

## **The Great Deceiver**

1. We all learn from the Word of God, who the great deceiver is; Satan. He began the moment God created mankind, with his great trick of deception. His first deceiving act, brought sin upon mankind forevermore. We read in Gen. 3:1-13: “Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the Garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the Garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the Garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. 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. And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the Garden in the cool of the day; and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the Garden. And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the Garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. And He said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.” We will recall what God had commanded of Adam in Gen. 2:16-17: “And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the Garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.” We know from the rest of the story, that Adam had told Eve of the warning which he received from God, concerning the eating of the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

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There are a lot of different questions which we can come up with, concerning this situation in the Garden of Eden. First of all, we can see that God had very plainly told Adam, that he should not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil; and warned him that if he done so, he would surely die. Why

then did Adam deliberately eat of the fruit of the tree, which God had just warned him not to even touch? Was he aware, at the time which Eve gave him the fruit, that it had come from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? We want to think that Adam was perhaps gone from Eve at the time in which the serpent deceived her. Surely, if Adam had been there at the time, he would of tried to stop Eve from being tricked by the serpent; after just being warned of God, of the danger in eating of the tree. Did Eve even bother to tell Adam of her encounter with the serpent? Wouldn't you think that if Eve had done so, that Adam would of had wisdom enough to back off, and have no part in the deception? Did Adam have any idea, that the fruit which was being offered unto him by his wife, was other than just an ordinary piece of fruit; from one of the many fruit trees in the Garden? Don't you suppose, that if it was true, that Adam was temporarily gone out of the sight of Eve, that after he had eaten of the forbidden fruit, and realized that he had been deceived by his own wife, that they had one heck of an argument; as to why she had listened to the serpent? I don't think that he just said, "Oh that's ok honey. I know that you did not know any better?" One thing is for sure; trying to hide from God was no solution to the problem. The only real solution to the problem, once Adam knew what had happened; would of been to humble himself before God openly; and admit the wrong which they had done; and ask for his mercy and forgiveness; just as we must always do, concerning any sin which we commit.

**A.** The serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field. Hebrew-*aruw*m (aw-room): cunning, crafty, or sidicious; operating in a clever or unnoticed manner.

**B.** The tree from which Eve ate, and her husband Adam also, was called the tree of the knowledge of good and evil; because before they had eaten from this tree, they did not know anything except good. But after they ate from this tree, the eyes of their minds were opened to the evil which the serpent had deceived them into becoming a part of.

**C.** Satan always twists the truth around, and tells it in a deceptive manner; or adds just enough to the truth, to use it in a way to deceive us, or cause us to fall into sin; just as he did with Eve. First of all, Satan lied to Eve, in telling her that she would not die. As soon as the fruit was ate by Eve and her husband Adam, they began to die spiritually; and the death sentence was passed upon all mankind thereafter. They had committed sin against God; and as we are told in Rom. 6:23: "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." As hard as it is to believe, Satan told the truth, when he told Eve that she would know good and evil, and that God knew that they would be as gods. The eyes of their minds would be

opened to a much broader picture. But the bad thing is, their minds were opened to an evil picture; not a good one. Satan wanted Eve to believe that she and her husband, would actually be as God Himself; having knowledge which no human being has ever had, or ever shall have. Satan is a liar and the father of lies!

Jesus told us in John 8:44: ***“Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.”***

*D. The devil convinced Eve that the tree was good for food; and he made it look pleasant to her eyes, by continuing to lie to her about the benefits of eating thereof. And he also told her that once she ate of the tree, that she would become wise. Hebrew-sakal (saw-kal): intelligent, prosperous, skillful, and to have wisdom. We are told nothing of any discussion between Eve and the serpent; making it sound as though she just took Satan at his word. But would Eve not find it a little strange, that a voice actually came to her ears, through a serpent; an animal; which did not ordinarily have any power of speech? How many times before, had Eve ever seen a talking serpent? Never! Evidently, Eve did not take the time to give any thought to any such questions as this.*

*E. We are told nothing of any resentment on Adam’s part, as far as taking and eating of the fruit from the tree, which God had very plainly told him not to eat from. This is why it is questionable as to whether or not he even knew of Eve’s encounter with the serpent.*

*F. And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. This is when the eyes of the minds of both Adam and Eve were spiritually opened; and they both realized that they had sinned against God; and had been deceived by Satan. There was no wrong in their nakedness, until they committed sin. This is when they began to have a convictive conscience. It became truth, as the devil had told them, that they would know good and evil; but he did not tell them that it would be to their own disadvantage. They knew before that they were naked, but it was their glory; now it was to their shame.*

*G. And they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. They both wanted to cover up their nakedness. These must of been many fig trees in the Garden of Eden, and Adam and Eve twisted or tied the branches together, to make covers for their nakedness.*

*H. And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the Garden in the cool*

of the day. Either God the Father or God the Son appeared in the shape of a man, as He frequently did afterwards; giving a foretaste of his incarnation. Adam and Eve were walking through the Garden of Eden in the cool part of the day; perhaps when there was a gentle breeze blowing; to refresh themselves.

