

## USING TRUTH TO DECEIVE

Tonight I have a burden on my heart that I would like to share. It has to do with deception. I'm not talking about the obvious kind of deception that's happening in the churches right now, which you are all so familiar with. I'm talking about a different kind of deception. I'm talking about deception that's rooted in truth. For years I've seen this deception at work in writers, preachers and Bible teachers who have come out of the Religious System. I guess it's because I've seen so much of it that I am always talking about overcoming Satan and evil spirits. I don't know if you all realize just how powerful Satan's ability to deceive has become, but he's not limited to using lies and false doctrine. He's also very skilled at using *truth* to deceive people. This is what I want to talk about tonight—a truth that's being used to deceive us.

Let me show you how it's done. The quote I am about to read comes from a sister who is a genuine believer with a desire to minister truth and life to God's people. Unfortunately, the issue is not her good intentions or motives. The question is whether or not the view she presents—which represents the view of many ministers outside the system—is really the truth. This is what she writes:

"Most recently, the world has watched with great interest the unfolding drama centered on America's election of a new president. In the weeks and months leading up to November 4, 2008, the world's financial systems have taken an enormous plunge, much like the one leading to the Great Depression of the 1930's. At the core of both these, as well as other phenomena, there is **one thing** to be blamed. That thing is our **greatest enemy**. . . That "one thing" is an enemy so cleverly masked it is rarely, if ever, recognized.

Before anyone accuses me of being too simplistic, let me assure you that the Bible supports such a statement. In every aspect of what many believe to be the "Body of Christ" **this enemy** is at the root of not only some, **but ALL** that is not right before God.

In Genesis, soon after the recorded account of creation, we learn **how this enemy made its entry into the world** - or more specifically, mankind. **The enemy** was so destructive that it ultimately would result in "death" for every person born on this earth. Such a fact should come as no surprise, since the LORD God said man would die if he acquired the knowledge of good and evil from eating the forbidden fruit of that tree. How did man die? He became independent from God because the forbidden fruit gave him the ability to be "as God" knowing good and evil. He died spiritually when he became elevated in the strength of self, and in so doing created the **greatest enemy** mankind would ever have to deal with. The enemy we are talking about is FLESH!"

Now the fact that our "flesh" nature is our enemy is true, and many other things this sister says about the flesh are also true. She brings out many things the Scripture says about the flesh, which are true. Overall, she wrote a good article—except for the deception it contained. That deception has not so much to do with the doctrinal errors or false religious experiences which are so prevalent in the Church System as it does with truth. Biblical truth is being used to *hide* truth. Biblical truth is being used to *obscure* truth. Biblical truth is being used to get people's attention off of something they should be very aware of, something they should be paying close attention to.

This sister says: "*In Genesis, soon after the recorded account of creation, we learn **how this enemy made its entry into the world**. How did man die? He became independent from God because the forbidden fruit gave him the ability to be as God knowing good and evil. He died spiritually when*

*he became elevated in the strength of self, and in so doing **created the greatest enemy** mankind would ever have to deal with.*” Now, depending on how a person reads what she has written here, this could be a contradictory statement. First she says that in Genesis we see how this enemy “*made its entry into the world*”. That gives the impression that this enemy existed *before* it came into the world. A thing cannot enter the world unless it first exists outside of the world.

If this is what she is saying, then she believes the flesh existed *before* Adam fell. But then she says that by eating the fruit and dying spiritually, Adam “*created*” the flesh. Thus the apparent contradiction. But since I’ve never heard of anyone believing the flesh existed before Adam fell, I’m going to give her the benefit of the doubt and understand her statement about the flesh making its way into the world as *just another way* of saying it was created through Adam’s transgression.

However, I cannot give her the benefit of the doubt when she says our *greatest* enemy is the flesh because this is not true. As a matter of fact, this is the deception that not only runs through her entire article, it’s also the one that runs through so many ministries outside the system. The greatest enemy you and I face is Satan and his demons—especially in this hour, when they have been granted the power and the authority to *perfectly* imitate everything the Holy Spirit does in a person’s life.

*Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of **the enemy**: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.*

*Luke 10:19*

*Be sober, be vigilant; because **your adversary** the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:*

*1. Peter 5:8*

There is no doubt that “the flesh” is our enemy. There are many passages in the New Testament that tell us we must *not* live after the flesh, or walk according to the flesh, or walk in the flesh, or mind the things of the flesh. We are told repeatedly to deny our flesh, make no provision for our flesh, and put it to death. But I want to tell you something—when it comes to specifically naming *the enemy* of God’s people, Satan is the one who is mentioned. You won’t find “the flesh” being named specifically as our enemy. The reason is very simple: Satan is our *original* enemy, and therefore, he is our greatest enemy.

You and I have an adversary. He’s not a generic principle or some kind of ethereal entity “out there” somewhere in the world or in religious cults. He is your *personal* enemy. You don’t know him; but I can assure you that he knows you. He knows all about you; he listens to every word you speak; he watches every move you make. He has intimate knowledge of all your problems and hang-ups. In fact, he is *the source* of many of those problems and hang-ups. He knows all the times you have fallen for his tricks; he knows just what temptations and desires to stir up in you to make you fall. You have a *track record*, and he knows that track record inside and out.

This powerful creature, who knows you and me so well, and who hates us with a passionate hatred, who is obsessed with our mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual destruction night and day, is a *person*. He’s

not some intangible “force” who dwells outside your home, up in the atmosphere somewhere. Through his many evil spirits, he’s in your home; he’s in your car; he’s around you all the time. He’s speaks to you throughout the day, either directly through thoughts that you assume to be your own, or through unsaved friends and family, or through co-workers, and even through Christian friends and family.

Every minute of every day he’s scheming, scheming, scheming, to destroy you. He never sleeps; he never takes a break; he constantly walks to and fro, like a hungry lion, seeking whom he may devour. Every minute of every day he’s watching for that open door; watching to see if you will listen to his voice, watching to see if you will accept any of the thoughts or imaginations he shoots into your mind; watching to see if you will yield to any of the desires he continually stirs up in you. And as soon as you open one of those doors, he has every legal right to immediately enter in and he begins to feed on you, just like God said he would in Genesis chapter three. Part of the curse on Satan was that he would *feed* on mankind (ie: dust). So while you are giving into that sin, while you are enjoying that habit or whatever, the demons are feeding on you—and eventually they will completely devour you.

*But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.*

*II. Corinthians 11:3*

Please notice that Paul warned Christians—not the unsaved, but Christians—about the danger of receiving *another* spirit, after they had received the genuine Spirit of God. In this case, the issue isn’t “the flesh”. The issue is being deceived by a counterfeit spirit or a counterfeit anointing which is posing as the true Spirit of God or the true anointing of God. Those who get deceived end up receiving another *spirit*.

Whenever I hear someone say the Bible never teaches that a Christian can have a demon, I ask them to please explain why Paul was afraid just such a thing might happen to the Corinthian Christians. Why would Paul say: “*I fear*” if he believed Christians could not come under the influence or power of evil spirits? He plainly said that he feared the Corinthians would receive another gospel, another Jesus and another spirit. If a Christian can’t possibly receive these things, then Paul was not only fearful for no reason, he was also preaching *another* gospel.

Also, notice that Paul mentioned Eve being deceived by the Serpent. I’ve said this before but it bears repeating. Although this was not his point, we need to consider that neither Adam or Eve had a sin nature before they fell. In other words, Eve wasn’t walking in “the flesh” when she was overcome by her Adversary. She didn’t have a heart that was “deceitful above all things and desperately wicked” (*Jer. 17:9*). She wasn’t seeking to be independent from Adam, or from God. Eve was still in a state of *sinlessness*. Everything the Serpent did to Eve was done *from the outside*, without any internal help from her flesh (she didn’t have any flesh), while she was in a *sinless* state! Do you realize what this means? It means the demons don’t even need your “flesh” in order to deceive and overcome you.

Think about that for a few minutes.

