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SALVATION

If you are not a believer in Jesus Christ, or aren't sure and would like to become one, then you need to believe that Jesus Christ was and is the Son of God, that he was God who became a man, that he lived a sinless and perfect life, keeping the Law of God perfect in every way, that he kept faith perfectly, and that he was crucified on that cruel cross for your sins, mine and the entire world - he died for our sins! His death on the cross paid the penalty fully, one time for all sins that we have ever committed and that we will ever commit. He died; he went down into the bowels of the earth, even into Hell, and was raised from the dead on the third day in a resurrected, eternal body. He ascended back into heaven, was seated at the right hand of God, and is now Lord over heaven and earth. He is coming again to judge the world, to raise the dead, where he will give an eternal, resurrected, glorified body to everyone that has believed on him as their Lord and Savior, and to establish his kingdom one earth.

You come become a Christian right now as you read this, by personally placing your faith and trust in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior; believing that he is God's only begotten Son, that he died on the cross for you and that he was raised from the dead and is now seated in heaven at the right hand of God the Father. *"Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved."* Acts 16:31a And when you do trust Christ, and Christ alone, as your Lord and Savior, then go to God the Father in heaven in prayer and tell him so. Tell him that you have believed on his Son, thank him for his Son, and thank him for forgiving your sins and saving you! *"That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord", and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."* Romans 10:9,10 *"For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."* Romans 10:13 *"Therefore, being justified by faith (declared righteous), we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."* Romans 5:1

Deception

Intro: #01

Everyone on earth has been deceived at one time or another and has deceived others at one point in life. It is so much a part of our existence here on earth in these fallen natures that virtually everyone on earth is now currently being totally deceived in every aspect of their lives and their outlook on life. It is only being born again through faith in Jesus Christ, a positive attitude toward truth, the sound teaching of the Word of God and the filling of the Holy Spirit that opens our minds and frees us from deception.

To **deceive** – *apatao* – is to give the soul a false impression. “*Let no man **deceive** (apatao) you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.*” Ephesians 5:6 “*And Adam was not **deceived** (apatao), but the woman being **deceived** (apatao) was in the transgression.*” 1 Timothy 2:14

To **thoroughly deceive** – *exapatao* – is to thoroughly give the soul a false impression thereby totally deceiving it. “*For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, **deceived** (exapatao – to thoroughly and totally deceive) me, and by it slew me.*” Romans 7:11 “*For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches **deceive** (exapatao) the hearts of the simple.*” Romans 16:18 “*Let no man **deceive** (exapatao) himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise.*” 1 Corinthians 3:18 “*But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent **beguiled** (exapatao) Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.*” 2 Corinthians 11:3 “*Let no man **deceive** (exapatao) you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;*” 2 Thessalonians 2:3

Deceit – *apate* – is that which gives the soul a false impression. “*He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the **deceitfulness of riches**, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.*” Matthew 13:22 “*And the cares of this world, and the **deceitfulness of riches**, and the **lusts** of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.*” Mark 4:19 “*That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the **deceitful lusts**;*” Ephesians 4:22 “*Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and **vain deceit**, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.*” Colossians 2:8 “*And with all **deceivableness of unrighteousness** in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.*” 2 Thessalonians 2:10 “*But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the **deceitfulness of sin**.*” Hebrews 3:13 “*And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their **own deceivings** while they feast with you;*” 2 Peter 2:13

Impress – is making a mark by pressure, or stamp, or imprint, to produce a mark, figure, etc., to apply with pressure, so as to leave a mark. **Impression** – is the mark, indentation, figure, etc., that is produced by pressure. One can make an impression by the use of strong force, such as, striking a die on metal with a hammer. Or one can leave an impression with light repeated pressure where one goes over and over the mark many times, such as a pencil on paper.

Pencils on paper, chisels on stone, styli on metal, but the thing, or things that make an impression on the **soul** are: words, feelings and ideas. And if the words are not true, or even truth misapplied, or manipulated, then the soul will be led to a false impression thereby being deceived.

Traumatic events can leave a strong impression on the soul, but so can good things happening to someone. Harsh words can leave an impression on the soul, but so can kind doctrinal words! Half-truths, lies, lies mixed with truth and non-doctrinal words repeated over and over can leave impressions that are false on the soul as well, especially if they are constantly reinforced. This is the technique that is used in brainwashing, social engineering, the public school system, TV, the NWO and the government. And this is the approach that the devil uses with all mankind. He uses lies, truth mixed with lies, all for the purpose of giving people a **false impression** on their souls!

