

# A Disguise is to Deceive!

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If anything can be *disguised* it can also be *deceptive*. Satan is always in disguise—and he can be 2 Corinthians 11:14 “*Transformed into an angel of light.*” He never stops *trying* to deceive anywhere in the world, so those who are not aware of his evil intentions fall into serious sins that could eventually destroy them for eternity.

The deceiver of souls—referred to as Revelation 12:9 “*A great a dragon, an old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.*” This deceiver has controlled the world for centuries—and is determined to destroy anyone who does not resist him! To this day 1 John 5:19 “*The whole world lieth in wickedness.*”

Satan is deceiving souls by the wholesale—because people are *not* aware of his *disguise*. Unheard-of crimes, maliciousness, evil and wicked acts—including unchecked immoral living is a global issue today.

Believers are outnumbered, but by faith in God; an uncompromising trust on Jesus; and through the power of the Holy Spirit, we can win the ultimate prize—Paradise forever with the Lord Jesus.

God has promised to free us from deception, addictive habits, and wrong desires—things that are designed to deceive us and destroy us forever—unless we believe and trust Him to protect us!

By faith we *can* overcome the myriad of temptations we face—enticements of all types to have us trespass outside the will of God on something! 1 John 5:4 “*For every child of God overcomes the world;*

*and the victorious principle which has overcome the world is our faith.*” And the reward is amazing—Revelation 2:7 “*To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.*”

The devil is in disguise, but his fingerprints are everywhere! A high state of alert is crucial because his only objective is to destroy our soul in the flames forever. Anything we decide to do—any habit; any interest; any book—Kindle or hard copy—including any entertainment that would *not* have *God’s approval*, would have *Satan’s endorsement*—and be deceptive. Believers must be James 1:22 “*Doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.*”

Every new day is a “*Striving against sin*” Hebrews 12:4, because Satan can change his appearance—he is *disguised to deceive the naive*.

Any *device* or *advice* that would put wrong thoughts in our mind can be traced back to the serpent. Satan is *cunning* and *criminal* and *fixated* [obsessed] on destroying souls—*that* makes him extremely dangerous. The suffering and loss of life from drug abuse, alcohol, murder, immorality, and suicide is at an all-time high.

Since a disguise *will* deceive, we should ask ourselves these questions—After *reading* a book, what am I *thinking*? After *viewing* a video, what are my *desires*? Are they *godly* wishes or *worldly* thoughts? The serpent beguiled Eve and he is *still* deceiving the naive—the world just does *not* recognize the *disguise* or the *deception*.

The devil’s primary *weapon* is *pride*—pride of heart has destroyed more people than could ever be counted! *Pride* was the devil’s *own downfall*. Isaiah 14:13 “*I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.*”

Any *disguise* can *deceive* any person. Something may *seem* innocent on the surface, but the

devil tries to have us be *so involved, so occupied, or so busy* with something—that there is *no time* for the Lord; no time for prayer; and no time for the children or the family. What a child needs *most* cost us *least!*—our *time!* Once the moments with children are *lost*, they can *never* be reclaimed. It is imperative that we Ephesians 5:16 “*Redeem the time, because the days are evil.*”

Satan has a diverse game strategy today—he tempts us to use modern devices in a wrong way. The number of people online with cellphones, tablets, and computers is staggering—everyone wants to be kept up-to-date on anything and everything! Satan constantly tempts people to use devices in unwise and unscriptural which results in spiritual harm! He is out to *ruin* lives; *destroy* marriages; and *enslave* people in obsessive habits.

Television, tablets, cellphones—any online service—can be used by the devil to distract, to deceive, and to take up precious time that could have been used for much better purposes. The devil is in back of every executive who makes decisions on what to give the public—from commercials to shows to sports and entertainment—many programs are designed to manipulate viewers to *think* like the world thinks. So much material online today gives an *anti-Christian* message.

The devil has convinced the world that it must have a continuous stream of entertainment, news, sports, shows, and programs to watch. Everyone needs to be *warned* and *aware* because the *deceiver* is in *disguise!*

Anything that can be *controlled* can be *corrupted*—and anything that can be *disguised* can *deceive*. Isaiah 5:20 “*Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness.*” Satan’s names are: *Adversary, Accuser, Belial [wicked], Deceiver, Tempter, Tormentor, liar, and Murderer* John 8:44.

