

"Another Spirit"

From the "Doctrine of Demons" Series

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Introduction

1 Timothy 4:1 (KJV 1900)

1 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;

It is 2018 and there is abundant evidence that the common understanding of what a Christian is has undergone significant change and adulteration. What is the belief system of a Christian and how is this system expressed in the ethical choices that Christians make? How do true Christians relate to the state? Why don't Christians agree on what is right and wrong? Why are racial and ethnic divisions within the church increasing? What about Christian leadership? How can you discern a true Christian preacher from a false one?

The bible predicts that these very problems of identification would occur in the "last days or latter times" a phrase that includes the times from the beginning of the church age until the physical return of Christ. The bible predicts the rapid growth of a *counterfeit* church, consisting of a counterfeit doctrine, a counterfeit Christ and a counterfeit Spirit. The existence of this false church will confuse both believers and unbelievers and will create the toxic environment that will lead to a time of unparalleled evil upon the earth. This period will signal the impending return of Christ to the earth to establish his kingdom, which is the historic hope of all Christians.

This blog is the first of three upon the identification of this false church and its contrast to the true church. It will deal with one aspect of this false church: a false spirit that imitates the Holy Spirit.

1 Timothy 4:1 (KJV 1900)

1 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;

There will be a departure from the faith, that is, the historic, biblical Christian theology. This does not mean that there will be a falling away from an organized religion that *calls itself* Christianity. There is and will continue to be for some time a counterfeit spiritual organization

that advertises itself as Christianity. However, this organization will contradict the scriptures in its theology, ecclesiastical associations, worship and ethics. In other words, it will promote false teaching, align itself with other heretical bodies and teachers, sponsor mysticism in the place of worship and practice ethics that are compatible with this fallen world, including greed, sensuality, racial hatred and more.

This verse speaks of the Holy Spirit as contrasted with the spirit which animates the false church, an assembly organized around the doctrines of devils and a seducing spirit. The Holy Spirit is giving a loud warning that the devil has assembled a team that will be difficult to beat. This team consists of an army of false teachers who deliberately distort the bible [1John 4.1] who are energized by a false [seducing] spirit who produces real spiritual power, and proclaim a false gospel [Galatians 1.6-7] which promises salvation through belief in a false, synthetic Christ who contradicts his own Word [Matthew 24.24]. In fact, the Spirit of God is saying that this team will succeed in causing people to depart from the historic and orthodox teachings of the bible and from the way of life that proceeds from such beliefs.

Definition: The Seducing Spirit

The seducing spirit, by his very name given in scripture, violates the law of God in his methods of leading men. Seducing (G4108) as found in 1Tim 4.1 means "imposter, misleader, deceiver, seducing". To understand the character of the seducer let's look at another verse using the same word:

2 John 7 (KJV 1900)

⁷ For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

These are human deceivers, but the idea is the same, someone representing himself as one who is a Christian, but who in fact is opposed to the Gospel. The seducing spirit pretends to be the Spirit of God but is actually an imposter, a demonic spirit who is impersonating the Holy Spirit. He cannot lead via the Word of God so he deceives and seduces men to do what he wants.

In English, *seduction* means the following: 1 : to persuade to disobedience or disloyalty 2: to lead astray usually by persuasion or false promises (Merriam Webster Free Dictionary)

The seducer has as his objective the corruption of another person. Lies are his method, beginning with the impersonation of a trustworthy individual. The seducing spirit promises something that someone wants and uses that promise to get what he wants.

The Purpose of Spiritual Power

The objective of the Christian life is to glorify God by using spiritual power upon oneself to become conformed to Christlikeness. Acts of obedience to scripture by such believers are forms of worship that accomplish the divine agenda. But there is *another agenda* sponsored by the seducing spirit and that is the use of spiritual power to change ones circumstances and to change others.

The seducing spirit promises power over circumstances, emotional uplift, the appearance of spirituality. He promises spiritual maturity without discipleship, like the television commercials that promise weight loss without proper nutrition and exercise.

The spiritual power behind the false church [the seducing spirit] creates actual spiritual power and actual spiritual effects. This power is demonic, but it is indeed real [Ex 7.11; 2Tim 3.8]. However, this spirit uses these means to draw individuals away from the teaching of the bible and away from proper Christian conduct. The most notable operation of these seducing spirits is in the ministries of the many false teachers which populate the pulpits and airwaves today.