*And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree **to be desired** to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.*

*Genesis 3:6*

Notice very carefully that the Bible says a “desire” came into Eve to eat of that tree. Now I’ll give you three guesses where that desire came from, and the first two—the flesh and a deceitfully wicked heart—don’t count. Satan *created* that desire in her. His cunning, and his ability to deceive, were so powerful even in the Garden, he was able to create a wrong desire in a *sinless* human being, from the outside! Now I ask you: if he can do that to a sinless woman from the outside, what do you think he is capable of doing to you and me?

It’s true that Satan uses our fallen flesh nature to defile us and overcome us. It’s also true that he uses our deceitful hearts to overcome us. But you have to understand that his deceptions are so powerful, he doesn’t even have to use those things. He doesn’t need us to be walking in “the flesh” in order to tempt us, trick us, or overcome us. He doesn’t need to use our deceitful, desperately wicked heart to destroy us. Even if we had no fallen sin nature (ie: “the flesh”), even if our hearts were pure as snow and sinless, the demonic kingdom would still be extremely dangerous to us.

The fact that Peter warned Christians to “*be sober and vigilant*” when it comes to our Adversary, reveals that many of the doctrines we have been taught regarding salvation are just plain error. First of all, it shows us that God is not totally responsible to keep us safe from Satan. If that were the case, we would not have to watch; we would not have to be sober; and we would not have to resist him in order to keep from being devoured by him—God would do all this *for* us.

Another lie it exposes is the idea that since Jesus defeated Satan at Calvary, we have automatically defeated him too, just by virtue of placing our trust in Him for salvation. Once again, if this were true, we would not have to watch, be sober, or resist the enemy. You don’t need to be on guard against, or resist, an enemy you have *already* defeated, which no longer has any power to hurt you.

It also exposes the foolishness of focusing on “the flesh” all the time. Every day we are in a two-front war. One front is denying and crucifying the flesh. The other front is fighting the invisible powers who are out to destroy us, and who can overcome us without even using our flesh nature. When we focus all of our attention on denying “the flesh” we are fighting only *half* the battle. Is there an army in history that ever won a two-front war by fighting only on one front? This is the purpose behind the deception. Those who ignore the demonic front of this war will be overrun by evil spirits without even realizing it. Most of us have no idea just how powerful Satan’s ability to deceive really is. Right now, he is using the *truth* that we must deny our selves daily to defeat some of us.

People seem to have this idea that if they will just “walk in the spirit” they won’t have to do battle with the enemy. Where did that idea come from? Certainly not the Bible! Was Eve “in the flesh” when she was overcome in battle? How about Jesus? Do you think Jesus was “walking in the flesh” when He was tempted? Jesus walked in the Spirit all the time—yet He had to face temptation; He had to withstand the enemy’s *personal* attack of deception. It’s true that Paul said if we “walk in the spirit” we will not “fulfill

the lusts of the flesh” (*Gal. 5:16*). But he didn’t say if we walk in the Spirit we will not have to deal with Satan. People should go back and take a good look at Paul’s *life* and take note of all the things he had to deal with, and suffer, which came from the demonic realm, in spite of the fact that he walked in the spirit.

Satan and his demons will certainly use the flesh any time we provide them with an opportunity to do so because it’s much easier to overcome a person *through* the flesh than it is to overcome them directly, from the outside. But walking in the spirit does not make us invincible. Rather, what it does is level the playing field. It makes it *possible* to win when Satan or his demons tempt or attack us, either directly or through others. When we are in the flesh, it’s not even possible to win. We will lose every time. It’s only as we walk in the spirit that winning is a possibility!

*Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*

*Ephesians 6:10-12*

When writing to the Ephesians, Paul said our adversary has “wiles”. That means tricks or strategies. And I can assure you, he is constantly using these strategies against God’s people. This is why Paul told the Ephesians to put on the whole armor of God. They are to put on the armor so they will be able to stand against these strategies. There is no question in Paul’s mind as to whether or not God’s people will have to fight this enemy—they most certainly will. The only question in his mind is: Will they be defeated when they are attacked, or will they stand? Paul tells them if they don’t want to lose the battle, then they must put on *all* the armor God has provided them with.