I. Adam and Eve attempted to hide themselves among the trees, from the presence of the Lord God; which is impossible to do, since God has an all-seeing eye. What they should of done, was run to God for mercy; seeking his divine forgiveness for the wrong which they had done. Let us never think that we can hide anything from the Lord God. He knows every thought of our mind, and the deepest desires of our heart.

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J. And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, where art thou? It was not that God did not know where Adam and Eve were hiding, but so that He; being a just God; could give them a chance to tell the truth; and admit to the wrong which they had done.

K. And he said, I heard thy voice in the Garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself. But was it really because they were naked, that fear had come upon them? After all, it was the way that God had created them. So why should they fear because they were naked? Wasn't it really because they knew that they had done wrong? But as yet, they still did not admit to the wrong which they had done.

L. And He said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? God asked Adam how he knew that he was naked. And had he eaten of the tree whereof He had plainly warned him, that if they ate thereof, they would surely die.

M. Adam plainly tried to place all the blame upon Eve; the woman which God had given him as a companion; trying to make it sound like he was tricked by Eve or something, into taking the forbidden fruit; which he may very well of been. Also, Adam tried to make it sound as though it was God's fault, for giving him the woman to start with. There was nothing to keep Adam from resisting the forbidden fruit, if he truly knew that it was from the forbidden tree. This is why I seem to believe that Adam did not know ahead of time, that the fruit was from the forbidden fruit tree. If he did, he was certainly acting like a fool; after being warned of God so clearly, of the results of eating from the forbidden tree. Adam had no excuse. He was supposed to be the strongest vessel. He could of very well of thrown the fruit to the ground, instead of choosing to eat of it; if he truly did know where the fruit had come

from. He had a perfectly free will. We truly do not know, whether or not Adam had former knowledge of the encounter between the serpent and Eve. **N.** And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that thou has done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat. Hebrew-nasha (naw-shaw): to lead astray, seduce, or to deceive. Another way of putting the question which God asked Eve, would be, What is this horrible thing that thou has done? God had every reason to be angry with Eve, for the sin which she had committed. We know for sure, that Adam shared with his wife Eve, the warning which God had given to him. Another thought which we might consider in this tragic story, is that before we ever take part in any wrong of any kind, that we should always consider how it may hurt other people; especially when it comes to a husband and a wife. For as we are told in Gen. 2:24, when a man leaves his father and mother, and cleaves unto his wife; or they become a married couple; they become one flesh in the eyes of God; or as one person. We can see that both Adam and Eve, had to share in the punishment, for the wrong that was done. Let us never forget, that Satan is always right on our trail; looking for any way possible that he may lead us astray from the path that God has placed us on; and deceive us and wreck our lives in any way he possibly can.

2. The greatest weapon which we have against Satan's deceptions, is the Word of God. It is vitally important that we read and know the Word of God; and also that we obey the Word of God. As we are told in Eph. 6:17, the Word of God is our sword against Satan's warriors. When we do not know and obey the Word of God, the door is opened up to Satan's forces, to come in and ruin our life. The Israelites were warned of such, in Deut. 11:13-17, which tells us: "And it shall come to pass, if ye shalt hearken diligently unto my commandments which I command you this day, to love the Lord your God, and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul, That I will give you the rain of your land in his due season, the first rain and the latter rain, that thou mayest gather in thy own, and thy wine, and thine oil. And I will send grass in thy fields for thy cattle, that thou mayest eat and be full. Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them; And then the Lord's wrath be kindled against you, and He shut up the heaven, that there be no rain, and that the land yield not her fruit; and lest ye perish quickly from off the good land which the Lord giveth you."

**A.** If ye shall hearken. Hebrew-shama (shaw-mah): to hear intelligently, and to obey.

**B.** Diligently-Hebrew-shanan (shaw-nan): percisely, or to the point; in a most perfect manner.

*C. Unto my commandments which I command thee this day. God is speaking of his holy Word; or to his perfect law which He had given through Moses.*

*D. To love the Lord your God, and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul. We must love the Lord our God, and always desire to serve Him faithfully, with all our heart and soul. Jesus told us in Matt. 22:37-38: "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment."*

*E. God promised to send the rain upon the land in due season; the first and the latter rain, that all the crops would be gathered in successfully.*

*F. He also promised to send the grass into the fields, that all the cattle may eat abundantly and be full. God meant that it would remain this way, as long as the people obeyed his commandments, and were faithful unto Him.*

*G. Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived. Hebrew-pathah (paw-thaw): enticed, tricked, lied to, led astray, or to be persuaded in the wrong direction. The only way to avoid this, or to be certain that it does not happen to us, is to know the right direction; which we only learn by staying in the Word of God, or his commandments.*

