolation, and death.

The following links provide an excellent overview of the lying deceptions employed by Hitler, and the evil that resided within this single man.

[Holocaust Encyclopedia](#), [Jewish Virtual Library](#), and [Wikipedia](#) (click on each to launch the link)

However, it is important to note that Hitler was only a prelude, a “taste of” and a “weakling” compared to the Beast during the last days—who is referred to in the Bible as the abomination of desolation (Matthew 24:15 and Daniel 9:27). As such, it is prudent to understand the methods used by Hitler (which were all based upon lies) to assist in identifying the beast (in whom Satan will manifest himself) when he enters onto the global stage.

Mental and Personality Disorders

There are two psychological disorders defined by the medical community which correlate to the behaviors of Satan: sociopath and narcissism. In addition, these are the same behaviors that have been demonstrated by autocrats (dictators, tyrants) throughout time.

Sociopath is a mental disorder marked by a disregard for right and wrong, and ignores the feelings of others. Sociopaths will manipulate or treat others harshly or with callous indifference, and show no guilt or remorse for their behavior. In addition they will lie, will likely violate the law, and have difficulty fulfilling responsibilities.

Sources: [Mayo Clinic](#) and [PSYCOM](#) (click on each to launch the link)

Narcissism is a personality disorder defined as one who has a grandiose sense of self-importance, believes they are more powerful than they truly are, and are obsessed with power. A narcissist has fantasies of unlimited success, has a need for excessive attention and admiration, considers themselves brilliant, believes they are special and unique, and lacks empathy for others. In addition, narcissists are usually charismatic speakers, possess personal magnetism, and can stir enthusiasm among audiences. But what's interesting, narcissists have a low self-esteem. As such, they are vulnerable to the slightest criticism.

Sources: [Mayo Clinic](#) and [Cambridge University Press](#) (click on each to launch the link)

The worst-case scenario of a leader is one who is a sociopathic narcissist. This is one who has complete disregard and indifference regarding their actions; has no regard for others; and will do whatever it takes to gain power. These are those leaders who have caused the greatest division, destruction and death throughout history. In addition, these are the behavioral characteristics of Satan—prior to his fall and for eternity.

On a side note, here is an interesting fact to know. Throughout all of time, there will be only two periods when Satan will not be able to murder via lies. The first is during the Millennium Reign of Jesus Christ; the second is when he is eternally cast into the lake of fire.

“Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished.” Revelation 20:1-3

“Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.” Revelation 20:7-10

Sociopath and Narcissist Behaviors

Before we take a closer look at the behavioral characteristics of a sociopath and narcissist, there are five different facets to consider.

Facets	Satan	Beast	Non-Saved (Present)	Born-Again Christians (Past/Present)	Jesus
Sociopath	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Narcissist	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

The first facet is the list of both sociopath and narcissist behaviors define the persona of Satan. The second facet is that the beast will demonstrate these behavioral characteristics. The third facet is some of these behaviors are expressed by an individual who is driven by a lie, who is bound by sin, who's eyes are unable to see the truth because they are blinded by Satan, and are spiritually dead. 2nd Corinthians 4 versus 3 and 4 says "But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them." The fourth facet is that in varying degrees they define some of the past (and possibly present) perceptions and behavior of Born-Again Christians. The fifth facet to consider is that every aspect of a sociopath and narcissist is the antithesis (or complete opposite) of Jesus Christ.

As you read the behaviors, determine how each one relates to Satan, a non-saved person you know, and your personal past/present behavior. Enter a "S" for Satan, "U" for unsaved, and "Y" for yourself into the columns. Note: If you enter "Y" for one or more as a present behavior—recognize your sin, ask God for forgiveness, and seek His righteousness.