Please notice that Paul didn’t tell the Ephesians to put that armor on so they could stand against “the flesh”. He didn’t tell them to put it on in order to die to self because we don’t put on the armor of God in order to die to self. As a matter of fact, quite the reverse is the case. We have to die to self in order to put that armor on; and unless the armor is on, when Satan comes a calling, we will not have the wisdom or the strength to “stand”. The *whole purpose* of the armor is to help us stand against these invisible creatures who are extremely powerful, and who are out to destroy us.

Every day these invisible persons attack us. Every day they tempt us. Every day they inject their thoughts and their desires into our hearts and minds—and any day we do not put on the armor God has provided, that day will be a day of defeat at the hands of these spirits.

One of the reasons so few Christians enter into this realm of warfare is simply because they don’t realize they are in spiritual bondage. They don’t understand they are in bondage because they don’t *feel* like they are in bondage. You see, when you are *used* to living a certain way; when you are accustomed to feeling certain ways and seeing things a certain way; when you are comfortable with the way things are, then there is no real understanding that you are in spiritual bondage. The tragedy is not that so many of God’s people are in bondage to various demon spirits; the tragedy is that in many cases, they *don’t even realize* they are in bondage to them because they are *comfortable* with them. Living with these spirits, and living under their

dominion, seems normal to them. It's what they are used to. They have no desire to get free because they have no idea they are bound! They just assume that these spirits are their own personal tastes, or desires, or thoughts, or views, or ways of doing things. Since they have never experienced life *without* them, they are quite used to them.

This is the challenge those who warn others about the danger of evil spirits, face. It's like a doctor trying to tell a patient that they are in the beginning stages of a deadly illness, and that they need to get started on a treatment right away, but since the patient doesn't *feel* sick, they won't listen.

*Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron...*

*I. Timothy 4:1-2*

Everyone is talking about the current apostasy, but let me remind you of what Paul told Timothy when speaking of this very apostasy:. He said: “...*some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.*” So whenever you read about false prophets and false teachers in the last days, remember that you are not dealing with “the flesh” of those men. You are dealing with the invisible spiritual powers that deceived them, and which are using them to deceive multitudes.

I always find it ironic that even though Paul clearly said: “...*we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world...*”—the focus of most ministries remains on the battle with the flesh. They read this passage, yet it never clicks, for they continue to point us to all the “flesh and blood” false prophets and teachers in the churches. When's the last time you heard someone expose the *religious spirits* behind people like Benny Hinn, or Todd Bentley, or C. Peter Wagner, or Joel Osteen, ect.? When's the last time you heard someone explain *how* these spirits operate? When's the last time you heard someone explain *how* to recognize these same spirits when they start talking to you? When's the last time you heard someone explain how those spirits got into the lives of these people to begin with?

When is the last time you heard a teacher outside the system make a connection between the fact that Christians must be *ready* to meet Jesus when He returns by allowing God to make them pure and holy; and the fact that demon spirits have the ability to plant their own thoughts and desires in our lives—which means that if we don't learn how to recognize them when they talk to us, we will continually be following *their* thoughts and desires and we will remain *unclean*. We will never be ready for the Lord's return.

The reason I am always talking about the need to recognize and defeat evil spirits is because there are very few outside the system who are sounding this kind of an alarm. Most of the ministries I have come across focus on *the flesh*. I realize that part of the problem is all the bogus teaching and occult practices that go on inside the system under the guise of spiritual warfare. People outside the system tend to react against all of this garbage by *downplaying* the whole idea of warfare and the activity of demons. But going to the opposite extreme of an error is not the answer. Just because there are those who chase demons all day, and who see a demon behind every rock, that is no reason to deny or mock the need to overcome them.

I am providing a counter-balance to a dangerous over-emphasis of an otherwise good Biblical truth. Even in relatively normal times it is imperative that God's people realize that we are in a two-front war, and that we must not ignore the demonic aspect of it. We have to learn how to recognize and defeat our Adversary. But it becomes *even more* critical in the last days, for the Scripture clearly predicts that in the last days, the power of evil will greatly increase.

