**FOCUS Bible Study - August 10**

[**VIEW RECORDING - 92 mins (No highlights)**](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6)

[@9:00](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=540.0) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Okay, and I also, as I'm waiting for the responses of the quizzes, I'll also remind people that we are recording, and unfortunately, with the tool that I'm using, it's called Phantom that automatically transcribes what we are discussing today, whatever everybody says, it will automatically transcribe it into a Word document, and I post a video and the Word document out on my website so people who may be missed or want to go back and look at something can do so, but unfortunately, I can't pause it, so if you don't want to be recorded, you might just want to do a chat, because I won't post the chat, I don't think you see the chat on the video, but I'll double check that, okay?

Otherwise, do know that if you are going to talk, you're going to be recorded, okay? So, I appreciate that.

Alright, so we have responses to the poll, so first question was, have you ever been deceived? And four to five people have said, that side was bamboozled, and one person has said, no, I keep my wits about me, that's good, yeah, I've been

and that group that's been bamboozled with every once in a great while and secondly if you did get deceived how did it make you feel after finding out and most people responded upset they will never let that happen again i would put myself in that group and others have said they were disappointed they can't that they let that the person to see them let them down all right well thank you for responding to the poll um let's share those results everybody can see what i was when i was talking about and unfortunately deception is ramping with wild um in our society today um around the world right so many people are trying to deceive or being deceived and it's a big topic and we need to discuss it right i think it would be helpful um but before we jump into the scripture let's pray okay lord jesus we thank you for this day we thank you for the time that you allow us to get together and we thank you for bringing us through technology from all over the world we thank you

God, for just you said, wherever two or more gathered in your name, that you are present, it didn't mean we have to be in the same room, it didn't even mean we had to be in the same time zones.

But God, we come together in your name and we are grateful that you show up, that you speak to us, that you impress upon us, your word, your thoughts, your spirit.

We give you glory, we give you honor in Jesus' name, Amen. Okay, today we're going to talk about topic called defeating deception.

Yeah, most of us have probably been there. We've all been deceived by something at 1.1 time. But how do we avoid deception?

How do we defeat it? That's what we want to talk about today. So the first scripture we're going to jump into is 2 Corinthians chapter 2 and verse 3.

So if you have your Bible, you can turn there, if you have your phone and you want to do it on your phone, just pull up 2 Corinthians chapter 2 and verse 3.

For those who are new, we do is we take turns reading scripture. I'll just go around and and ask you to read, if you're not comfortable, that's fine.

Just say paths, and I won't call on you going forward. And if you're reading, just go ahead and jump into the Scripture and give us what it says.

So 2 Corinthians chapter 2 verse 3, I'll start with Brian if you don't mind. Brian, do you mind reading that when you find 2nd Corinthians chapter 2 verse 3?

Oh, and before Brian jumps in there, I'm also going to post it on my chat. So you have the list of Scriptures for everyone in case you forget which one we're on.

Can everybody see that post out there in the chat? Yep. Okay, good. All right. All right, Brian, so go ahead and let it rip if you find it.

[@13:41](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=821.74) - **Brian**

And I wrote this very thing to you, lest when I came, I should have sorrow over those whom I ought to have joy.

Having confidence in you, all that my joy is the joy of all of you all.

[@13:57](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=837.58) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

That's an awesome Scripture, but is that 2 Corinthians chapter 2 verse 3.

[@14:03](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=843.96) - **Brian**

2 Corinthians 2, 3.

[@14:11](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=851.4) - **Alicia**

The list says 2nd Thessalonians 2, 3.

[@14:14](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=854.56) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Oh, oh, I Maybe I was just leaving you intentionally, unintentionally.

[@14:22](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=862.04) - **Brian**

I think it's more unintentionally. I apologize.

[@14:25](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=865.32) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Thanks a little bit, right? Because sometimes we've deceived because we don't about. Good job, but let's go to Thessalonians.

I sincerely apologize.

[@14:42](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=882.47) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Second Thessalonians. Second Thessalonians chapter 2, verse 3.

[@14:50](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=890.31) - **Brian**

Let no one deceive you by any means. For that day will not come unless the falling away comes first and the man of sin

and has revealed the son of perdition.

[@15:02](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=902.84) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Thank you. That is the right scripture we wanted to read. And I am just reminded how God has a wonderful sense of humor, know.

He does things that just kind of like help us learn and grow and he does it sometimes in a very fun way.

But he is warning us here, let no man deceive you. When you read what the Greek word for deceive means, it means to be to seduced or beguiled.

We don't use that word a whole lot. But what beguiled means is to be charmed or to be tricked.

Sometimes we want to be tricked. We go to a magic show for example. We know that there is no such thing as real magic.

It is just deception. It is tricks. But sometimes we put ourselves out there because that is what we looking for.

But we know it up front. But most of the time deception happens when we are not looking for it.

Because we are unaware. We have been tricked, have been charmed in the thinking of certain thing. Or we have been tricked the

just lured away into understanding something that's not true. And notice what Brian read in that scripture, let no man deceive you by any means.

And that word means, if you define that, it means by any way. And that could be through conversation or through manner of life or through someone's character, right?

They're just putting on a show through the character or the way that they live, or perhaps most of time through what they're saying through conversation.

And that scripture continued for that day. What is that day? Well, you read the first couple of verses in 2 Thessalonians there, it's talking about the return of Christ, the second coming of Jesus.

And so it's so important that we keep our wits about us, as that poll said. Sorry. That's okay. Go ahead.

[@17:23](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=1043.88) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Okay, sorry for that interruption. Obviously, they had poor intention. So I apologize for that, but we will continue on because God will drive out all deception.

I apologize for that. So second Thessalonians, we're talking for that day, the return of Christ shall not come except there be a falling away first.

So people being deceived, right? And that means that God understands that that is going to be the forefront of the attack is deception.

And he wants us to be aware of that. that. Okay, let's move on to Matthew chapter 24. Matthew chapter 24, and let's read verses 4 and 5.

And Jamie, when you have it, do you mind reading chapter 24 of Matthew verses 4 and 5?

[@18:29](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=1109.26) - **Brian**

And Jesus answered them, see that no one leads you astray, for many will come in my name, saying, I am the Christ, and they will lead many astray.

[@18:42](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=1122.24) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Okay, thank you. Now, the context of this scripture is the disciples had just asked Jesus about when would be the end of the world.

And so we know Matthew chapter 24, Jesus talks about all these signs about the end of the world and his second coming.

But the first thing he addresses here is that it's important that no man deceive us. So again, that's why I'm saying, he knows, God knows, the forefront of the attack in these end times is going to be through deception.

That's the main thing they're going to kick everything off with, if you will, right? And again, that word deception here means to lead into error or to go astray, to wander from the truth or to cause you to sin.

Okay? And how are they going to deceive or cause you to air or cause you to wander from the truth?

It's because he says, for many shall come to my name saying, I am the Christ, I am Christ and shall deceive many.

So that has two implications. That means that people will come and say that Jesus is Christ, right? That he was the Messiah.

That's what Christ means, you anointed one, the Messiah. So that he was the Messiah, but they will still deceive people through that

particular truth. But how can that be? Right? Well, it's because when Jesus came, he taught certain things. He said certain things.