Sociopath Behavior	S/U/Y	Narcissist Behavior	S/U/Y
Has disregard for what is right vs. wrong		Exaggerated sense of self-importance	
Lies or deceives to exploit others		Sense of entitlement	
Callous, cynical and disrespectful to others		Requires constant, excessive admiration	
Uses charm/wit to manipulate others		Expects recognition of being superior	
Arrogant, sense of superiority, opinionated		Exaggerates achievements and talents	
Has a problem with and/or breaks the law		Monopolizes conversations	
Violates rights of others		Belittles persons perceived as inferior	
Impulsiveness or failure to plan		Takes advantage of others	
Hostility, irritability, or easily agitated		Unable to see needs/feelings of others	
Lack of remorse for harming others		Arrogant, conceited, boastful	
Poor or abusive relationships		Insists on the best of everything	
Indifferent to consequences of behavior		Unable to handle criticism	

Because the beast will transform into the physical manifestation of Satan, use the above list of behaviors to identify "red flags of warning," and as a means to facilitate identification of the beast.

Satan and the Beast

God has restrained the full measure of Satan's powers throughout history. However, He who restrains will be taken out of the way, and Satan will be allowed to fully use his ability to deceive and destroy during the 7-year Tribulation via the "lawless one" (the Beast). God's intent during these final days is to condemn those who reject Jesus Christ because they prefer the deceptual pleasure of unrighteousness. These are they who will be mesmerized by the Beast's deceptive powers, signs and lying wonders; these are they who will worship and follow the Beast; and these are they who will be recipients of God's wrath.

"For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness." 2 Thes 2:7-12

Satan will give the Beast power, a throne and global authority. In addition, Satan will use the Beast to speak blasphemies against God, blasphemies against God's name, and blasphemies against those who defeated him in Heaven. Blasphemy is defined as an act of insulting or showing contempt or lack of reverence for God. Blasphemy is also defined as the act of declaring to be God. For Satan, via the Beast, will both curse God and declare he is God.

Although Satan was defeated in Heaven and cast to Earth, he is unable to accept the truth because his darkened and delusional mind defines his distorted perception of reality. During the final days Satan (via the Beast) will finally get the chance to verbally vent his anger towards God—including the angels who were victorious against his vain attempt to unseat God. What's more, Satan will also use the Beast to attack the saints, and will overcome them. Meanwhile, those who reject Jesus Christ and choose to worship the beast and receive his mark will find their names removed from the Book of Life, and will be cast with the beast and the false prophet into the lake of fire for eternity.

"The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority." Revelation 13:2

"And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." Revelation 13:5-8

"If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name." Revelation 14:9-11

How Should Christians Proceed?

Although we may consider the present state of darkness and deception has reached an unimaginable decline across the globe, it will get much worse. Jesus said **“For there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.”** Matthew 24:21

Remember, Jesus warned us to not be deceived. Therefore, it is important for Christians to be spiritually aware of where we’re headed, and have an understanding of what to look for. It is important to remember that the Beast will most likely be portrayed to the world (and perceived) as an angel of light. As such, do not be mesmerized by the façade or disguise. Remember, he is a personification of Satan. He will not be whom he portrays, nor will he proclaim truth—because his words will be mingled with lies. Do not be deceived by the fire and smoke, and be not be persuaded by the projected persona and thunderous voice. But rather, look “behind the curtain” and analytically evaluate the character and consequences of behavior.

As we witness ever-increasing lies and darkness, it is also imperative for every Christian to seek and hold onto truth—for the only truth that exists on earth is from God, in His Son, in His word, and is revealed by the Holy Spirit. In addition, every Christian must use spiritual discernment (and wisdom) to assess information as it enters our eyes and ears.

How to Respond When You Hear a Potential Lie

God designed us with an attribute of skepticism. Skepticism is defined as a process of (1) doubting and questioning the truth of a stated fact or opinion, and (2) seeking evidence that supports or rejects the stated fact or opinion. Spiritually, skepticism helps to protect us against harmful influences. Without this God-given attribute we would believe (and accept as true) everything we see and hear.