After telling the Ephesian believers to put on the whole armor of God, so they can stand against the tactics of Satan, Paul said: "*Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day...*" (Eph. 6:13). Each generation has had to face its own evil day; but there is a final "evil day" predicted for the end of this present age, and I believe this is what Paul was referring to. The apostle John called this evil day the "hour of temptation" that would come upon the whole earth (Rev. 3:10). Jesus called it the "beginning of sorrows" (Matt. 24:8). It's the time when the cup of iniquity is allowed to come to its fulness. It's a time of *defeat* for many Christians.

*I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them; Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.*

*Daniel 7:20-22*

*And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.*

*Revelation 13:5-7*

Both Daniel and John predicted a day would come in which Satan would be granted the power and authority to make war with the saints, wear them out, prevail against them, and overcome them. Since the evil day is a season of delusion and defeat for many of God's people, it should come as no surprise that as we read the book of Revelation, we find that the main issue is overcoming.

In chapter four we see that Jesus is the original overcomer. John is shown a book with seven seals but there was no one in heaven or on earth worthy to open it. As John weeps over this fact, the angel says: "...*Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals*" (Rev. 5:5 NAS).

In chapters two and three, Jesus comes to John and gives him a message for each of the seven churches in Asia. Once again, the issue is overcoming. Each church had a specific test or temptation to overcome. Jesus said *if* they overcame, they would receive great rewards.

Just as the Early Church had specific issues to overcome, so the Last Day Church has specific issues to overcome. Just as they had to overcome in order to partake of the rewards that are mentioned, so *we* must overcome in order to partake of those same rewards. The rewards are the same, but the things we must overcome are different.

*And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up **out of the sea**, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority...And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; **and power was given unto him** to continue forty and two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and **power was given him over all** kindreds, and tongues, and nations. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*

*Revelation 13:1-8*

*And I beheld another beast coming up **out of the earth**; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. And he exerciseth **all the power of the first beast** before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. And **he doeth great wonders**, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth **by the means of those miracles** which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.*

*Revelation 13:11-18*

I'm not going to do a teaching on Revelation 13 at this point. I just want to say that the most important issues that faces us right now, the most important issues facing the entire End Time Church, are these two beasts. This is *our* peculiar test. No other generation of believers has ever had to face what *we* face in this hour, for the emergence of these two beasts is a specific, time-related event. They are not unleashed until the final hours of the Church Age.

Because these two beasts, and the deception that surrounds them, are the most important issues we face in this hour, we need to be seeking God for an understanding of them so we will be sure we overcome them. Many Christians will not overcome these two beasts because they are not being taught how to recognize them. The only thing people think of when they read about these beasts are world organizations, or a world government, or a one-world religion, or individual world leaders. The point I want to bring out here is not that all these things are wrong—they're not. The point I want to bring out is that there is a *spiritual dimension* to all of this that most people are missing.

These two beasts are first and foremost *invisible persons*. They will be manifested in various ways that can be seen with the human eye, but they are primarily demonic powers. I brought this out in some of my books, but let me repeat the crux of it. The first beast is said to come from two separate places. First, John said he saw it rise up out of "the sea" (*Rev. 13:1*). Later, when an angel is describing this same beast to John, he said it comes out of "the bottomless pit" (*Rev. 17:8*). The only entity that can come out of both places is

a spiritual demonic prince. So the first beast is *primarily* a spiritual power. This spiritual power uses men to build a global police state, a global religion, and a global economy, all of which will form the last global empire of this age, the object of which will be to force the whole world to worship the Dragon. We cannot be sure as to the timing of the final establishment of this global empire. The way things are shaping up, it appears to be just around the corner. But God is still in control. If He want's to delay it for some reason, He can. However, there is no question that the *spiritual power* who's building this empire has already come on the scene. The first beast has *already* ascended out of the bottomless pit.

The second beast comes up out of the earth. If the sea represents *secular* humanity, then the earth probably represents *religious* humanity. Thus, its name is the "False Prophet". The fact that it has "two horns like a lamb" signifies that it specifically identifies itself with Christianity (the Lamb of God). In other words, this beast comes in the name of Christianity. It comes on the scene promoting a *false* Christianity. It also speaks as a dragon; meaning, it will be a smooth-talker. It will have the ability to deceive most people by what it says without their ever realizing it. It will also have *supernatural* power. So it will also be able to deceive people by what it does.

