

12th of November 2017

The actions of a believer (Pt.5) Live in the knowledge of Satan's device of deception.

This is our fifth study on this topic. We previously established that believers should live in the knowledge of Satan's devices, and put on the armour, and use the weapons that God provides for the battle. In this study we establish Satan's device of deception, and encourage believers that are attacked with this device to put on God's armour of truth, and use His weapons of pulling down strong holds, casting down imaginations, and bringing every thought to the obedience of Christ.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

1. Live in the knowledge of Satan's device of deception.

"And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat" (Gen.3: 13). See also – 2Cor.11: 3 and 1Tim.2: 14.

How does Satan deceive, seduce and beguile us?

Through our minds – 2Cor.11: 3, other men's enticing words – Col.2: 4, false prophets showing signs and wonders – Mk.13: 22, lying wonders – 2Thes.2: 9, deceitful workers transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ – 2Cor.11: 13, and provoking us – 1Chr.21: 1.

2. Girt our loins with truth as protection against Satan's device of deception.

"Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness" (Eph.6: 14).

The opposite of lies and deception is God's truth. Therefore when we girt (wrap) our loins with truth we protect ourselves against attack from Satan's device of deception.

3. Beseech God to pull down strong holds, cast down imaginations, and bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.

"(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations...and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ" (2Cor.10: 4 & 5).

Satan's strength is his deception, his ability to blind us, and seduce us with words that are similar to God's words but with a little leaven (as the serpent beguiled Eve – Gen.3: 13). The weapons we use to attack Satan are mighty **through God** to the pulling down of Satan's strengths, his strong holds, casting down imaginations and bringing into captivity every thought to Christ.

Applying the teaching to our life today.

Several years ago I remember a Jehovah Witness telling me that God's words are perfect and therefore there are no errors within the pages of scripture. When he was shown one mistake he said – "Yes, but it is only a small one", so then he was told of five more small errors. But he refused to give up his corrupt New World Translation (NWT).

Question to think about.

Why would the Jehovah Witness (JW), having received evidence of errors in his Bible, not recognise his book as being inspired by man, and therefore from the devil, the father of lies (Jn.8: 44)?

My answer to our question from the scriptures.

Because "the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not" (2Cor 4:4). Satan has put a vail over his mind as with the Jew when he reads the Old Testament (2Cor.3: 14).

How do we prove to ourselves whether we are being deceived? Think of the JW – no amount of evidence will change our mind. When we are attacked with thoughts of lies – turn to the scriptures and put on God's armour of truth, and use His weapons of pulling down strong holds, casting down imaginations, and bringing every thought to the obedience of Christ. Amen!