As such, it is important to realize any person’s stated fact or opinion has the potential to be influenced by that person’s sinful nature or by an evil entity. Therefore, when you hear a stated fact or opinion:

- Be skeptical and do not accept it at face value.
- Attempt to determine if the declaration is comprised of one or more of Satan’s lying techniques:
 - A mixture of truth and falsehoods.
 - Truth twisted into a different meaning.
 - A difficult to prove absolute statement.
- When evaluating the validity of the stated fact or opinion, carefully (and skeptically) seek different sources of information. Biased sources explain only one side of an issue. Therefore, it is prudent to evaluate different opinions.
- Seek verifiable and indisputable facts.
- Test everything against scripture.
- Use behavioral insight to evaluate the words and actions of the person making the declaration, and determine to what degree does this person:
 - Express sociopathic and narcissistic behaviors?
 - Exemplify a humble servant’s heart that is committed to Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord?

Behavioral Insight

In addition to our human capacity to lie, believe in a lie and view with skepticism, God also gave us an attribute of behavioral insight. Behavioral insight is an innate ability to see, evaluate, and make judgments of persons based upon their words and actions. For example, imagine you witness the following 7 scenarios that exemplify the consequences of Satan's lies. As you read each one, take a few moments and consider the following.

- What are your initial thoughts and emotions?
 - If given the opportunity to intervene, how would you respond?
1. A man and woman are viciously arguing and yelling at one another.
 2. A scantily clad prostitute is standing on the street corner looking for business.
 3. A person aggressively drives 25 mph over the speed limit, weaving in-and-out between cars.
 4. A preadolescent defiantly smokes a cigarette in front of you.
 5. Someone is resisting arrest by the police for a crime they just committed.
 6. A drunk is sleeping on the sidewalk.
 7. You converse with someone who spews vulgarity, speaks negative words, complains about everything and describes faults in others.

Most of us have seen (and are possibly guilty of) one or more of the above scenarios. But what's important is to understand our initial thoughts, emotions and envisioned response to each scenario can provide us with revealing insight into how we observe the world around us: either spiritually or via our sinful nature.

There is a significant difference between viewing the world through spiritual eyes, versus allowing our sinful nature to control and dominate what we see and interpret. If we view the world from a spiritual perspective, our observations are permeated by the awareness of God's grace, His love, His forgiveness in His Son Jesus Christ, and a heart-felt hope for the lost—regardless of the depth of sin and darkness that exists. Whereas, observations that are permeated by our sinful nature result in judgment, caustic words, intolerance for their actions, and a hopeless belief that there is nothing that can change who they are and what they do.

<u>Spiritual</u>	<u>Sinful Nature</u>
God's Grace	Judgment
Agape Love	Caustic Words
Forgiveness	Intolerance
Hope	Hopelessness

Now take a moment to consider the heart of someone who prayerfully responds to the above scenarios in the following manner:

- I pray God You touch this person's heart.
- Thank You, God, that I am not like this person.

Which prayer is spiritual, and which is based upon sinful nature? Which prayer recognizes the spiritual needs of the other person, and which prayer is judgmental and self-centered? Which prayer exemplifies agape love, and which prayer indicates intolerance? Which prayer is an expression of hope, and which is not? But most important, which prayer reflects Jesus?

The following insightful words of Jesus reveal these deep spiritual truths—within in our heart and soul—when He compared the prayers of a Pharisee and the tax collector.

“Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: ‘Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.’ And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.’”
Luke 18: 9-14

It is critically important for every Christian to remember who we were, who we are, and who we desire to become. For as we grow in Christ, we become more like Him and less like ourselves—which is a very good thing! It is by God’s grace and love that we are continually forgiven—for our past, present and future sins. As such, we need to keep this at the forefront of our minds as we view the darkened world around us—and not allow our sinful flesh to permeate our perception of those who are bound by the lies of Satan.

The perception of those who are deceived during the last days will experience a transformation: Satan’s lies will become truth, and truth will become a lie. This is why the deceived will actively reject the truth—even when presented with factual evidence of truth.