Remember, to deceive someone and thereby lead them astray, one does not have to use nothing but lies! Truths can be skillfully mixed in with the lies to give an individual a false impression. One can also skillfully use truths without lies to bring an individual to the conclusion you want them to have. If one has a superior intellect, as Satan does, and understands the mental and emotional mindset of an individual, they can use truth skillfully to guide their minds to the conclusion they want you to have.

With the devil and Eve all he had to do was watch her, see what her mental and emotional acumen was, see what she was wanting, get her into the dialect and then skillfully craft the words using innuendo to set up her mind to think in the vein of thought he wanted her to be in. All he had to do was interject certain thoughts and ideas and he knew she would come to the conclusion he wanted her to have.

The fisherman knows how a fish thinks. He knows it positions its head upstream because he knows that the fish is waiting for something to come downstream. He also knows what the fish feeds on, so he uses the bait or lure mimicking what the fish feeds on. So all he has to do is present the bait in such a manner before the fish and the fish will strike.

This is one of the ways that deception works. All it needs is the knowledge of what one wants, have an understanding into the working of human nature, have the ability to lead the individual along the path of thinking you want them to have; and they will then come at the predetermined conclusion you want them to have. This also is the basis for all advertisement in America.

The vain words in Ephesians 5:6, “*Let no man **deceive** (apatao) you with **vain words**: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.*” are *kenos logos*, **empty words**, or words that are hollow, or words that do not have any doctrinal content in them. They sound good on the outside, that's the shell part, but are empty of any substance on the inside, that's the meat part of the nut.

Now this applies to not only men, (or women), who are putting themselves as communicators of God, whether on TV or in the pulpit, but also to any form of communication we get in the world system. If their words are void of doctrinal truth, then we are setting ourselves up for being deceived. Their words are leaving a false impression on our souls and we will be deceived. This dynamic is being exercised by the public school system, by the evening news, by advertisers, by the government and reinforced by our churches and friends. All communication of ideas, whether from society, our churches or friends, must be scrutinized as to its doctrinal content – is it true? **Non-doctrinal communication will give us a false impression and that false impression is we being deceived! #01 3-17-16 #02**

We see in 1 Timothy 2:14 “*And Adam was **not deceived** (apatao), but the woman being **deceived** (apatao) was in the transgression.*” Eve was deceived, but Adam wasn't. The reason why was Eve was wanting something, so all the devil had to do was carefully use words and innuendo to lead Eve to the place in her thinking that the devil wanted her to be and to get her to arrive at the conclusion he wanted her to have. Once he was able to do that he had her.

1 Timothy 2:14 “And Adam was not **deceived** (*apatao*), but the woman being **deceived** (*apatao*) was in the transgression.” - και αδαμ ουκ ηπατηθη ‘η δε γυνη απατηθεισα εν παραβασει γεγονεν. Now the first use of the word **deceive** with Adam, *apatao*, is found in the aorist passive indicative, which looks at the action occurring at a point in time and the reality of it, which tells us that at that point in time in the Garden Adam was definitely not deceived by all this.

But when it switches over to Eve, we find *apatao* being used in the aorist passive participle, which tells us, because the action of the aorist participle precedes the action of the main verb, it tells us that Eve was deceived first and now was found in the sphere of transgression. The word **was** is in the perfect active indicative of *ginomai*, which denotes a change of condition and permanently so because of the perfect tense. **Adam was definitely not deceived, but the woman having been deceived, was now found as being in the sphere of transgression.**

Eve was deceived, but it was the serpent (Satan), who deceived her. So **how** did he do this? It calls for the insight of how our mind’s work that lead us to making decisions and then acting on those decisions. An act, or our actions, follow upon us making a decision, not unless we are those types who only act on impulse. Eve did not act on impulse. But before our decisions there comes to play the deliberation process of the mind where we come to a conclusion; a conclusion that we believe to be true. And before all that, or at least working at the same time, there has to be an informational input into our minds, where the reasoning process of the mind takes the information that has been fed into it and we now come to a conclusion that we believe to be true, then we make a decision and then we act on it.

