JULY LIFE IN THE WORD SERIES: DISCERNING SPIRITUAL DECEPTION

LESSON FOUR:
SEEING THROUGH DECEPTION

FOUNDATION SCRIPTURE:
2 TIMOTHY 3:13-17

2 TIMOTHY 3:13-17, BUT EVIL MEN AND IMPOSTORS WILL GROW WORSE AND WORSE, DECEIVING AND BEING DECEIVED. BUT YOU MUST CONTINUE IN THE THINGS WHICH YOU HAVE LEARNED AND BEEN ASSURED OF, KNOWING FROM WHOM YOU HAVE LEARNED THEM, AND THAT FROM CHILDHOOD YOU HAVE KNOWN THE HOLY SCRIPTURES, WHICH ARE ABLE TO MAKE YOU WISE FOR SALVATION THROUGH FAITH WHICH IS IN CHRIST JESUS. ALL SCRIPTURE IS GIVEN BY INSPIRATION OF GOD, AND IS PROFITABLE FOR DOCTRINE, FOR REPROOF, FOR CORRECTION, FOR INSTRUCTION IN RIGHTEOUSNESS, THAT THE MAN OF GOD MAY BE COMPLETE, THOROUGHLY EQUIPPED FOR EVERY GOOD WORK.

WHAT IS DECEPTION?

DECEPTION IS THE ACT OF CAUSING SOMEONE TO ACCEPT AS TRUE OR VALID WHAT IS FALSE OR INVALID.
MERRIAM-WEBSTER

THE GOAL OF DECEPTION

THE GOAL OF DECEPTION IS SEPARATION FROM GOD

THE PROGRESSION OF DECEPTION

JOB 3:25, “FOR THE THING I GREATLY FEARED HAS COME UPON ME, AND WHAT I DREADED HAS HAPPENED TO ME.”

WHEN WE JUDGE OTHERS, SEEK REVENGE, FAIL TO FORGIVE, HOLD ON TO BITTERNESS, AND REFUSE CORRECTION, WE GIVE OPPORTUNITY TO SATAN TO BEGIN THE PROCESS OF DECEPTION.

A BIBLICAL EXAMPLE OF A DEVIL-INSPIRED TACTIC ACTS 16:16-18

ACTS 16:16-18, NOW IT HAPPENED, AS WE WENT TO PRAYER, THAT A CERTAIN SLAVE GIRL POSSESSED WITH A SPIRIT OF DIVINATION MET US, WHO BROUGHT HER MASTERS MUCH PROFIT BY FORTUNE-TELLING. THIS GIRL FOLLOWED PAUL AND US, AND CRIED OUT, SAYING, “THESE MEN ARE THE SERVANTS OF THE MOST-HIGH GOD, WHO PROCLAIM TO US THE WAY OF SALVATION.” AND THIS SHE DID FOR MANY DAYS. BUT PAUL, GREATLY ANNOYED, TURNED AND SAID TO THE SPIRIT, “I COMMAND YOU IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST TO COME OUT OF HER.” AND HE CAME OUT THAT VERY HOUR.

“DIVINATION” IS THE SPIRIT OF WITCHCRAFT. THIS SPIRIT GIVES ILLEGAL ACCESS INTO THE SPIRIT WORLD BY GIVING DREAMS AND VISIONS TO PEOPLE.

GOD IS CONCERNED NOT ONLY WITH OUR WORDS, BUT THE MOTIVATION BEHIND THE WORDS.

THE VOICE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A GREAT THREAT TO THE DEMONIC SPIRIT OF DECEIT!

IF WE LIVE IN THE SPIRIT, LET US ALSO WALK IN THE SPIRIT.
GALATIANS 5:25

THE FRUIT OF DECEPTION

HOSEA 10:13, BUT YOU HAVE PLANTED WICKEDNESS, YOU HAVE REAPED EVIL, YOU HAVE EATEN THE FRUIT OF DECEPTION. BECAUSE YOU HAVE DEPENDED ON YOUR OWN STRENGTH AND ON YOUR MANY WARRIORS.

HOW THE FRUIT OF DECEPTION MANIFEST

1 JOHN 2:16-17, FOR ALL THAT IS IN THE WORLD—THE LUST OF THE FLESH, THE LUST OF THE EYES, AND THE PRIDE OF LIFE—IS NOT OF THE FATHER BUT IS OF THE WORLD. AND THE WORLD IS PASSING AWAY, AND THE LUST OF IT; BUT HE WHO DOES THE WILL OF GOD ABIDES FOREVER.

THREE CATEGORIES
THE DEVIL USES TO DECEIVE:

1. LUST OF THE FLESH

ROMANS 13:14, BUT PUT ON THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, AND MAKE NO PROVISION FOR THE FLESH, TO GRATIFY IT'S DESIRE.

ROMANS 8:5, FOR THEY THAT ARE AFTER THE FLESH DO MIND THE THINGS OF THE FLESH; BUT THEY THAT ARE AFTER THE SPIRIT THE THINGS OF THE SPIRIT.

2. LUST OF THE EYES

PROVERBS 27:20, HELL AND DESTRUCTION ARE NEVER FULL; SO THE EYES OF MAN ARE NEVER SATISFIED.

JOB 31:1, “I MADE A COVENANT WITH MY EYES NOT TO LOOK LUSTFULLY AT A YOUNG WOMAN.”

3. THE PRIDE OF LIFE

2 CORINTHIANS 5:15, AND HE DIED FOR ALL SO THAT THOSE WHO LIVE SHOULD NO LONGER LIVE FOR THEMSELVES, BUT FOR THE ONE WHO DIED FOR THEM AND WAS RAISED.

DECEPTION IS A SIGN OF JESUS CHRIST'S RETURN

NOW AS HE SAT ON THE MOUNT OF OLIVES, THE DISCIPLES CAME TO HIM PRIVATELY, SAYING, “TELL US, WHEN WILL THESE THINGS BE? AND WHAT WILL BE THE SIGN OF YOUR COMING, AND OF THE END OF THE AGE?”

AND JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID TO THEM: “TAKE HEED THAT NO ONE DECEIVES YOU. FOR MANY WILL COME IN MY NAME, SAYING, ‘I AM THE CHRIST,’ AND WILL DECEIVE MANY.

“TAKE HEED” (LOOK, BEWARE, TAKE CARE, SEE TO IT) BASICALLY MEANS TO HAVE SIGHT, TO SEE, TO LOOK AT, THEN TO OBSERVE, TO DISCERN, TO PERCEIVE WITH THE EYE.

FIVE TOOLS TO GUARD AGAINST DECEPTION

JESUS IS THE TRUTH - JOHN 14:6

GOD'S WORD IS TRUTH - JOHN 17:17

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS TRUTH - I JOHN 5:6

2. CULTIVATE A TRUE RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

3. SEEK GOD IN EVERYTHING

4. EXERCISE DISCERNMENT

5. CULTIVATE A LOVE FOR TRUTH

COLOSSIAANS 2:8, BEWARE LEST ANYONE CHEAT YOU THROUGH PHILOSOPHY AND EMPTY DECEIT, ACCORDING TO THE TRADITION OF MEN, ACCORDING TO THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF THE WORLD, AND NOT ACCORDING TO CHRIST.

“AND OFFENDED HEART IS THE BREEDING GROUND FOR DECEPTION.”