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DECEPTION

In Matthew 24:24 it says, ***“For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.”*** The word “Christs” means a spurious or false Christ. Since Jesus is “the” real Christ, or the anointed one, then a false Christ would be someone that appears to have an anointing, but it does not come from God.

In Exodus 7 Moses has been told by God that Pharaoh’s heart would be hardened. Pharaoh had sorcerers that “copied” Moses’ performance with black magic. Moses threw his rod down and it became a serpent. They also threw their rods down and they became serpents. It looked so much like the real thing, but they were operating out of the “antichrist” spirit.

In these days that we are living in, we must have the discerning of spirits more than ever. Many voices are speaking, and we need to know the spirit behind these voices, or we will be deceived. As I pointed out yesterday, in how to know it is God speaking, we must know the real to know the counterfeit.

Many believers have never been exposed to the gifts of the Spirit. They may not have been taught they exist, or they have been taught that they have been done away with. Regardless, if you are “in the dark” about these things, you can very easily be deceived. The Holy Spirit resides within each believer. We are told in John 14:26, ***“...he shall teach you all things.”*** Some have never been taught that Holy Spirit is a person, yet he is. He is the third person of the Trinity, and very much God just like the Father and Jesus. The three work together in unity as one. Holy Spirit will guide us into ***all truth*** (John 16:13) All means all. Not part, but ALL. So, to keep from being deceived you must allow Holy Spirit to guide you. How does He do that? He does it through the inner witness and he enlightens the Word of God as we read it.

When you study the Word of God never take a verse out of context. Read the entire chapter. See who the verses are speaking to, then ask Holy Spirit to show you the truth in each verse. He will if you ask.

We do not have to be deceived, because we have the truth in the Word. Think of those places in the world that do not have the scriptures. How easily they have been deceived. Americans and many of the world have no excuse because bibles are so easily accessed. There are even online versions of the bible to read. But you must be careful which translation you read. I always go back to the King James Version. There are several versions that leave key words out. I would advise you to avoid the NIV because it leaves very important verses out. The litmus test for a bible is John 3:16. Many translations leave out the word ***“only begotten,”*** which then negates the source of Jesus’ existence. Use a Strong’s concordance which will give the meanings of words, so you understand them better. Get a Greek and Hebrew dictionary to help you.

If you are serious about studying, there are many tools that will help you. Most importantly, sit under someone that has already paved the road. Find a mentor that will help you. Spend time with those that have learned the truth and you will grow. Discipleship keeps you from being deceived.