

There is a Spiritual War Taking Place

Our Bible warns of a great spirit war that will take place in the future—actually in the very near future. Notice this amazing scripture: **"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 12:9). The key to understanding spiritual deception is the fact that **"we often choose what we want to believe rather than what we should believe"**, even in the face of the evidence. (Luke 16:31) **"He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"** (John 12:37) **"Even after Jesus had done all these miraculous signs in their presence, they still would not believe in Him"** (John 12:37). Notice that they would not believe Jesus, despite the miracles. Their unbelief was willful. Anyone who resists God risks falling into spiritual deception: (2 Thessalonians 2:8-10) **"And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will destroy with the breath of His mouth, annihilating him by the manifestation of His coming. The coming of the lawless one is apparent in the working of Satan, who uses all power, signs, lying wonders, and every kind of wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.."** Nature abhors a vacuum, and the void created by the eviction of truth will soon be filled by something less than true. Give up the truth, and you'll believe just about anything. **God Has Sent The Savior**



He fills the world with signs of Himself: (John 3:16) **"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life."** He makes Himself available to those who seek Him (Romans 1:20) **"Ever since the creation of the world His eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things He has**

made. So they are without excuse;" He secures anyone who comes to Him **"From there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him if you search after Him with all your heart and soul."** (Deuteronomy 4:29) The spiritual deception of mankind is the direct result of rejecting truth once held. The unbeliever has made an exchange—the truth for a lie—and the devil is happy to facilitate the swap by presenting the sinner with a wide array of lies from which to choose. I've discovered that it's important to know who we are in Christ. Paul writes, **"I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so that you may know...what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe," toward us who take Him at His Word."** (Ephesians 1:18,19) God lives in us and empowers us and that empowerment is rooted in His Truth!

What's A Worldview?



A **Worldview** is the framework from which we view reality and make sense of life and the world. "[It's] any ideology, philosophy, theology, movement or religion that provides an overarching approach to understanding God, the world and man's relations to God and the world.

Whether conscious or subconscious, every person has some type of worldview. A personal worldview is a combination of all you believe to be true, and what you believe becomes the driving force behind every emotion, decision and action. Therefore, it affects your response to every area of life: from philosophy to science, theology and anthropology to economics, law, politics, art and social order — everything.

What's A Biblical Worldview?



A **Biblical Worldview** is based on the infallible Word of God. When you believe the Bible is entirely true, then you allow it to be the foundation of everything you say and do. True Christianity is more than a set of ideas to use at church. Christianity as taught in the Bible is itself a worldview. The Bible never distinguishes between a **"religious"** and a

"secular" life; the Christian life is the only life there is. Jesus proclaimed Himself **"The Way, The Truth, And The Life"** (John 14:6) and, in doing so, became our worldview. **Why Does A Biblical Worldview Matter?**

"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Romans 12:2). If we don't really believe the truth of God and live it, then our witness will be confusing and misleading. Most of us go through life not recognizing that our personal worldviews have been deeply affected by the world. Through the media and other influences, the secularized American view of history, law, politics, science, God and man affects our thinking more than we realize. **"See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ."** (Colossians 2:8). If we capture and embrace more of God's worldview and trust it with unwavering faith, then we begin to make the right decisions and form the appropriate responses in our relationship within the world we live.

Challenging The Authority Of The Word



The challenging of God's authority goes back to the Garden of Eden, starting with the serpent's challenge to Eve: Genesis 3:1-5 - "Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" The woman said to the serpent, "We may

the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Satan Was A Deceiver Then And Still Is Today

He is the one in Scripture who is called the "evil one." He is not the opposite of God, as if he had equal standing with God, because God has no counterpart. God has no equal. Satan is merely an angel under God's judgment. Satan attempts to have power over Christians, but we are told, "Greater is He Who is in you, than he who is in the world." (1 John 4:4) Yet Satan tries to discourage Christians. He tempts us to sin and tries to keep us from believing God. He is our opponent. We don't see him, but he is there. Jesus Himself prayed for us that the Father would keep us from the evil one. (John 17:15) Satan is referred to in Scripture as the accuser, the slanderer, the father of lies, the murderer, the deceiver, the adversary. Paul says in Ephesians, "our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places." (Ephesians 6:12) We are up against something. In 2 Corinthians 2:11, Paul said that he was not ignorant of Satan's schemes. We cannot afford to be ignorant either. We also have no need to be afraid. I would never encourage anyone to focus on the darkness, though it certainly exists. Instead, I want everyone to know the victory that we have in Christ...the truth and security that is ours. [How Exactly Does Satan Work? What Does He Do?](#) Primarily, Satan is in the business of trying to deceive us—trying to make something look like the truth but it's a lie; it's a deception. The Bible describes Satan in three ways:

- [The Tempter](#) (Matthew 4:3) "The tempter came and said to Him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread."
- [The Accuser Of The Brethren](#) (Revelation 12:10) "Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, proclaiming, "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Messiah, or the accuser of our comrades has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God."



The Father Of Lies (John 8:44) "You are from your father the devil, and you choose to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks according to his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies."

Satan Is Still Twisting The Word Of God Today

First, did God really say that? And second, God didn't really mean what He said. After all, you won't die if you eat from the tree. That twofold challenge continues to assault us today. Best-selling authors tell us the biblical text isn't reliable, that the biblical manuscripts we have in our possession are hopelessly contradictory, and that we can know little or nothing about the real, historical Jesus. Other authors tell us that the Bible is no more than a collection of religious traditions and that God Himself is nothing more than a religious myth. For the most part, though, the challenge to the authority of the Scriptures is subtler, and some of it flows out of the deification of man, which says, "The Bible must live up to my standards. I will judge the God of the Bible based on my morality rather than the God of the Bible judging me based on His morality." In short, when the Scriptures contradict our feelings and preferences rather than crucify our feelings and preferences and bow down before God and His Word, we question God's Word.

Jesus Christ Is The Same Yesterday And Today And Forever (Hebrews 13:8)

(Numbers 23:19) "God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that He should change His mind. Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not fulfill it?" (Colossians 2:8) "See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ."



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