Satan already knows the **goal** he has in mind for the woman and that is to get her to **disobey** God. He picked her for this attack because he knew by observation that she was the weaker of the two. To get her to do this act of disobeying God; he had to get her to the place where she **changed her belief structure**; and to do that he had to get her to the place where her mind reached the **conclusion** that he wanted her to arrive at; a conclusion that she believed to be **true**. To do that he had to **feed her the information** that would lead her along the **new way of thinking** he wanted her to have that he knew would bring her mind to the conclusion that he wanted her to have; a conclusion that she would now believe to be true; and a **conclusion that would smear the integrity of God**. In essence, **Satan gave Eve a false impression and was able to get Eve to change her thinking about God!**

We don’t know how many times the serpent had appeared to Eve in the Garden to talk to her, nor do we know how long this particular conversation had been going on and any other content of this conversation; all we know is what the serpent said to her at this point. “*Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, **Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?***” Genesis 3:1

Now God did not say that Adam and Eve were not to eat of **every** tree in the Garden and the serpent isn’t saying that this is what God said. What he did is ask a simple question, which was a misquote; “Did God say that you can’t eat from **every** tree in the Garden?” He was leading her mind by posing a **question**, which can be used to: get more information on something; to call into question in a matter of dispute or a challenge; to bring up a doubt about something; or to cast doubt upon something. A question can be designed to remove all doubts, or to bring in doubt to something.

Eve gives back part of a correct answer to this question in Genesis 3:2, “*And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:*” but then she errs in Genesis 3:3, “*But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, **neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.***” He’s been leading her mind and thinking along by feeding her the **information** he wants her to think on so that she will come to the faulty **conclusion** he wants her to have.

This concept is used by the “powers that be” in our government to give only the information that it wants the American people to have by using the mass media of TV and government indoctrination schools, so as to mislead their thinking, for the purpose of getting their minds to the place of the conclusion they want them to arrive at. And because most people are lifted up in their pride they will not accept the fact that there are people out there that are smarter than they are and are capable of manipulating their minds to get them to the place where they are thinking and acting along the lines they want them to have. They use the principle of **deception** that Satan used to get sin into the world.

If people are supplied information through mass media that is not the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, then most of them will arrive at a faulty conclusion because they are being misled. Which has been the purpose all along. There at least needs to be another viewpoint, another information source that they can think about so they can come to a correct conclusion, and that is the divine viewpoint of Bible Doctrine. But if they are not positive to truth, if they don't want the truth, then they are only left with deception and a continual leading of them astray. *“And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:”* 2 Thessalonians 2:10.11

Remember that even though deception and being misled are both different concepts they are connected to each other. **Deception** is where one is given a false impression concerning something, while being **misled** is to follow a different path of thinking or action. And the corker is that God still holds us responsible! We can cry out, “I was deceived”, “I went down the wrong path”, “I believed the wrong thing”, “I made the wrong choice”, but we are still responsible. Did we want the truth? Did we inquire of God what to do? Were we positive to what the Word of God teaches? We are still responsible.

Eve was given a false impression because she allowed herself to be drawn into the dialectic with the serpent. She became deceived, but at the same time she now believed that she had been deceived, not by the serpent, but by God. It was an attack on his character. When she said, *“Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.”* she was inferring that God had made something poisonous that would hurt her and Adam. When she found out that wasn't the case, which it never was, (those ideas had been put in her mind by the serpent), then what could she only conclude in her faulty reasoning that God wasn't honest with her. So she ended up believing the devil and not God, and ended up believing that it was God who was doing what the devil was actually doing. Eve should have taken her stand on the explicit statements of God, rather than to try to figure it out in her own mind. Which is what the problem was because the serpent was putting thoughts in her mind, under the power of suggestion, to get her to arrive at the conclusion he wanted her to have.

To **thoroughly deceive** – *exapatao* – is to thoroughly give the soul a false impression thereby totally deceiving it. *“For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, **deceived** (exapatao – to thoroughly and totally deceive) me, and by it (sin) slew me.”* Romans 7:11 Exapatao is the intensified form of apatao and it meant to completely and totally deceive someone, or to give them a totally false impression.

Now we want to note here **what** it is that deceives us. It is the indwelling sin nature resident in the flesh bodies of all of us here on earth. It is that genetic bent or twist that humanity acquired from Adam and Eve and was passed down to each human being through physical birth. We all have it, including born again Christians, for it is found in the flesh nature. The only way we can deal with this is through being born again through faith in Jesus Christ, living in the new nature and not the flesh nature, being filled with the Holy Spirit and sitting under the teaching of Bible Doctrine. **The sin nature of the flesh not only deceives us; it thoroughly and completely deceives us!** #02 3-24-16 #03

You will find **illusion** and **delusion** in this matter of deception, or being totally deceived. **Illusion** is where you are deceived about something and comes about as the result of false sensory impressions: eyes, ears, taste, touch and smell. While **delusion** is where you are deceived as well, but it comes about as the result of faulty judgment, which judgment, or conclusion is a function of the intellect.