1 John 4:1–3 (KJV 1900)

1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. 2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: 3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

John says essentially the same thing as Paul in 1Timothy 4: that there were many false teachers in the world that were empowered by the spirit of Antichrist. He warns that Christians not blindly accept anyone who claims that he is preaching or teaching by the power of the Holy Spirit. This is exactly the opposite of what believers are doing today. Anyone with a nice suit and a choir can claim that he has the Spirit of God and folks will believe him.

Furthermore, the test of the false prophet/ false Spirit team is not merely the proclamation that Jesus lived on the earth. This verse is saying that Jesus the Christ, Jesus the prophesied Messiah, the God/Man [John 1.1, 14], the One who said that every word of the scripture would stand forever [Matthew 5.18], the one who died as a substitute for sins and rose from the dead, the one without whom there is no salvation [Acts 4.10-12]-*the true* Jesus is the one that must be acknowledged.

Finally, this scripture says that the false spirit and the false prophets which it empowers are not scheduled for only a future appearance, but were present at that very moment and continue to this day.

The False Spirit Will Not Obey the Bible

The true Holy Spirit wrote the Word of God, which is why we call it the Holy Bible. The writers of Scripture were holy men who spake by the Spirit of God

2 Peter 1:20–21 (KJV 1900)

20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

This other spirit, the seducing spirit, feels no obligation to the scriptures whatsoever. This helps explain the incomprehensible thinking and behavior of many so-called Christians today. The actions of the seducing spirit require no scriptural justification: the mere fact that he can cause an event or an experience validates him. The person under the influence of the seducing spirit doesn't need a bible, the experience or the power that this spirit provides is reality enough. Whoever is led or influenced by the counterfeit Holy Spirit will reject biblical commands and principles in one second if they conflict with their experience or faulty perceptions that they received from the seducing spirit. The defining characteristic of this false spirit is its rejection of the bible and falsification of biblical principles [1Tim 4.1]. By contrast, the true Spirit, is the Spirit of Truth, as we will see below.

The False Spirit Changes the Meaning of Worship

The true Spirit of God always glorifies Christ, His purpose is not to draw attention to Himself, his job is to reveal and to magnify Jesus Christ.

John 16:13–14 (KJV 1900)

13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. 14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

The seducing spirit, and the one that he controls, draws attention to himself, glorifies himself. The seducing spirit becomes the center of attention, his power is the center of the individual's life, receiving him becomes the measure of spirituality, the abilities he provides are coveted by believers and unbelievers alike.

The *true* Spirit encourages worship based upon the acknowledgement and praise of the merits of Christ. The *seducing* spirit oversees the construction of a system of worship that is based upon creating a spiritual experience based upon false promises and seasoned with emotional appeals. The individual rather than Christ becomes the focus of worship. Even the worship songs are focused on what God has done, is doing, will do, must do- *for me*. What should be worship is

transformed to Christian entertainment.

The False Spirit Changes the Meaning of Faith

The true Spirit encourages faith, with its object the Word of God. The counterfeit spirit produces a reliance false doctrine and spiritual phenomena and then *calls* this faith.

The seducing spirit manufactures a doctrine of faith consisting of emotionally charged thoughts or words directed towards the object or outcome one desires, rather than trust in the character and the promises of God.

Hebrews 11:6 (KJV 1900)

6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

The real Holy Spirit convicts of sin, clarifies the gospel to the soul of the unbeliever, illuminates doctrine to the growing saint, empowers for ministry in the church and the world. The Holy Spirit does not sin therefore He does not authorize or empower sinful methods to advance the Plan of God.

The False Spirit Destroys the Spiritual Immune System

What is the object of the faith exercised by those deceived by this false spirit? The *doctrines of demons* [1Tim 4.1]. Through a demonic systematic theology, the seducing spirit imitating the Holy Spirit creates a version of the church that looks like the real thing, but that produces negative spiritual outcomes. In fact, since the seducing spirit is sent by Lucifer, the church that he creates deliberately produces a negative spiritual chain reaction in the community by reversing the processes of discipleship or spiritual development. Rather than producing disciples advancing in spiritual maturity, the local church becomes a factory that manufactures spiritual losers. In so doing, the seducing spirit neutralizes the church which, instead of being the spiritual immune system that protects the community from the outbreak of uncontrolled sin, is now the mechanism by which the community is destroyed. This is the fundamental, invisible factor in the decline of many American cities and suburbs. The weakening of the church results eventually in the accelerated corruption of the community with its institutions: its marriages, families and government.