

Recognizing Deception

Often, when we discuss deception, we focus on what comes out of our mouths—rather than what has intruded our hearts....

Deceive: To cause someone to believe something that is not true, in order to gain some personal advantage.

Liar=*pseustes*=5583=to falsify; misrepresent

Deception is when the word of the evil one finds a place to access and move in our hearts. Once he finds an access point, he can deceive by insertion of a lie or a doubt. He will also seek to undermine any previous truth that we have believed. (We keep what we have acted upon—**James 1:21-25**)

- We can deceive ourselves (fail to admit to ourselves/others) the true state of something. (Jeremiah 17:9, James 1:16-18, I John 1:8)

Deception works like an infection. (It really is like cancer—becoming imbedded and permeating our mind and state of well-being)

Untreated heart wounds make us vulnerable to the ‘infection’ of deception

The deceiver takes advantage of heart wounds and to remain undetected until our heart is cleansed and healed by the Holy Spirit. If deception is not recognized, we will act on it—keeping it—establishing a foothold/stronghold (advancing the enemy’s territory and influence).

Keys: Allow Holy Spirit access to search our heart

Interrogate what you believe to be true

Confess (agree with Spirit of God)—past wounds, ways we have dealt with pain, state of our heart toward the one who wounded us.

Repent of our ways of responding to pain

Invite the Comforter to cleanse, heal, comfort you—return to joy

Renew the mind—Word of God —Ephesians 4:22-24, Romans 12:2

Be on guard—Ephesians 6:16-17

Strategy of kingdom of darkness

- First trap laid by evil one/ Adam and Eve/ sin gained access through deception
- God creates with His voice=It is good——evil one destroys with his voice=leads to death
In the kingdom of darkness, words are like curses, designed to discourage; to steal, kill and destroy identity and relationship. In the Kingdom of Light—words are an exchange of blessing. We can identify which kingdom and which king we are serving, by observing the effect of our words on others.
- Fear partners with deception—increasing opportunity for foothold/stronghold.
- If you are tempted or accused, you generally can recognize it. If you are deceived, you don’t know it.
- Warning at the end of the age: Do not be deceived—you will bring forth fruit for death (Matthew 24:4-5, II Thessalonians 2:3-13)

Our Protection:

- Loving the Truth—II Thessalonians 2:7-13
- Knowing the Lord’s voice—John 10:3-8, Matthew 4
- Wear His armor—guard your heart—watch over it with all diligence—Ephesians 6:13-14, Proverbs 4:23