Therefore, immerse yourself in God’s word, His love, His Son, His promises, and His Holy Spirit as you protect yourself against deception. View the world through spiritual eyes and not your sinful nature. And remember the following scriptures when you encounter the deceived.

“Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.” Ephesians 4: 29-32

“So then each of us shall give account of himself to God. Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother’s way.” Romans 14:12-13

“Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.” Colossians 4:5-6

How Should Non-Christians Proceed?

For those who do not know Jesus Christ, truth will not be found in drugs, sex, wealth, power, fame, or in politics—because this is where Satan expertly manipulates his lies; this is where he blinds the eyes of his victims; this where darkness resides; this is where sin thrives; and this is where spiritual death occurs.

When you think about life from a spiritual perspective, people attempt to find fulfillment in areas that facilitate the deceptional influence of a murderer, and are unaware of their condition and consequences.

“As it is written: ‘There is none righteous, no, not one; there is none who understands; there is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; they have together become unprofitable; there is none who does good, no, not one. Their throat is an open tomb; with their tongues they have practiced deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips; whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness. Their feet are swift to shed blood; destruction and misery are in their ways; and the way of peace they have not known. There is no fear of God before their eyes.’” Romans 3:10-18

Jesus said **“Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.”** John 8:34

A common definition of a slave is one who is owned by (and subservient to) another person. However, Jesus spoke of spiritual slavery and servitude to sin.

Paul reinforced the truth of spiritual slavery. **“Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one’s slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?”** Romans 6:16

Bob Dylan wrote a song, “Gotta Serve Somebody,” (© 1979, Special Rider Music) with the refrain:
But you’re gonna have to serve somebody, yes indeed. You’re gonna have to serve somebody,
It may be the devil or it may be the Lord But you’re gonna have to serve somebody.

In simple truth...every person is either a servant of Jesus or Satan. It’s one or the other. However, those who decide to serve God know who they are serving. Whereas, those who decide not to serve God do not know who they are serving because they are held in darkness by their master.

Jesus said **“And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”** John 3:19-21

Jesus said **“I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”** John 8:12

Jesus defined the difference between Himself and the thief (Satan) when He declared **“I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”** John 10:9-10

Those who seek His truth will know and hear His voice. Jesus said **“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father’s hand.”** John 10:27-29

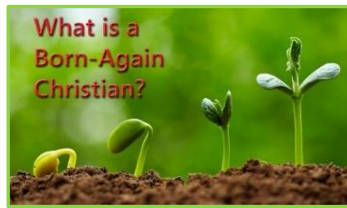
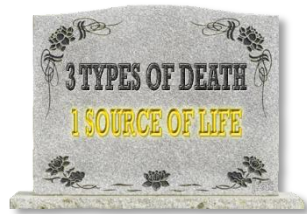
Jesus said **“If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”** John 8:31-32

For those who are living in darkness; are tired of being bound and chained by delusional lies and sin; and have a desire to know the truth...Jesus Christ, God’s Son, laid down His life for us as a sacrifice for our sins so that we could be set free from the shackles and bonds of lies.

All it takes is a simple prayer from your heart to God declaring your present condition and desires.

Heavenly Father, I am a sinner and I desire to know Your truth. Thank you, Jesus, for dying for my sins. Holy Spirit teach and guide me unto righteousness, and transform me into the person you want me to be.

If you prayed this prayer, there are two Bible studies on UniqueBibleStudies.com that will assist in your spiritual growth. The first is **“3 Types of Death 1 Source of Life.”** The second is **“What is a Born-Again Christian?”** Both Bible studies may be read from the website or downloaded for free.



It is my prayer this lesson pulls back the “curtain” and opens spiritual eyes to the truth of Satan’s lies.

Can you think of someone who could benefit from this lesson? If yes, send a copy or provide the link to the website. You may also send a link to an introductory video: <https://youtu.be/mOexul7FzPI>

“Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.” Galatians 1:3-5

Harold D. Thomas