He did certain things that are documented for us. But the way someone would try to deceive someone by saying, Jesus is Christ, might point to that fact, but then not teach what he's teaching, might not do what he did, might not say the things that Jesus said.

So it's taking a piece of truth and twisting it, right? That's one way people are deceived. Another thing is that they might say, saying, I am Christ, meaning that the person who comes is saying they are Christ and they are not.

So isn't that what a Christian does if they say they are Christian but aren't living a Christian life? In other words, what does word Christian means?

The word Christian means to be Christ-like. They are like Christ. right? So they are resembling Christ or they should be, but if they're not examining the fruit of Christ, then they are deceiving someone when they say they are Christian but not living like it.

Does that make sense? Okay. Let's turn since we're in Matthew 24, let's turn to the verse 11. And Alicia, would you mind reading verse 11 for us please?

[@21:28](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=1288.04) - **Alicia**

Sure. And many false prophets will appear and deceive many people.

[@21:37](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=1297.2) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Okay, so false prophets. Jesus again, so he's talking about all these things that will show the end of times, but he gets to the towards the end of all these descriptions because he talked about earthquakes.

talked about famine. He talked about disasters, right? But he gets to the end of this again and he reiterates false prophets shall rise and deceive many.

What's a, what's a profit first of all? Does anybody know what a profit is? Anybody? A profit is someone who will speak on behalf of God, and more than likely, a profit is someone who will say something about the future, right?

Here, this is going to happen. Profits in the Old Testament were called upon by kings to interpret dreams, because they always felt like dreams were in the indication of what was coming in the future.

Profits were called upon to give their opinion about whether they should go to war or not, because, you know, was the war going to be successful.

They didn't, they couldn't tell the future. They didn't want to jump into war if they couldn't tell the future and know the outcome.

So profits were used by God to speak typically of something that would happen in the future. But what was the purpose of God allowing profits to tell the future?

Is it simply so that we know what's coming ahead? Or is there something else or another reason why God

would allow that. Well, God knows everything from the beginning. knows every outcome, doesn't he? How do we know that?

Because we look at Hezekiah, who was a king of the Old Testament, that God had sent a prophet to, and the prophet said, Hezekiah, Isaiah was the prophet, and he said, you've got to get your house in order because you're going to die, right?

So God was telling him something through a prophet about the future. Did that mean it was going to come to pass?

Well, we know the end of that particular story is no, because Hezekiah ended up praying and crying out to God.

And as Isaiah was walking out into the courtyard of the palace, God spoke to him, said, back and tell him, I've heard his prayer, and I'll give him 15 more years, right?

Now, the prophecy was true. Hezekiah was going to die, God had told him upfront. But Hezekiah interpreted it as being, I'm going to die like

in a short amount of time because he was sick, but he called out to God and he was able to change prayer, changed the heart of God to postpone.

didn't mean it wasn't ever going to happen, but it allowed God to like pause, put a pause button on it.

So the reason God allows prophecy is to tell us, hey, something's going to happen, but it's to motivate us to do something in the here and now, right?

And hopefully that means we are to pray, we're to seek God. Mike, can you have your hand up?

[@24:34](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=1474.58) - **Mike**

Go ahead. Yeah, didn't God tell one of the prophets if you don't warn them? Their blood will be on your hand.

[@24:43](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=1483.5) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Yes, yes, that was very true in Ezekiel, I believe it is, because God will speak something to us. Why?

Why will he tell us like, prophet, you've got to go warn them about something that's coming like judgment, right?

like a Jonah. Jonah was told to go to Nineveh and tell him judgment's coming, but he didn't want to do it, right?

So he jumped ship, he ended up getting swallowed by the fish, right? eventually he did it. It was, God used the prophecy and chose the prophet to deliver the message so the people would do something in the here and now to repent and to turn to God.

And so if we're used by God in prophecy, that means we're to be a God, right? We have an we have an function that we should obey God and speak the word because somebody might be affected by that to live for God in the here and now.

So when let's go back to Matthew 24 11 when Jesus says false prophets shall rise and to see many.

Well, now that know what prophet is, what's a false prophet? Well, the definition there is a false prophet is somebody who's a religious imposter.

So they are not speaking on behalf of God. They're trying to tell you what's going to happen in the future, but their motivation is not for you to respond to God in the here and now.

The desire is that their motivation is that they would either get money from you or cause you to fear.

Those are typically the two motivations that a false prophet has. Think of Balaam in the Old Testament was a false prophet.

He followed after God and he was called upon by Balaam, the king, I forget the king's name of Moab, was trying to curse the Israelites.

Well he did what God implied for him to do, he couldn't speak the word of God other than what God had said, but he implied to the king what he should do to get the Israelites in the sin.

So he did that, so he could earn the reward the king was offering. he did it because of money, motivation for him was a money factor.

So false prophets today exist. Yes, they're religious imposters. They might be saying something about the future, but it's not to get you necessarily to act and respond to God in the here and now.

It's because they want you to buy their book or they want you to support their ministry or they want you to just live in fear, right?

And rely on them as a minister or as the word of God, but yet you're not relying on the Bible as the word of God, right?

So we have to be careful, false prophets to sieve, right, as Jesus said they would. We're still in Matthew 24.

Let's jump down to verse 24. Luke, do mind reading verse 24 for us, please?

[@27:41](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=1661.1) - **Luke Huffman**

Sure. Verse 24 in chapter 24.

[@27:46](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=1666.86) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

You got it.

[@27:47](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=1667.42) - **Luke Huffman**

Thank you. For false messiahs and false prophets will rise up and perform great signs and wonders to deceive. If possible, even God's chosen ones.

[@28:00](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=1680.0) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

So, here in the same chapter in the same descriptors that Jesus is providing, he says it's the second time.

He already told us in verse 11, but now he reiterates it in verse 24. That means this is very important.

When God repeats himself, he doesn't do it just simply like human beings do because he has no option to repeat himself.

He repeats it because it's so important. He wants us to get it. He's like underlining, highlighting, emphasizing this particular fact that their show arrives.

Not only false Christ, remember, we talked about that in verses four and five, that people will come and say that they are Christ, but not truly be Christ.

But in conjunction with that, there will be false prophets. So what he's doing here by bringing this together is saying, look, in the end times, there will be false prophets, religious imposters, trying to point to a false Christ, right?

So we need to be careful and even they will do great. signs and that word science means unusual on currents or transcending the common course of nature.

And then the word wonders is defined as miracles. So yes, they will be able to cause it to rain when it hasn't rained forever or they will be able to bring fire up from the ground kind of thing.

Like when it goes against nature or what we would call miracles, but they're not what I'll call creative miracles because only God is the Creator.

So they will do deceptive miracles, things that we couldn't explain but are not from God. So they will use all of this because they will be on their push to try to deceive the very elect because Jesus said in verse 24 here, if it were possible and that word possible means to be able to be mighty, to be strong and well and influence strong and soul, to bear calamities and trials with fortitude and patience.

So with everything within them, they'll try. right, but it is not possible to deceive the elect. word elect means chosen of God.

Why? Because those elect have borne their calamities, they've been through trials, they have built up fortitude and patience with God that they will know better.