We found that Christians can easily be deceived by those who communicate using eloquence in their speaking and kindly words. “*For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by **good words and fair speeches deceive** (exapatao) the hearts of the simple.*”, Romans 16:18. **Good words** is *chrēstologia*, which meant to be able to speak in a kindly manner using non-offensive speech. While **fair speeches**, *eulogia*, is fine speaking, the ability to speak well, eloquence of language. The gullible are taken in and easily deceived because they respond to people that use words and a manner of speech that are friendly and non-offensive. Doctrinal pastors, however, can use speech that, at times, which can be quite harsh and offensive as they communicate the truth of God’s Word.

Many Christians are **deceived by riches** thinking money is what they need, when they need Bible Doctrine. “*He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the **deceitfulness (apate) of riches,** choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.*” Matthew 13:22 **Apate** refers to that which gives the soul a false impression, but this goes back to the sin nature deceiving us. We see the rich with their money, houses, cars, having fun and we think that’s what we need, but it isn’t; that’s the deception. We need the spiritual life dynamic.

“*Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; **beguiling unstable souls:** an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children:” 2 Peter 2:14 οφθαλμους εχοντες μεστους μοιχαλιδος και ακαταπαυστους ‘αμαρτιας **δελεαζοντες ψυχας αστηρικτους** καρδιαν γεγυμνασμενην πλεονεξιας εχοντες καταρας τεκνα.*

Now it says that these false teachers **beguile** the unstable believer, or literally, “*beguiling unstable souls*”. The word for **beguile** is the present active participle of *deleazo*. Now there are three words used for deceiving someone: **apatao** – to deceive, or fool, someone by giving them a false impression; **paralogizomai** – to deceive by false reasoning; **deleazo** – to catch by using bait!

Satan **incited**, (some translations have it as **provoked**), David to take a census of the fighting men of Israel, which caused a feeling of guilt in the non-military Israelites. “*And Satan stood up against Israel, and **provoked** David to number Israel.*” 1 Chronicles 21:1

The word for **incite** is *suth* and it has been translated as to provoke or to instigate. It had the idea of **being changed from one course or behavior to an opposite one.** The Greek has it as *apatao*, or *exapatao*, to deceive or to seduce. It has the idea of to move someone, or to mislead someone into doing something that was **against his original will and intentions.**

It is not a word of force or pressure, but rather **persuasion** and that along the lines of **seductive or enticing persuasion.** We’re trying to show how Satan entices God’s people into unintended behavior. It is the word that is used when friends or family members try to get the doctrinal believer away from the Word, or the temptress that God’s men are to avoid; and for the devil attacking God’s people.

One lie after another and so the deception continues on. **Deception** and **being led astray** are different concepts, but they always go together. To lead someone astray in life you must first deceive them! And after they have been deceived, and are led astray, and after they realize this isn’t what they want, you must deceive them again, but you can’t use the first trick again because they are already wise to that, so the devil uses a different one!

The devil isn't called the **Tempter** or **Deceiver** for nothing! *“For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the **tempter** (peirazo – serious trial to get us away from faith in the Word) have tempted you, and our labour be in vain.” 1 Thessalonians 3:5*

Now how the devil tempts us is through our own **lusts**. He puts before us what it is that **we want**, that which **we are lusting after**. And when we go for it, then he's got us! *“Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is **drawn away** of his **own lust**, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.” James 1:13-15*

The word for **drawn away** here is *exelko*, whose root word is *helko* used for the drawing of a magnet, or the drawing of a fish net. The drawing of a magnet fits best here because it's like an invisible force inside the believer drawing him to the thing he is lusting after. It is the believer who has the lust or desire going on inside of him drawing him to do it. All the devil has to do is place that thing before him, and the power or force of that lust dynamic inside of him will draw him toward the object. The object, which, the devil has placed before him, and once he goes for it, then the devil now has hooked or trapped him, and once he has trapped him, he is taken captive to do the devil's will.