The other significant thing about this beast is that it can make fire fall from heaven. Indeed it is this particular miracle that causes those who dwell on the earth to worship the first beast. I have heard various interpretations of what this "fire" represents. It could very well have different levels of meaning, but I believe one meaning is what we have been witnessing for the last 25 years.

You all know what word is used by all these false prophets and false apostles to trigger the various manifestations we have seen in Vineyard, Toronto, Lakeland and other spin-offs? Fire"! That's right; the great revival buzz-word is fire. Whenever one of these false prophets or apostles wants to bring forth a *spiritual manifestation* in a meeting, they call on God to "send the fire", or they simply repeat the word "fire" over and over again. This is a perfect picture of what John described. The demon spirits in these people are literally calling down fire from heaven in the sight of the people!

This is why I keep warning people that in their present *spiritual* form, these two beasts are much more dangerous than any world government or individual human political leader will ever be because they can *counterfeit* the things the Spirit of God does in a person's life. They can give us counterfeit gifts—spiritual languages (tongues), supernatural power; prophecy, revelation knowledge, spiritual discernment, etc. Also, some who have become involved with these beasts have received gifts that aren't mentioned in Scripture, like an extra-ordinarily beautiful singing voice, or the sudden ability to write beautiful poems. We have also personally seen these beasts produce counterfeit fruits of the Spirit in people's lives. They have given people false peace, false patience, false joy, false love, and a false sense of security.

We have entered a time like no other in the history of this planet, but most of God's people are still playing church games. They blindly stroll down paths filled with spiritual land-minds, yet they have no idea there is any danger. The issues of these two beasts are *not* issues of "the flesh" my friends. What we are facing is not a battle against the flesh and it's not the flesh that's taking down scores of believers in this hour. It is powerful religious spirits who can perfectly imitate the voice, the presence, and the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, if we don't learn how to tell the difference between them and the Lord. *This* is the reason so many *genuine* Christians are being overcome right now. We are facing the most powerful, the most cunning, and the most brazen demonic princes we have ever had to deal with.

These spiritual powers are RELIGIOUS. Hello? When they come to us, they don't tempt us to drink or smoke or gamble or take dope or commit adultery. They like to talk about God; they like to do religious things. They will give us the desire to go to church and sing religious songs. They will give us a desire to pray and prophesy. They will even give us a desire to read the Bible! As long as the things we are doing are leading us into a relationship with *another* Jesus, these spirits will be more religious than we could ever be! Speaking of the spirit of Antichrist, Daniel says:

*Yea, he magnified himself even to the prince of the host, and by him the daily sacrifice was taken away, and the place of his sanctuary was cast down...And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: **he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand.***

*Daniel 8:11 & 25*

Here Daniel describes the brazen character of the beasts of Revelation chapter thirteen, which are *primarily* demonic princes. They exalt themselves and magnify themselves above every god, even to the Prince of princes (Jesus Christ). They speak impudent things against Jesus and the Father. They will also take away the daily sacrifice, cast down the sanctuary, sit in God's temple, and make war with the Lamb. Sounds a lot like Paul's warning doesn't it?

*Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who **opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.***

*II. Thessalonians 2:3-4*

These beasts are *demon spirits* and they are here *now*. While they use famous men and national leaders to build Satan's final global empire, they also have the ability to come and talk to you and me personally! They can come and start imitating the Holy Spirit in our lives—and if our focus has become “the flesh”, if our answer for every problem and temptation is just more “death to self”, then when these princes begin moving in our lives, we will never realize it!

Denying ourselves and putting our flesh to death is very important if we want to be overcomers. But that's only *half* the battle. We have entered a day when Satan has been given more power and authority by God that most of us can even imagine—and neither walking in the spirit or denying our flesh life will make us *immune* to that power. Indeed, it is only *as* we walk in the spirit and deny the flesh life that we receive the wisdom and the strength to face the enemies power and overcome it. Let's be sure we don't let our enemy use God's truth to overcome us!