So when James says, don't worry about the trials and the temptations that you've gone through because God is trying to work in you, his spirit, that's the whole purpose is so that God is built up in you so that when these deceptions come at you, you're unaffected because you'll know the real source of the power within you.

That's why scripture says, greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world. How can you know what's greater unless you tested it out?

Does that make sense? So when you invite God's spirit to come and dwell within you, you're going to have challenges, going to have to overcome some things, but God gives you the power to overcome those things because he wants to prove himself to you.

He wants to prove that he's greater than those things he's to come at you in the world. And when he's proven himself, now when these deceptions come at you, you're going to be able to defend yourself and defeat those deceptions.

Let's talk one more scripture about the Second Coming of Jesus in Deception in Luke, chapter 21. Luke chapter 21, let's read verse 8.

And Julie, when you have that, do you mind reading that for us, please? Good. 21, verse 8. replied, don't let anyone listen to you.

Many will come in my name, claiming to be the Messiah, and saying the time has come, but don't believe them.

Okay, so this is very similar to what we've read in Matthew 24, isn't it? Very similar. It's just adding a little something that I wanted you to see, that word for the phrase for the time draw near.

That is the time as a, to find as a fixed and definite at time when things are brought to a crisis, the decisive epic waited for.

That's what that word means. So in other words, what is this crisis that draws near? What's the decisive epic that we're waiting for?

Well, we know it's the return of Christ. We know it's the beginning of the trial of the great tribulation, right?

We know based on scripture that that's what he's talking about. So this deception is going to come at us greater and greater and greater because that time is coming, right?

So as we're getting closer and closer to that time, if we see deception rising, we see false prophets rising, that should put up our attendance and say, hey, that means Jesus is coming back soon, right?

Okay. So that's the first segment of what I want talk about, of defeating deception. know deception is on the rise because we know that false prophets are rising, that people are on

living a false Christ, if you will, that the time is at hand, it's coming soon. So we know deceptions out there.

So how do we avoid deception? Let's get into the next segment of Scriptures that will teach us how do we avoid deception.

Let's go to the Old Testament and do it around me. Deuteronomy chapter 11. And we're going to read verse 16.

And I think I'm back at Brian. You don't mind reading that, please.

[@33:41](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=2021.62) - **Brian**

Take heed to yourselves lest your heart be deceived and you turn aside and serve other gods and worship them.

[@33:49](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=2029.76) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

All right. So if those other individuals had stayed with us and realized that they are worshiping false gods, then they would have realized they're

are in deception. They are the ones being deceived, right? So we have to be careful about who we worship.

That's how we avoid deception. We need to be clear on who we worship. What we're worshiping, right? That's the first thing.

Jeremiah, let's turn there. I'm Jeremiah chapter 9. Let's read verse 5. Jamie, when you have Jeremiah 9 verse 5, would you mind reading that for us, please?

[@34:34](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=2074.7) - **Brian**

Jeremiah 9, 5. Yes, please. Everyone deceives his neighbor, and no one speaks the truth. They have taught their tongue to speak lies.

They will read themselves committing inequity.

[@34:52](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=2092.0) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

And here in the Old Testament, that word deceive means to cheat or to mock. Well, we saw an example of mocking if you were watching the video.

before those people left. Unfortunately, they were mocking God, and they were again deceiving themselves. They weren't deceiving us. The people who know God, they were deceiving themselves, because God cannot be mocked.

Scripture tells us clearly. But they will try to influence others through that mocking, through that deception, right? Because they won't speak truth to themselves.

They won't speak truth to others. They speak lies. weary themselves. They go out of their way, and to weary themselves to commit an equity.

And isn't that what we actually saw today in the video? How they even proved that they are up way past the midnight hour to weary themselves to commit an equity.

I mean, God is so true in his word. He gave us an example even today about it. I was embarrassed, but I was sad about it.

But you know what? God is God. He will not be mocked. Those individuals will pay the price. Vengeance is mine says the Lord, you know?

So we need to be careful about what we do and how we respond. Spondeth is Ephesians chapter 4. Let's turn there Amen God can still move on them.

They they need God more than ever because they are the deceived They need to be waking up from that deception Ephesians chapter 4 verse 14 Please like There is a verse that said do not be deceived for God cannot be marked for whatever a man So that's what he also Yes, yes, I'm not sure if I have it in my descriptions if we'll get to that But i'm thankful that you sure it shared that like because that is so true.

Thank you Okay, Ephesians chapter 4 verse 14. Alicia, do you mind reading that?

[@36:49](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=2209.44) - **Alicia**

Sure Then we will no longer be infants costs back and forth by the waves and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the

the kind and craftness of people in their deceitful scheming.

[@37:04](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=2224.56) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Okay, thank you. so what we learn here is, okay, we need to be careful about the teaching, your translation is teaching, some translated as doctrine, but it's the same thing, teaching or instruction, doctrine, all work together, same definition.

We have to be careful about what teaching we're receiving, because children, right, that children are easily influenced, because they don't know how to process thoughts, right, they're learning how to process the thoughts, they're learning how to process their emotions.

That's why the enemy goes after children so rapidly, you can see it in our culture, right, the drag shows in libraries, the just the disgust that goes after children, right, to mutilate children, to break their innocency, right.

We need to be careful about what we are learning as we come to God, that we are learning truth, that we are finding truth in the word, that it's interesting that the scripture here uses the slight, the word slight of men.

That word slight comes from dice players. It's like a game of chance. Most dice players are made to, when you're gambling, meant to defraud somebody, right?

Because they would use weighted dice. That means they know that something is weighted in their favor. They hold back, in other words, truth in order to deceive.

And when you get the sense that somebody is trying to teach you something about the word of God, but you know something that they're not sharing and it should be shared, then they have the intent to deceive.

Here's an example. Last night I was scrolling through Facebook, book, and I landed on this video about tongues, it was talking about tongues, and the gentleman was sharing scripture, and he talked about scripture and how first Corinthians tongues would cease.

But wait a minute, and then he went on, but he didn't talk about the rest of that. So if you read that scripture, says not only would tongues cease, but knowledge would cease, and I think the third thing, right?

But knowledge hasn't ceased, but you can't use that scripture to say tongues is ceased because we know knowledge hasn't ceased.

So if knowledge hasn't ceased, then tongues hasn't ceased. So just the logic, a person who can think logically would say, wait a minute, what you just shared is incorrect, right?

So we have to think logically about what people are teaching us, instructing us so that we aren't deceived. Since we're in Ephesians, let's go to chapter five, and let's breathe verse six.

blue. Do you mind reading that please?

[@40:02](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=2402.8) - **Luke Huffman**

Sure, I got some room for sure, so if it's too loud, me know. Ephesians 5 verse 6, don't be fooled by those who try to excuse these sins, for the anchor of God will fall on them who disobey him.

[@40:17](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=2417.7) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Thank you. That's very similar to the scripture that Mike pointed out, because God will not be mocked, right? We are not deceived, as my particular translation says, with vain words.

That word vain means empty, words that are void of truth, right? So again, people use quote scripture, but if they're not quoting it in the right context, it's vain, it's empty, it loses its power.

Now the word of God is quick and powerful, so it has an effect when we hear it, but when we're being taught how to connect it, how to see what's really there, then if they're drawing the wrong picture and they're trying to draw the false picture, it's

It's using part of the power that God intended. Second Timothy, let's jump over there. Second Timothy chapter three and verse 13.