The word *planao* has also been translated as **deceive**, but it has a different meaning. *Apatao* meant to give someone a false impression leading to a false conclusion that is away from the truth, while the verb *planao* and the noun *plane* meant to lead someone astray after they have been first deceived. They are found 49 times in the NT: The Lord was telling the disciples to be on the watch for those who would try to deceive us and he does so by giving them Bible Doctrine. Now this is referring to as to when he would return to earth, but the principle is still the same; it is Bible Doctrine that prevents us from being deceived and led astray. Matthew 24:4 *“And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man **deceive** (*planao* – lead astray) you.”*

Paul told the Corinthians to stop being led astray, (from living in the spiritual life dynamic), due to their being associated with non-doctrinal companions. Their effect on the doctrinal believer will erode every advancement they had made in their faith, personal growth and integrity. 1 Corinthians 15:33 *“Be not **deceived** (*planao* – led astray): evil communications corrupt good manners.”*

In the end time; the time preceding and during the Tribulation Age, the people of the world will believe the lie; they will do so because a strong delusion will come upon them. The reason for that is because God will send to them a **strong delusion**, an *energeian planes*, that will lead them astray. This refers to one of the fallen celestial beings who specializes in deception and misleading people, which is no wonder for the entire dominion of Satan is based upon lies and deception. And the reason why this will happen, is happening now, is because **men did not love the truth**. 2 Thessalonians 2:11 *“And for this cause God shall send them **strong delusion** (*plane* – to go astray from the truth), that they should believe a lie:”*

2 Timothy 3:13 *“But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, **deceiving** (*planoo* – present active participle), and **being deceived** (*planoo* – present passive participle).”* We notice the grammar of being deceived; they are **deceiving** others, but they themselves have **been deceived** - passive voice – way of life, deceived by other people. Once someone is personally deceived, present participle – way of life, then we see them going out and deceiving other people as their way of life, and so it goes on and on. Only doctrinal truth keeps us from joining their ranks. **#03 3-31-16** #04

James 5:19,20 “Brethren, **if** (*ean* - 3rd class conditional of if, maybe they will and maybe they won't) any of you do **err** (*planao* – go away) from the truth, and one **convert** (*epistrepho* – turn them back to Bible Doctrine and living in the true spiritual life dynamic) him; Let him know, that he which **converteth** (*epistrepho* - turn that believer's soul back to faith and Bible Doctrine) the sinner from the error of his **way** (*plane* – taking the wrong path in life now) shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.”

Believers can and do become deceived by their lusts, by the World System, by the devil, by their friends and families, by religious institutions, the government and the conventional wisdom of their cultures, and by the deceitfulness of money, success, power and materialism; and in so doing they wander off on the wrong path in life away from the metabolizing of Bible Doctrine by faith and living in the true spiritual life dynamic.

And so if this occurs in your group of friends, (maybe it will and maybe it won't), then if you are able to turn their souls back to faith, Bible Doctrine and the true spiritual life, then you will be instrumental in saving a soul from a possible premature death in life, (sin unto death), and prevent them from getting caught up in a multitude of sins! James 5:19,20 “Brethren, **if** (*ean* - 3rd class conditional of if, maybe they will and maybe they won't) any of you do **err** (*planao* – go away) from the truth, and one **convert** (*epistrepho* – turn them back to Bible Doctrine and living in the true spiritual life dynamic) him; Let him know, that he which **converteth** (*epistrepho* - turn that believer's soul back to faith and Bible Doctrine) the sinner from the error of his **way** (*plane* – taking the wrong path in life now) shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.”

1 Peter 2:25 “For ye were as sheep going **astray** (*planao* – lead astray); but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.” - ητε γαρ 'ως προβατα πλανωμενα αλλ' επεστραφητε νυν επι τον ποιμενα και επισκοπον των ψυχων 'υμων. To go **astray** is the present passive participle of *planao*. Returned is the aoist passive indicative of *epistrepho*. 1 Peter 2:25 1 Peter 2:25

The word for **going astray** is the present passive participle of *planao*, which tells us first of all that this is pretty much the practice of Christ's sheep here in the devil's world, but the passive voice tells us that the sheep of Christ receive the action of the verb, so it's saying that we are always being **led astray!** The people of God are renown for being led astray, either by the culture they live in, or by friends and family, by the world system, by their lusts, or by Satan and his many devices, but here we see that we are always being returned to our shepherd.

But in the second half of the verse we see something amazing happening, we are being **returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of our souls!** The word for **returned** is the aoist passive indicative of *epistrepho*, which has the idea of the turning of the soul back to God, not just a turning of the soul to God, but a turning of the soul **back** to God!

