

A Deceptions inspired by demons:

❖ “What you believe is true for you”

- Someone may prophesy, cast out demons, and perform miracles. However, God might reject them because they are not doing His will (Matthew 7:21-23). Therefore, it’s important to understand God’s will.
- Truth is considered something relative in today’s society. If it were relative, we would use our thoughts, interests, and feelings to determine God’s will. The Bible doesn’t teach this. God’s will doesn’t depend on what we think.
- Jesus encouraged us to build on the rock (Matthew 7:24-25). We must act according to His words which are written in the Bible.

❖ Life after death

- Some people try to prove life after death scientifically. They use “near-death experiences” to do so. In those experiences, people who experienced clinical death and were revived explain that they saw something like a “light,” a celestial being, or a dead relative before coming back to life.
- Notice that they didn’t actually die. They went through the sensorial experience of the dying process, but not an experience after death.
- The Bible clearly states that we will see God’s face only when He will awake us from death at His Second Coming (Psalm 17:15).

❖ Reincarnation

- Reincarnation means that people live several lives in order to become better in each one until they’re good enough to enter a state worthy of living in “paradise.” This doctrine...
 - (1) Makes the doctrine of resurrection and victory over death unnecessary (1 Corinthians 15:52-55)
 - (2) Replaces salvation by grace with salvation by works (Ephesians 2:8)
 - (3) Makes the Second Coming useless (2 Timothy 4:8)
 - (4) Means that we can make decisions after death, which is contrary to the Bible (Hebrews 9:27)

B Demonic activity:

❖ Consulting the dead

- The Bible exposes consulting the dead through mediums or fortune-tellers as a deception. Such practices are prohibited in the Bible (Deuteronomy 18:9-14; Leviticus 19:31; Leviticus 20:6, 27; Isaiah 8:19-20).
- Following this principle, Saul removed “the mediums and the spiritists” from Israel (1 Samuel 28:9). However, he went to them when he didn’t receive an answer from God, even knowing it was the devil’s work (1 Samuel 28:5-7). And he found the devil.
- Saul never saw Samuel actually. It was the medium who told him she was seeing Samuel, and she transmitted the message (1 Samuel 28:11-20).

❖ Seeing dead people

- One thing is to hear a medium seeing that they see and talk to spirits of dead people. Another thing is to actually see and hear a dead person with your own eyes.
- Remember that demons can appear in the shape of dead people and imitate them (2 Corinthians 11:14-15).

C Defending ourselves against deception

- ❖ Paul explained how we can defend ourselves from the fallen angels in Ephesians 6:14-18:
 - **The belt of truth (v. 14a):** We must cling to the truth and reject anything against it
 - **The breastplate of righteousness (v. 14b):** We must put the righteousness of Christ on, not our own
 - **The shoes of the gospel (v. 15):** We must live and share the gospel of peace
 - **The shield of faith (v. 16):** We must use our faith to reject the enemy's deceptions
 - **The helmet of salvation (v. 17a):** We must always remember the salvation Jesus has given us
 - **The sword of the Spirit (v. 17b):** We must study the Bible and follow its teachings
 - **Prayer (v. 18):** It is our essential source of power and victory