Second Timothy, 313. Julie, would you mind reading that, please? Second Timothy is reading 13. evil people and impossible will put.

They will go on deceiving others and they themselves will be deceived. So again, I'm glad your translation used the word imposters.

But King James also used the word seducers, same word, seducers, imposters. Think about that. So if if a teacher is trying to teach us something, what are they trying to do?

trying to lead us into an understanding. If that understanding increases your knowledge of God and helps you live for God and builds that relationship, that's a good thing.

If they're leading you into a teaching that Glorifies themselves, or glorifies you, instead of God, then what are they doing?

They're seducing you into something. Because what does a seducer do? A seducer tries to get you to do something that benefits themselves, or makes you feel good, right?

That's really what a seducer is. So if a teacher is teaching you something that seduces you into making themselves look good, or makes you feel good, but that's it, then they are a deceiver, right?

Think about that. So we have to weigh. are we listening to? are we reading? Is it drawing us closer into relationship with God, making us feel better about God, and helping us see him in the truth and the light that he is, or is it only making us feel good?

Is it making us put someone else on a pedestal? Whoa, be careful. Second John, let's flip there, the second John.

and towards the very back of the Bible. 2 John chapter 1. There's only one chapter. 2 John, verse 7.

Brian, do you mind reading that, please, when you find it? 2 John, the only chapter, verse 7.

[@43:21](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=2601.8) - **Brian**

2 John. John, 2 John. 2 John, yeah. There we go. 1, 7. For many deceivers have gone out into the world and do not confess Jesus Christ is coming in the flesh.

This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

[@43:51](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=2631.24) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

So this kind of ties in what I'm talking about because if somebody is trying to teach you the Word of God, God, what they should be doing is building your relationship with God, right?

And the way they should do that is by telling you who Jesus Christ is. He came in the flesh.

It was God robed in the flesh, right? To die for our sins, to be one of us, to pay the penalty for our sin.

If somebody can't confess that, if somebody in other words can't teach that, if somebody can't that, they say, Jesus was a prophet, but that's all he was, then whoa, wait a minute.

Deception flag, they're trying to deceive you, right? They're either deceived themselves and trying to deceive you, or they're just deceived themselves and they don't know anything about it.

We're going to get to that in a second, okay? Somebody who will not say Jesus Christ was God in the flesh, came in the flesh to pay for our sins, then it says they are a deceiver.

This is a deceiver and an antichrist. What does it mean, an antichrist? The word antichrist means one to oppose Christ, who is like an enemy of Christ, right?

They are agitator. And what's the word I'm trying to think of? Anyway, they're an agitator. They are an afflictor.

They are against Christ. All right, so that's the second segment. So the first segment is Jesus said, okay, we need to be aware of the exceptions coming because his second return is going to happen soon.

We see the indication of it because false prophets are rising, false Christ are rising. People who claim they're Christians but not living for Christ, right?

So we see the picture is happening. How do we start to protect ourselves from that? We be aware that about our teaching that we're going through, we be aware about what the motives are of people.

We start to understand who we're really worshiping, that all needs to play a factor. But the biggest factor is this next segment I want to get into the segment of scriptures is about protecting ourselves because protecting your self from deceptions starts with not deceiving our very self.

What do I mean by that? Let's go back to Jeremiah, Chapter 37. Jeremiah, Chapter 37, we're gonna read verse nine.

And I forgot, am I at Jamie? Jamie, go ahead, please, when you have it. 37, verse nine of Jeremiah.

[@46:32](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=2792.22) - **Brian**

That says the Lord, do not deceive yourself, saying that Chadleons will surely go away from us, or they will not go away.

[@46:42](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=2802.1) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

So the context here is that Jerusalem was surrounded by the Calvians, the Babylonians, that they were going to attack Jerusalem.

They've been camped off there, but everybody, the Kings palace and everybody was saying, oh, God's gonna fight for us.

God's gonna take care of us and the Calvians. are going to be dispersed. We're going to be able to survive, right?

But what were they doing? They're lying to themselves because God had given the prophet Jeremiah the word to say, hey, look, you're better off surrendering to the Babylonians, putting into the bloodshed and just accepting what God is trying to do here.

But they resisted. They didn't want to hear what God really had said. So they were lying to themselves. Let's go to Jeremiah chapter 49.

Jeremiah 49 verse 16. Alicia, do you mind reading that when you have it, please? Jeremiah 49 16?

[@47:37](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=2857.16) - **Alicia**

Sure. It's here are you, inspire, and the pride of your hearts, your heart, have deceived you. You who live in the cliffs of the rocks, who occupy the heights of the hill, though you build your nest as high as the eagles from there, I will bring you down and declares the Lord.

[@47:56](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=2876.58) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Your translation used toward terror, the King James, Use the word terribleness, but if you dig into that word, that word actually means fearfulness, shuddering, horror, what is it?

fearfulness, your terror has deceived you. When you live in fear, you're not trusting God. When you live in fear, you're open to deception, you're susceptible to it when you live in fear because you're not trusting God.

When you don't trust God, you're open up to deception. You become a target for it, right? It's, Jeremiah said, your fearfulness hath deceived you, and the pride, that word pride is your insolence, presumptionness, your arrogance, your pride of your heart.

That word heart we know, we've studied it before, means your mind, your will, your heart, your soul, your understanding, seat of your emotions, your passions.

All of that has deceived you, so if you're living in fear, you're susceptible to deception. If you're living in pride, or you're living only by your emotions, or you're living only because of your own understanding, you're susceptible to deception.

Because again, why? All of that doesn't trust in God. It either trusts in others or it trusts in self.

When you aren't trusting God, in other words, you're open to deception. Obadiah, let's flip over there. That's probably a hard one to find, but if you go to the left, maybe about six, books, you find Obadiah.

It's probably to the right, not to the left. I apologize. Go about six books to the right from Jeremiah.

[@49:37](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=2977.98) - **Alicia**

I have a question. Yeah. So I heard recently from a pretty well-known teacher that when you complain, you're not trusting God.

What do you feel about that?

[@49:52](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=2992.26) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

So yes and no. When you... There can be complaint with righteous indignation, and then can be complaint without it.

So it depends on what you're complaining about and what your motivation is about the complaint. So man, people should not be aborting babies.

I can't believe people work in that industry. That's a complaint. But that's a complaint with righteous indignation, right? Because God, I want to see you change the situation.

If I'm complaining, man, I hate my job. I hate the fact I don't get paid enough or the people I got to work with, you know, all this that's a selfish complaint, right?

put me there for a reason. So yes and no, you've got to be careful about the complaint. It's about motivation.

And that's really what that other scripture was also saying. What's your motivation? Why are you fearing? Why do you have fear, right?

What do you fear of? What's the motivation when you have pride? Why are you arrogant? Why do you trust in owning your emotions?