This tells us that believers can and do get caught up living in the word system, like the people of the world do; we get caught up in gratifying the lust patterns of the flesh nature and we get away from living in the spiritual life dynamic. So the first thing that is necessary is repenting, that is, having a change of mental attitude. This repentance entails a change of mental attitude toward Jesus Christ, toward the importance of living in the Word of God again and toward living our lives by faith in the doctrines and promises of God's Word!

Whenever we read the words repentance, conversion, or faith, all three dynamics are found in the one idea. Repentance is the change of mental attitude toward how we're living our lives as Christians and

how we're supposed to be living our lives. Conversion is a turning of the soul back to God away from the things of the world. In the case of Christians it's a turning of the soul back to God. The third thing involved is faith and for Christians we are to live our lives by faith in the Father's plan for our lives, faith in his promises, in his protection, provisions, power and the process he employs with us.

Revelations 12:9 “*And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which **deceiveth** (planao – leads astray) the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.*” They are led astray because he has deceived them. The devil operates by the dynamic of deception; he deceived 1/3 of the angels to go away from God and follow him; he deceived the woman in the Garden; he deceived the Israelites to worship him through the star god Saturn; he deceived David; he deceived believers in the early Church and has been deceiving mankind ever since. So it will be no wonder that the man he installs as king of the world and the false prophet will deceive the world when he takes power. And the greatest brainwashing tool that has ever been invented is television! Through TV Satan’s people are able to continually keep the deception going.

To avoid being deceived we must avoid jumping to conclusions without having all the facts. This is one of the devices that people, who are trying to deceive us, use because all they have to do is insert the information they want us to think about, point by selected point, then we will jump to the conclusion they want us to have. Even the best and the brightest of people can be deceived and led astray because the knowledge they have is derived from centers of higher education without having the facts of God’s Word. This is where their pride comes in because they assume they know all the truth because they have a great education.

“Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.” John 8:44 The Lord said that the devil is a murderer and a liar; he is a **liar** because there is no truth in him; the word for **no** is *ou* the emphatic no.

An interesting side note is that the Lord is levying this charge against those who called themselves Jews, but were really Edomites, which gives us insight into how they operate and how they gain power and position over other people's nations; they do it by deception and lies. Remember the Lord is outright stating that their father is the devil, so it follows that they would operate like him.

Then there was that episode in heaven where various spirits came before the Lord to present how they would lure King Ahab into battle and various ones came forth with their ideas. Finally one spirit came forward and stated how he would do this; he would be a lying spirit in the mouths of Ahab's prophets. *“Then there came out a spirit, and stood before the LORD, and said, I will **entice** him. And the LORD said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go out, and be a **lying spirit** in the mouth of all his prophets. And the LORD said, Thou shalt entice him, and thou shalt also prevail: go out, and do even so.” 2 Chronicles 18:20,21*

The KJV translates the Hebrew word *pâthâh* as **entice**, but the Septuagint uses the word *apatao*, which means to deceive. So here we see one of Satan's demons using the tactic of deception to lure Ahab to his death. An interesting observation here is that neither Ahab, or his prophets, were aware of what was going on in the spiritual realm and neither of them would have ever thought that all this was going to end up in Ahab's death! In fact, according to the translation by the NIV it tells us that the prophets were encouraging him to attack. *“All the other prophets were prophesying the same thing. **Attack Ramoth Gilead and be victorious,**” they said, “for the Lord will give it into the king’s hand.” 2 Chronicles 18:11*

So why was Ahab deceived? This goes back to an ancient ruling of Law. Qui vult decipi, decipiatur. Let him who wishes to be deceived, be deceived. Ahab did not want the truth of God's Word, so what this is saying is that he wishes to be deceived! And this is also born out by the use of this false spirit, who appeared before the Lord, who said that he would **entice** him using the word *pathah*.

Pathah refers to a certain type of person who lacks the wisdom, understanding, or maturity that would enable them to handle certain life situations they will come up against. These types are usually referred to as being young, foolish, foolhardy, simple, etc.. Now God in his grace will help these types, if they turn to him and listen to his council. If they don't? Then it's, Qui vult decipi, decipiatur.

Now God had sent the prophet Micaiah to Ahab to give him the divine viewpoint, but Ahab rejected it. He would rather listen to his own prophets. So if Ahab didn't want to know the truth, which says at the same time he wanted to be deceived, then qui vult decipi, decipiatur. **Let him who wishes to be deceived, be deceived.** Satan is deceiving countless billions of people on earth, but it all goes back to them. If they don't want the truth, then it's saying that they want to be deceived. So it's qui vult decipi, decipiatur. Let him who wishes to be deceived, be deceived.

Pastor Mike