Satan’s cruel and wicked attitude toward people was evident from the first murder by Cain—

who <sup>1 John 3:12</sup> “*Was of that wicked one, and slew his brother.*” Satan is <sup>Revelation 12:3</sup> the “*Great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns.*” He is malicious, hateful, and determined to destroy people forever—if they are not alert to his wicked intentions.

Our spiritual *interests* are *priority* always—about whatever we are doing, viewing; reading, or listening to. Is there a subtle deception in what I am involved with? Am I asking God to expose any disguise of the devil concerning my thoughts, desires, or activities?

Satan can come up with an infinite number of disguises. He has deceived *billions* to be involved with things and activities that could end their lives all too *soon* and all too *unprepared* for eternity. In whatever way Satan can destroy a person’s body, mind, or health—he will do it. Millions *crave* things that could *harm* them or could *end* their life way before any preparation for the next eternal life.

Anything can *seem* innocent of itself, but it *could* be deceptive in some way—even if we are not *directly* harming anyone. We must be sure that our involvement is not hindering someone’s *faith* by sending a wrong *message*. <sup>Romans 14:21</sup> “*It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother to fall.*”

Extreme sports; dangerous activities; risk-taking; and addictive habits have ended the lives of millions—all too *soon* and all too *unprepared* to meet Jesus! Satan will keep on deceiving—and will take a *million* souls at once, or *one* at a time—whatever works! <sup>Galatians 6:7</sup> warns “*Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.*”

Satan has been relentless in ruining lives through alcohol, drugs, immorality, and suicide. He even deceives people by having them put their faith in prescriptions, pills, or anything—just so it is not faith in God. Anything can become an *Idol*—<sup>Exodus 20:5</sup> “*Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor*

*serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God.*”

Satan can appear in any *form* and any disguise—we should *not* be surprised as we have been told! <sup>2 Corinthians 11:14</sup> “*For Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light*”—and that could even be a religious *message*. <sup>1 John 4:1</sup> “*Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.*”

Deceptive doctrines are everywhere today—radio, television, online, religious books, or printed material. They can mislead because they can *omit* what cannot *be* omitted—a trusting faith on the Blood of Jesus—for healing, protection, finances, and everything else.

Over all these years, not much has changed—<sup>2 Peter 2:1</sup> “*There were also false prophets among the people, as there will be teachers of falsehood among you also, who will cunningly introduce fatal divisions, disowning even the Sovereign Lord who has redeemed them, and bringing on themselves swift destruction.*”

Millions who *profess* faith in Christ, do not *trust* on His Blood in faith. <sup>John 3:18</sup> “*He who trusts in Him does not come up for judgement. He who does not trust has already received sentence, because he has not his trust resting on the name of God’s only Son.*” Instead of trusting on the shed Blood of Christ, they trust on a written prescription from a doctor, or trust an investment plan from a bank.

<sup>John 10:10</sup> “*The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*” God wants to prepare us for His Kingdom, but we must *choose* to *believe* in order to *receive* His Spirit Who will *lead us* to Heaven.

We are seeing things today that were never seen before. Satan is all-out to discourage, deceive, and destroy—but <sup>1 John 4:4</sup> “*Greater is He who is in*

*you than he who is in the world.*” Our faith in the Atonement Blood of Jesus, overcomes the deceiver of our soul.

We lose *big-time* and *every* time, if we go against a disguised deceiver in our own strength. He is out to destroy us, but our trust on God, through the Atonement of His Son, enables us to recognize deception and take appropriate action against it.

Our *reading* material, our *viewing* preferences, and our online *choices* must have *God’s* approval. What goes through the eye-gate—resides in our memory-bank and *affects* our attitudes, our words, and our choices. If it does not have *God’s* approval—then it would have the *world’s* approval.

Children are *looking, listening, and learning* from us—how we talk and respond. *Our* choices will later become *their* choices. We must *show* them and *teach* them how a believer talks. What we spend *time* doing should not *steal time* from them.

Satan wants to harm us *spiritually* and destroy us *ultimately*—if it takes a week, a month, or years. <sup>1 Corinthians 11:31</sup> “*If we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.*” Satan has deceived billions to reject God’s Truth and has sent them into eternity *unrepentant* and *unprepared* to meet the Judge of everyone!

Global unbelief gets worse every day. <sup>1 Timothy 4:1</sup> “*Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing [deceiving] spirits, and doctrines of devils.*”

For the truly repentant *believer*, the reward is eternal *life*—but for *billions* who live a *lie*—by their own willful *choice*, the destroyer of souls has the last laugh! ††

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