What's driving that? It all has to come back to the motivation. Mike you're gonna say something yeah the Israelites after he brought him to the Red Sea they didn't like the way things were going and they said they is the Lord with us or not they were sarcastic is he gonna do his thing or not so that's the wrong way to complain correct that's perfectly said Mike thank you so in okay you have been deceived by your own pride because you live in a rock fortress they make your home high in the mountains who can ever reach us up way up here you ask boys boastfully isn't that almost exactly what Jeremiah just said but I like the clarification it brings because pride what pride does is it pops you up and Jeremiah is the example of the ego

Eagle size higher than any other bird and when they nest they'll hire their nests are higher than any other bird right and so we think that we're so high when we get on our pride that no one can touch us in other words right because that that's the indication of the Eagle but pride God is like laughing at it he's like I'll show you that you're not untouchable I'll touch you boom right and he humbles us so easily right Romans chapter 7 let's jump over there Roman 7 and verse 11 and Julie when you have that do you mind reading that please Roman 7 verse 11 the law is good then the trouble is not with for the law but with me because I am sold in this Are you in verse 7?

I'm chapter 7. Roman 7 what? Verse 11. I guess needed to reverse fortune. Okay, just in case. Okay, verse 11, moving on, sin took advantage of the law and fooled me.

It took the good law and used it to make me guilty of death. So sin, taking occasion, what did your verse say?

Your sin fooled you. took advantage of the law and fooled me. So fooled you, that word, the same word is deceived, seduced beguiled.

We said beguiled means to be charmed or tricked, right? So sin causes us to be exposed to deceit. And when we're when we're open to deceit, when we're in sin and open to deceit, what's particular consequence, it can actually kill us.

It's slimy, it says, right? And that verse. So the things that we're learning is that to protect ourselves starts with not being prideful, not being shearful, but honest with ourselves, acknowledging when we're

we're in sin so that we can repent of it and begin trusting God. Since we're in Romans, let's go to Romans 16 and verse 18 chapter 16 verse 18.

[@54:14](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=3254.22) - **Brian**

And I'm back to Brian, if you Jesus Christ, but their own belly and by smooth words and flattering speech, deceive the hearts of the simple.

[@54:38](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=3278.54) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Thank you. So those who are not truly serving God or serving themselves, what is the word belly here? It's not just your stomach, it's your whole abdomen, intestinal stomach and abdomen is what this word is implying.

And to serve, that root word means like to be a slave. It's not just serving, they're actually instantly. played in to, right?

For those that don't give themselves over to Christ, they're enslaved to their bodily functions, if you will. They become literally, you can see people who just gorge themselves with food, right?

And that's why we have such obesity in this nation. Or they gorge themselves with pleasure, or they gorge themselves with such addictions, right?

To feel good and to feel better, because they don't realize, because when they're living on those emotions to satisfy themselves, they don't realize that God actually provides what is needed, what is best, and can satisfy them truly that they don't have these cravings for these other things, right?

And so when somebody is like that, when they are living on their own drives, desires, emotions, rather than their God, how can they be deceived?

Good words, fair speeches is what this verse says, because they're simple, they're not processed. thing deeply. They only want to feel good.

only want to make themselves feel better. So when they hear words that are good that sound good, like, oh, okay, that props me up little bit.

I'll I'll go with that. But once they get deflated, what did they do? They run off for another good word, right?

And when they hear fair speeches, man, that that presidential candidate sounds really great, you know, he's saying some he or she's saying some good things.

But what happens when you leave the convention? What happens when you leave the meeting? Do you feel deflated again?

Is that the only way you can get propped up is by listening to that fair speech? Be careful, right?

That means maybe you're not leaning on God like you should. Let's go to first Corinthians, truly first Corinthians this time.

Let's go to chapter three and let's read verse 18. And I'm sorry, I've forgotten who I'm on. Jamie? Okay.

Jamie chapter

[@57:00](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=3420.0) - **Brian**

or three of 1 Corinthians, verse 18, let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool, that he may become wise.

[@57:15](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=3435.54) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

So again, this is about pride, isn't it? When somebody feels like they're wise, they're being propped up with pride.

And it's easy as a Christian. This is the hard, this is the hard warning for the Christian. Because as Christians, we start to see things differently.

We start to feel differently. because of such, we see past things that are going on. And so we gain wisdom.

That's really what wisdom is. It's taking the knowledge that we've gotten, accompanying that with understanding and then applying that.

And as you do that, as you move through that process, you gain wisdom. You start to see beyond what's happening, you start to see beyond people.

You see the real motives of people. You see what God is doing. And so what that does, it's a fine line that then can prompt you into pride.

How do we know that? Because you look at Lucifer, where did he reside? He resided in heaven in the glory and the splendor of God.

And he was even the worshipper of God. But yet he was not able to contain himself because he started to think himself as being better than God.

So they're in the very midst and the full knowledge and everything going on about God, he still was affected by pride and pride is what caused him to fall.

So here as Christians, as we gain an understanding of God, as we start to live for God, we run the risk and we're very susceptible to pride.

And so this scripture is a warning to us to say, Hey, wait a minute, even though you're gaining wisdom, you're better off like saying, Hey, I'm a fool.

In other words, Understand humility the place humility as in being a Christian realize you haven't attained yet As Paul said we see now through glass darkly.

We don't have all knowledge yet. We're gaining in our understanding We're gaining knowledge. We're drawing in that relationship with God But we're not there yet until we cross through the gates the early gates in heaven You have to realize your place That God is trying to work on us and teach us and there's still things in us that have to be corrected and And and changed even in me after 30 years still of living for God.

I'm not who I want to be I'm not who I was thankfully, but I'm still not who I want to be in Christ Mike you want to say something?

[@59:43](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=3583.56) - **Mike**

Yes, I I've known in my life I'm 70 years old now and I noticed that not only does it say Consue your calling brother not many wise in the world But also I see that God breaks me when I do think I'm wise in the world any break he broke

Everybody broke Moses 40 years after he killed in Egypt. He does a lot of breaking Insectification interests. I just wanted to put that so we don't think we're all there, right?

[@1:00:13](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=3613.0) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Right. That's another good point Mike. Thank you for sharing that Julie go ahead. I have a Study Bible that I when so when we are reading that scripture like studies notes that go with it say that Corinthians were boasting about wisdom of their leaders and teachers their pride made them value the messenger more than the message We're not to put our trust in anyone that dad.

Yeah, that's a good point too. Thank you Since we're in first Corinthians.

[@1:00:42](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=3642.82) - **Alicia**

Let's put forward a chapter 6 chapter 6 and let's read verse 9 and Alicia, mind reading that please Sure Or do you not know that wrong doers will not inherit the kingdom of God do not be

received. Neither the immoral nor idolers nor adulters nor men who have with men.

[@1:01:11](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=3671.54) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

So this scripture comes after the one obviously that we just read right and we're saying like the susceptibility of Christians is that we can get puffed up we can we can be led into pride because of what we're learning but the way we avoid that is remembering where we came out of because what you'll read if you continue reading verses 10 and 11 and maybe 12 but basically what Paul says is that you have to remember that although these types of people will not make heaven you have to remember you once were one of them.

In other words before God saved you you once were a mess. You once were a very big mess. I once was a very big mess and the way you you stay humble is realizing that I look at somebody and their life might be a mess and I'm not that way anymore but I have to remember there but for the grace of God go I that could be me.

