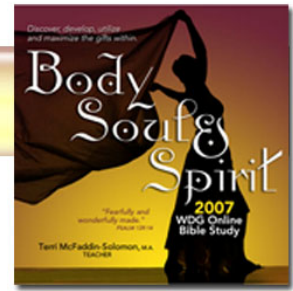


Body Soul & Spirit

I WILL PRAISE YOU FOR I AM FEARFULLY AND WONDERFULLY MADE. PSALM 139:14



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For I am fearfully and wonderfully made Psalm 139:14

WDG BIBLE STUDY 2007

SERIES: THE PURPOSE AND FUNCTION OF THE BODY

Lesson #3 – Why Satan Attacks The Mind

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Deceive – To cause to believe what is not true. To mislead, trick or cause one to be ensnared.

OPENING STATEMENT:

We learned in our previous lesson that the mind is the highest power of the soul. The mind is the place where we receive information and shape the beliefs that govern our decisions and actions. This is why Satan will attack the mind before he attacks the body. If your mind is focused on the things of God you can withstand physical attacks, but when the mind is under attack, it must depend on the stronghold of God's Word and the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit to overcome the assaults of the enemy.

Deception is the tool that Satan uses the most in his quest to destroy our souls. This is how Eve was deceived in the garden. When confronted by God as to why she ate from the tree, she said: *"The Serpent deceived me, and I ate."* (Genesis 3:13). With this in mind, let us look at the many ways that Satan attempts to deceive your mind and ultimately entrap and destroy your soul.

False Prophets: *At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate one another, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. (Matthew 24:10-11).*

False prophets are not limited to religious leaders. They may be a political figure with a plan to save the world, an electrifying superstar entertainer, or the author of a book promoting a new movement.

Lustful Desires: *For of this sort of men creep into houses and lead captive (deceive) silly women laden with sins, led away by various lust. (2 Timothy 3:6 - KJV)* Women who's thoughts are consumed with sexual fantasizes and a lavish lifestyle can be easily deceived by Satan and lose their soul in the process. This is why the bible tells us in *Proverbs 4:23 (NLT): Guard your heart, because it affects everything you do.*

Self Deception: *Do not deceive yourselves. If any of you thinks he is wise by the standards of this age, he should become a “fool” so that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. (1Corinthians 3:18-19 - NKJ)*

The standards of this age measure wisdom by a person’s popularity and financial gain. Many financially successful people deceive themselves by embracing the lifestyle and wisdom of this world and rejecting the wisdom of God’s Word. They become a public success and a private failure and put their souls in danger of being eternally lost.

Rejecting Truth: *This evil man will come to do the work of Satan with counterfeit power and signs and miracles. He will use every kind of wicked deception to deceive those who are on their way to destruction because they refuse to believe the truth that would save them. (2 Thessa. 2:9-10- NLT)*

When people willfully pervert the word of God to justify their actions, or refuse to believe the truth of God’s word, they set themselves up for destruction. When their minds become overrun with falsehoods they will embrace all kinds of deception and ultimately turn their souls over to the deceiver.

Witchcraft: *There will be no more industry of any kind...Her nights will be dark, without a single lamp. There will be no happy voices of the brides and grooms. This will happen because her merchants, who were the greatest in the world, deceived the nations with witchcraft. Revelations 18:23 – Paraphrased - NLT)* Satanic merchants can sell drugs, alcohol, tobacco and even toxic food and addicting pharmaceuticals. They will ravish the earth with sins of every kind, including pollution – until there is nothing left to enjoy.

WHY PEOPLE LOSE THEIR MIND?

1. **Disobedience to God.** 1 Samuel 15:22-23. But Samuel replied to Saul, “What is more pleasing to the LORD: your burnt offerings and sacrifices or your obedience to his voice? So because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has rejected you from being king. 1 Samuel 16:14 – Now the spirit of the LORD had left Saul, and the LORD sent a tormenting spirit that filled him with depression and fear.

What are the benefits of obedience to God? Isaiah 1:19

How can we overcome depression and fear? Proverbs 12:25 Isaiah 26:3

2. **Arrogance and pride.** Daniel 5:20 – But when King Nebuchadnezzar’s heart became arrogant and hardened with pride, he was deposed from his royal throne and stripped of his glory. He was driven away from people and given the mind of an animal; he lived with the wild donkeys and ate grass like cattle; and his body was drenched with the dew of heaven, until he acknowledged that the Most High God was sovereign over the kingdoms of men and sets over them anyone he wishes.

How can we overcome pride? 1 Peter 5:5-7 Psalm 119:67 and vs. 75.

What are the consequences of pride and arrogance? Obadiah 2:3-4 Proverbs 16:18

3. **Shameful lust.** Romans 1:26-28 Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion. Since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind to do what ought not to be done.

How can we overcome lust? Galatians 5:16 1 John 2:17

How can we overcome shame? 2 Corinthians 6:17-18 Isaiah 54:4

SHARE YOUR STORY:

Write a story about Satan's attempt to deceive you.