Right you've got and stepped in my life. That's where I would still be at That's why when I watched the movie the other day, and I think I mentioned this last Bible study two weeks ago when we watch this movie I think it was called What was it called with The JD Vance movie JD Vance movie there Kentucky Ethogy the hill Billy effigy.

Thank you. That's what it was. was a hill Billy effigy It was a story of JD Vance and and it affected me thinking men They showed so many people's lives messed up because of drugs and addiction and and I'm thinking That could have been me if God hadn't saved me, right?

I have to remind myself of these things frequently As I go in my knowledge of Christ It's not it's not that I wanted to return back to that like Mike was saying with the Israelites kept doing when they were when they were in The desert they kept looking back at each of them saying well, what good is this for for us to be?

this desert that's hard place when we could go back to what we were doing and live that life over, right?

No, that's not what I want. But when I find myself in trial and difficulty, I have to look back and say, hey, I could be worse off.

I could still be back there. But thankfully, God has me here because I know he's moving me in the right direction.

I know he's moving me into a better relationship with him.

[@1:03:23](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=3803.16) - **Mike**

And for me, it's also humbling to know I still have to struggle with sin. As it says in first John and go to him as it says in first John one night.

So that's very humbling and gets me back on track that I'm not in control.

[@1:03:38](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=3818.38) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Yes, that's exactly right. We just have to, we need to live in that state of humbleness and realizing what God has done for us.

We're still in first Corinthians. Let's jump over to chapter 15. Just a couple more scriptures and we'll wrap it up.

Okay, guys. Um, 15 verse 33. And I think I'm at Luke. If you don't mind reading out for us, please chapter 15 of first Corinthians verse 33 Chapter verse 33 don't be fooled by those who say such things for bad company corrupts good character Yes, thank you So one thing that protects us to from deceit.

It's not just realizing now We need to realize who we are in Christ and to avoid the pride and to avoid Saying that or something or not, but it's also about what we say be not to see evil communications When we talk and complain like Alicia was saying, it's about what are we saying, right?

need to think about what we're saying. There are times we need to get things off of our chest, right?

keep things bottled up, but sometimes it's about how we express that How do we that that even that word evil communication?

By implication, when you study that word, by implication, it means . It's like when you are set on getting out this deep emotion yourself, right?

You've got these hurts, you've got these feelings, but you can't keep them bottled. It's about how you release them.

When you want to come to God, and you should come to God and tell him those things, but you shouldn't run off to somebody else who could be easily influenced the wrong way in what they're hearing you say, right?

If you have this, how I say this? David, he got upset with God, right? And we can read these things that he said in the Psalms.

But while he was upset with God, he never criticized God, right? He expressed his complaint so that God would do something about it, but he didn't express his complaint so that God would be in his life.

is demoralized. that God would be criticized, right? That's what I'm trying to say. When we have these desires and feelings in us that we need to get out, we should take them to God.

But if we do it in the wrong way, we can actually deceive you because then we've paid the wrong picture of God in order to not be deceived.

We need to understand who God is. And if we are saying the wrong things about God, we're painting the wrong pictures about God.

We can be deceived because now the enemy would know, oh, that's the way you see God? Well, here, let me paint the broader picture that God is like that and he's not.

Does this make sense? Okay, let's go to Galatians chapter six. Galatians chapter six, let's read verse three. Julie, if you think it's too important to help us.

So again, this deals with pride. We need to see ourselves appropriately. We need to see God appropriately. That's where that's starting to boil down to, isn't it?

Since we're in Galatians, let's also read verse seven, Brian.

[@1:07:21](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=4041.78) - **Brian**

Do not be, do not be deceived. God is not mocked for whatever a man so is that he will also reap.

[@1:07:29](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=4049.22) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

This is the one that Mike quoted recently, right? So again, if we, this is an interesting tie in here, right?

Because what did we just read? Don't think of yourself more than you should. Why? Because God will not be mocked.

Well, wait a minute, how did the two go together? Because you have to realize you're made in the image of God, right?

Doesn't scripture tell us that? We are made in the image of God. If we see ourselves as something that we're not, then we are putting our

Thousand the place of God rather than just understanding that he's forming us. We think we become like Satan He put himself in the place of God, right?

And God No, wait a minute. You're trying to insert my my position here. No, that's gonna happen And he's gonna humble ourselves according Jeremiah, right?

He's gonna knock us off that cliff off that Roost up there of him in the eel. He's gonna bring us back down to where we really should be thinking about ourselves That's why Paul also said don't don't look at yourself as being something you should But but other is better than yourself, right?

In other words, he wasn't trying to say that people are better But learn something from them. That's really what he was trying to say when he says steam others better Meaning you can learn something from everybody.

We can learn something from what happened here today with those two individuals We don't have to be angry and upset with them, but realize that God allowed it so that we could see examples right of what it means That God won't be mocked we can learn so many things from us, but when we look at any situation

in our life of what's going on, we shouldn't evaluate, oh, is that good? Is that bad or whatever? We should evaluate.

What can we learn from that? How can I grow closer to God because of it? That's the real emphasis.

I hope I'm making sense. I hope that this is, I feel like in my own mind, my own heart, it's not as flowy as I'd like it to be.

I feel like it's a little more choppy than it should be. But my real desire is I'm hoping it makes sense to us that we're putting the pieces of a puzzle together.

And maybe that's why it feels choppy. It's like a puzzle piece skier needs to fit with this one here, right?

And when you do, then it starts to come together.

[@1:09:36](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=4176.88) - **Mike**

Yeah. I just wanted to mention what your earlier point, I think it was Persian that said, most important thing about a man is what he believes about God.

[@1:09:47](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=4187.44) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Yes. And I think the second most important thing is what a man believes about himself. And that's what these scriptures are saying.

Don't, when you understand God and what you think about God, and then you understand, and and what you think about yourself, you're in proper alignment.

But what happens is if you start to think of yourself first and foremost, you're getting in the wrong alignment and it's so easy to allow that to happen as Christians and non-Christians.

We see a lot of non-Christians during this place already. But as even as Christians, and we got to constantly remind ourselves, wait a they're about for the grace of God going, oh, wait, what can I learn from this situation, right?

Oh, wait, what, you know, I've got sin too, you know, we have to constantly remind ourselves to put ourselves back in that position because this world and the ways and the effects of this world want to drag us up into this position of pride.

James chapter 1, just a couple more scriptures guys, I know, I know we're over an hour six and who am I back to?

Jamie, it must be, whenever I have that question, just got to come to Jamie.

[@1:11:05](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=4265.78) - **Brian**

All right, James chapter 1 verse 26, six, if anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue, but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless.

[@1:11:20](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=4280.2) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

The word bridle means to hold and check, restrain what, restrain your tongue, hold and check. what I'm talking about previously, when you've got this angst, you've got to let this stuff out, but it's about being careful about how you say it and what you say, because there is power in the spoken word, scripture tells us there's power in the tongue, you speak you to life or death, and we don't want to be speaking death, we want to be speaking life, even to our own selves, about our own situations, right, and that's harder to do, it's easy to do with somebody else, right, and what they're going through, easier to speak life into them, right, because you're not.

Tied into their emotion. You're not tied into the what they're feeling and the effects that they're having But when it comes to you and you're tied into your own emotion and things that are going on your own life That's a lot harder because it's harder You feel the weight if you will of death of this world of this constraints of this world, but it's and it's in those constraints It's harder to speak life, but that's when you need to do it all the more That's when you need to get others around you who will say Hey, what can you learn from this situation like my wife did the other night, you know We're not impressed by that when we're going through it right when we don't want to necessarily receive those words But we need it when somebody reminds us of a scripture when somebody encourages us with the word of God or what happened in the past How God delivered right man, we need that stuff at that moment Because without it if we're speaking death we're deceiving our own heart remember the word heart is our seat of our emotions and

And if we're living in that place where we're not checking our tongue and we're allowing our emotions to rule with us, then our religion, as it says here, is vain.

In other words, without force or power, that word force means power, without power, it becomes useless. If you don't have power in your religion, in your belief with God, because God said, I won't do you with power with the Holy Spirit, right?

You receive the Holy Spirit and you'll be in due with power. I need that power in my life to break through that.

It's only by the power of God that we can break through and not be subject to the pride and not be subject to sin and all these things.

have to realize who we are that as human beings, we go through this, but we don't have to live in that state because of the power of God moving in our lives.

First John, chapter one. First John, chapter one. Verse eight, That's just a reminder that I'm done with my hour here, so we're almost done.

And I am at Alicia, if you don't mind reading that for us, please.

[@1:14:11](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=4451.84) - **Alicia**

Sure. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

[@1:14:21](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=4461.08) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

So we have to acknowledge who we are. We all are sinners. We're sinners saved by the grace of God.

If we don't that we deal with sin, that we wrestle with this, we're just, again, just deceiving ourselves. Let's look back to James last scripture, James chapter 1 verse 22.

This is probably the most important aspect of how we defeat deception. And Luke, would you mind reading that for us, please?

James chapter 1 verse 22.

[@1:14:51](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=4491.7) - **Luke Huffman**

But don't just listen to God's word, you must do what it says, otherwise you are only fooling yourselves.

[@1:14:59](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=4499.48) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Yeah, that we're fooling yourselves. deceiving, right? We doers. We have to be doers of the word. So we understand deceptions on the rise of your summarize here.

We understand deceptions on the rise. They're false prophets, people saying that they're Christ, people who are saying that they're Christians, but not living for Christ.

I mean, we see deception all around us. We know the time is getting closer. Jesus is going to come back.

So how do we defeat the deception that's coming at us because of that? Well, one, we have to understand what are people teaching, right?

Are they teaching the word of God? We want to make sure that they are, that what they're saying is lining up to the word of God.

And then most importantly, we want to say, are we living the word of God? Are we deceiving our own selves?

If we're deceiving ourselves, then we're wide open to the inception of this world. So it starts, defeating deception starts with ourselves.

If we know the word of God for ourselves, we are living it, we understand who we are, we understand who Christ is, that we are safe.

We will be protected from that deception as long as we remain humble as long as we remain with God as first priority in our life.

We're safe. What's interesting is I did a study, actually before I say that, I want to say this to emphasize that.

Why hasn't the devil believed the Word of God? Because even for thousands of years now, the Bible has been proven true over and over and over.

But yet, in those thousands of years, the devil hasn't changed his mind. He hasn't gone back and humbled himself, right?

And he's seen prophecy fulfilled over and over. So he knows God's Word is true and everything's going to come to pass the way God has said it.

And we know the way God says about him is he's facing an ultimate lake of fire. So why hasn't the devil changed?

And it comes down to pride. Because pride keeps him from believing the Word of God. And because he doesn't believe it.

He thinks he can change the outcome. It's that simple.

[@1:17:06](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=4626.78) - **Mike**

It doesn't have Bible say, though, he's so sought for repentant. It couldn't find doesn't God have to grant us repentance faith.

[@1:17:16](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=4636.6) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

So from a human being standpoint, yes, but right now, I'm just talking about, I'm trying to draw on the understanding.

Oh, okay, I'm sure. Okay, I'm trying to draw the understanding of what pride does. So think about pride. Pride keeps someone from believing the word of God, just like it does the devil.

The pride that the devil has keeps them from truly believing the word of God. And because he doesn't believe it, he thinks he can change it.

That's why he was willing to go after the babe in Bethlehem. That's why he was willing to crucify Christ.

That's why he's still willing to try to come out as an antichrist and defeat the world. But doesn't understand that the word of God will be fulfilled.

And the reason he doesn't understand it is because he's so full of pride. He thinks he can change it.

So, we don't want to be like that. We don't want to have so much pride that we don't believe the Word of God.

We want to be humble. We want to apply the Word of God in our life, right? Now, when I looked at the word deception and its forms in the King James Version, there are 70 references.

And I've told you it's important about what people are teaching you, right? And I want you to understand, go and read whatever I've shared because I want you to know the Word of God, right?

I don't want to influence you to think exactly the way I think. I want you to think for yourself about the Word of God, right?

My goal is to influence you to live for God and have an experience with God and that. I'm nothing.

I'm not worried about that, right? So, what you'll see is the Word 70 can represent judgment. It's also the length of a man's life as well.

according to Scripture. So I find it interesting that Scripture uses the word deception about 70 times because deception can be a form of judgment as well.

When you aren't living for God, what will happen? But how will you fall into that judgment most likely through deception?

a nation believes a certain thing is deceived to believe a certain thing, right? But because of the way that that believes, oh it's thinking I'm raising my hand, because it believes that nation believes a certain thing, they've been deceived and believing it.

Judgment is then poured out on that nation. We can see that happening in America, for example. The American people at one point thought abortion

was okay, right? They were deceived and believing that it was okay, they passed laws and all that for it, and they allowed it.

And because they allowed it, they fell in that deception of thinking it was okay, and now judgment is coming upon America because of that.

Does that make sense? So if you allow me, one last thing before we get into any kind of discussion here of how this has impacted you is Psalm 70.

I want to summarize this. I think this is a great Psalm to repeat to yourself. If you ever feel like you're facing deception, if you ever feel like you're struggling with it, come to this Psalm, read this Psalm, Psalm 70.

Julie, would you mind reading that for us, please? Please God, rest in me. Come quickly, Lord, and help me.

May those who try to destroy me humiliated and put a shame. May those who take delight in my trouble be turned back and disgrace, let them be horrified by their name, where they said, ah-ha!

We've got them now, but many all, or may all who search for you, be filled with joy and gladness.

May those who love yourself, each and repeatedly shout, is great, but I am for and needy. Please, hurry to my ego, God, for you are my helper and my Savior or Lord, do not delay.

I see in this Psalm all the elements we talked about because at the beginning of the Psalm, it's talking about how people will try to confuse and plague you through deception.

Really, that's what deception is. They're trying to confuse you. They're trying to take advantage of you, right? And we're asking God to protect us from that, essentially, in this Psalm, right?

we realize who we are, realize the last part of that, how humble the person who wrote this Psalm was, I am nothing, I'm poor, I'm needy.

That's the place we need to understand because God is our deliverer. I think there's a beautiful Psalm in summing up what we talked about today.

And before we pray and close out, yeah, Julie, go ahead. And not sure I completely agree with you about when you said the enemy doesn't believe the word of God, or maybe I received that one.

I think he very well knows everything about the word of God. he keeps doing things throughout history to try and abort and stop what God has planned.

And God just takes that and he just runs with it because he still allows all that to happen. And that enemy just can't get over his pride in the fact that he's going to hell, so he wants to bring as many people as he can with him.

But he very well knows what God is planning and doing. He just doesn't want to align with himself with it.

Yeah, there's an element of agreement in that as well. I think there's an element of both things, right? Because either he knows, and like he said, he's just trying to drag everybody down with him.

Or he doesn't believe it and thinks he can change it. Because if he... If he believed it, then he would never have crucified Christ because he would have known, by not crucifying Christ, there could be no salvation for the rest of the world.

That was the only way the world could be saved, the people to be saved is through the sacrifice of Jesus.

But yet he still could crucify Christ anyways. so you have to go, why would he do that? Why would any logical, sane person who knows what's going to happen and do it?

And the only answer I can find is because he didn't believe it. And why wouldn't he believe it? Because he thought he was better than it.

He could overcome or change it as the only conclusion I have. And why would he do that? Well, we know his sin would pride.

That's what scripture says he was kicked out of heaven for it. So what does pride do it? Pride makes you think, oh, I'm better than this.

I'm better than God. I'm better than that person. I'm better than God. And if I'm better than God, and that's what God said, I can change what God said.

That's what pride is. Right? So I think there's some of both. Like, like, he doesn't believe the Word of God, but yet think about it this way.

If you had both aspects, wouldn't you try to have an insurance policy against both, right? As pride, you're going to try to change it.

But if just in case you can't change it, what are you going to do with your insurance policy? You're going to try to destroy everybody and everything on the way.

That's why I think there's elements of both. All right, so we talked about a lot today. How does it make you feel?

What thoughts are going through your head and your heart today? How did it impact you? I think it's very important for us to stay humble and to have a certain heart and not allow ourselves to get pumped up or arrogant as we grow in the knowledge and wisdom of God and His Word, but just be a vessel.

a willing vessel for God to work through, touch others by, because it is not us, it is the great of God.

Yeah, amen. Anybody else?

[@1:25:15](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=5115.72) - **Brian**

I'm just still blowing away that how God used those two people to prove exactly what your Bible study is, the whole thing is about.

It just blows my mind that that that actually happened.

[@1:25:35](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=5135.7) - **Alicia**

It's a day of old days.

[@1:25:38](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=5138.08) - **Brian**

Yeah, yeah, right. Yeah, it's never happened before.

[@1:25:42](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=5142.96) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

You run a risk, you run a risk by being on a public platform. You know, you know that you know that risk, you know, but I think it's a good thing, though.

[@1:25:52](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=5152.78) - **Brian**

proved God's word right. It was so well done. I mean, it was.

[@1:26:00](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=5160.0) - **Mike**

good at the time but I mean I think it was very prophetic prophetic yeah that's a great word yeah yeah a lot of these do Bible studies get bombed they call it bombed and other Bible stuff and they get some but they have a red button they push but what I got out of this was that I need to be more so reminded and caution myself not to be deceived in sins that are a pattern in my life for Satan you know we all have one sin or two that were more likely to commit than others yeah and those are the ones where God where Satan has a strong hold and those are the ones their heart is to fight so I need to be more sober minded and pray more I guess yeah and just trust God as it says it for sure yeah thank you Mike for being bought

[@1:27:00](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=5220.0) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

and sharing that. I agree with you. I think we all have a struggle. We're not free from the temptations of this world.

We all struggle with something. And what I'm learning is I grow older is the moment I fall into that temptation is the moment I need to repent and seek God.

Because the longer we wait, the longer we put it off is a greater opportunity for deception to creep into our lives.

Because the enemy would start playing on that void of time and say, well, you don't really need to go back to God about it.

You can't change it anyway. God hasn't helped you through this. No, those are all lies. That's all deception immediately.

You go to God for His strength because I believe He gives you.

[@1:27:39](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=5259.54) - **Mike**

also heard recently a good thing to do when you're tempted is to praise God. Just to get in praise.

[@1:27:46](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=5266.08) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Yeah, amen to that. That's a good piece of advice. All right. Unless there's anything else, let's close in prayer.

And before we do that, let me also, at the same time, we'll do prayer requests. any any prayer requests today?

I guess I'll start. I've been dealing with something, I would call it a cold over the last three weeks that has just kind of like still been sitting in my throat, my chest, but it could be allergies because I did take an allergy pill and it seemed to help a little bit last night.

going take one again today, see if that helps, but I could definitely use prayer that whatever this is gets cleared out, this irritation from my throat and chest.

Anybody else?

[@1:28:33](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=5313.92) - **Alicia**

Maybe for us, guidance on our church family where we should be.

[@1:28:39](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=5319.88) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Okay.

[@1:28:43](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=5323.5) - **Mike**

The political turmoil in our country and also the two major wars in Russia, Ukraine and Israel and Gaza.

[@1:28:53](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=5333.04) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Yes, okay. Anybody else? Okay, let's pray. Lord Jesus, I thank you for this Bible study. thank you for meeting us, for teaching and leading us and guiding us God.

just, you're so awesome Lord. You really are incredible in how you coordinate everything and how you love us and how you are desiring to draw us closer.

God, I thank you for my friends that you would bless them and encourage them for their time that they spent with you today, that you blessed the upcoming weeks for them.

God, that you would continue to lead and guide us, impress upon us, help us to worship you, to lift you up, to exalt you in our daily life, Lord.

God, we lift up these requests to you and God, Alicia and her family would be led to the right place for the church home, Lord, that you would continue to encourage them and strengthen them and draw them closer, not only to each other, but to you.

She blessed their family time, that you blessed their communications. God, I also lift up this world. need peace, Lord God, need peace in Russian, we need peace in Israel, the Middle East, and God's our Lord.

Protect the innocent, protect those who are losing their lives, don't know you God, give them opportunity to know you, give them opportunity to pursue you, let truth prevail.

Help us in America here as we go through this election process, for people's eyes to be open to truth, to realize that a political savior is not going to change this world, but a holy God, a mighty God, a living savior can change this world.

Help us to see through your eyes, to feel with your heart, Lord, thank you Jesus, we give you glory, give you praise, in Jesus name, amen.

Thank you everyone for coming, what's that? I was also going to just remind everyone if you're local, say within an hour or so, we are having a cell group tonight, it's at 6.30 at our house, 6 o'clock, per me, 6 o'clock at our house, and that's in Johnson Creek, 213 Hunters Glen Lane.

and you can text me if you'd like at 608-921-8047, that's my phone number, 608-921-8047, and I will again text you the address.

We're going to just have a time of worship, fellowship, and just breaking bread. So thank you everyone you can make it, and it's to whenever.

We're not having a meal, so we used to do that in the past, we will have some light refreshments afterwards.

Okay, thank you everyone. Enjoy your work.

[@1:31:29](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=5489.96) - **Luke Huffman**

Thank you.

[@1:31:32](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=5492.06) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Bye bye.

[@1:31:33](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=5493.2) - **Luke Huffman**

Thank you very much.

[@1:31:35](https://fathom.video/share/BruF_ZE83MYCLqPdjVhc2z3jJkXYgyS6?timestamp=5495.16) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

You're welcome, Luke. Take care.