*H. And ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them. There are so many things in the world, that actually become gods unto us, if we get our eyes and hearts upon them; rather than keeping our eyes upon Jesus.*

*Anything which we put before God, becomes a god unto us.*

*Satan will do anything, or bring anything before our eyes, if he has any hope at all, that it will cause us to take our eyes off of the one true God; Jehovah.*

*I. And then the Lord's wrath. Hebrew-aph (af): anger, discouragement, or enragement.*

*J. Be kindled against you. Hebrew-charah (khaw-raw): to blaze up in anger, jealousy, or grief.*

*K. The Lord said that it would cause Him to shut up the heaven, and that there would be no rain, and the fruit would yield no fruit, and that the people would perish quickly from the land which the lord had given them. Hebrew-abad (aw-bad): to be destroyed, or to wonder away from a place, with no hope of escape (from the Lord's wrath).*

*3. When Satan does his dirty work, and we get trapped into his snares, doing what is right will no longer be important to us. After we have fallen into his deception, many times we seem to find no way out; but are deceived into a deeper trap each time. We find this true in the life of Saul. We read in 1 Sam. 28:1-25: "And it came to pass in those days, that the Philistines gathered their armies together for warfare, to fight with Israel. And Achish said unto*

David, Know thou assuredly, that thou shalt go out with me to battle, thou and thy men. And David said to Achish, Surely thou shalt know what thy servant can do. And Achish said to David, Therefore will I make thee keeper of mine head for ever. Now Samuel was dead, and all Israel had lamented him, and buried him in Ramah, even in his own city. And Saul had put away those that had familiar spirits, and the wizards, out of the land. And the Philistines gathered themselves together, and came and pitched in Shunem: and Saul gathered all Israel together, and they pitched in Gilboa. And when Saul saw the host of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart greatly trembled. And when Saul inquired of the Lord, the Lord answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by prophets. Then said Saul unto his servants, Seek me a woman that hath a familiar spirit, that I may go to her, and inquire of her. And his servants said to him, Behold, there is a woman that hath a familiar spirit at Endor. And Saul disguised himself, and put on other raiment, and he went, and two men with him, and they came to the woman by night: and he said, I pray thee, divine unto me by the familiar spirit, and bring me him up, whom I shall name unto thee. And the woman said unto him, Behold, thou knowest what Saul hath done, how he hath cut off those that have familiar spirits, and the wizards, out of the land: wherefore then layest thou a snare for my life, to cause me to die? And Saul sware to her by the Lord, saying, As the Lord liveth, there shall no punishment happen to thee for this thing. Then said the woman, Whom shall I bring up unto thee? And he said, Bring me up Samuel. And when the woman saw Samuel, she cried with a loud voice: and the woman spake to Saul, saying, Why hast thou deceived me? For thou art Saul. And the king said unto her, Be not afraid: for what sawest thou? And the woman said unto Saul, I saw gods ascending out of the earth. And he said unto her, What form is he of? And she said, An old man cometh up, and he is covered with a mantle. And Saul perceived that it was Samuel, and he stooped with his face to the ground, and bowed himself. And Samuel said to Saul, Why hast thou disquieted me, to bring me up?

And Saul answered, I am sore distressed; for the Philistines make war against me, and God is departed from me, and answereth me no more, neither by prophets, nor by dreams; therefore I have called thee, that thou mayest make known unto me what I shall do. Then said Samuel, Wherefore then dost thou ask of me, seeing the Lord is departed from thee, and is become thine enemy? And the Lord hath done to him, as He spake by me; for the Lord hath rent the kingdom out of thine hand, and given it to thy neighbor, even to David: Because thou obeyest not the voice of the Lord, nor executedst his fierce wrath upon Amalek, therefore hath the Lord done this thing unto thee this day. Moreover the Lord will also deliver Israel with thee

*into the hand of the Philistines: and to morrow shalt thou and thy sons be with me: the Lord also shall deliver the host of Israel into the hand of the Philistines. Then Saul fell straightway all along on the earth, and was sore afraid, because of the words of Samuel: and there was no strength in him; for he had eaten no bread all the day, nor all the night. And the woman came unto Saul, and saw that he was sore troubled, and said unto him, Behold, thine handmaid hath obeyed thy voice, and I have put my life in my hand, and have hearkened unto thy words which thou spakest unto me. Now therefore, I pray thee, hearken thou also unto the voice of thine handmaid, and let me set a morsel of bread before thee; and ear, that thou mayest have strength, when thou goest on thy way. But he refused, and said, I will not eat. But his servants, together with the woman, compelled him; and he hearkened unto their voice. So he arose from the earth, and sat upon the bed. And the woman had a fat calf in the house; and she hasted, and killed it, and took flour, and kneaded it, and did bake unleavened bread thereof: And she brought it before Saul, and before his servants; and they did eat. Then they rose up, and went away that night.”*

*A. Saul had previously been a good man, and a good leader. But he had turned to sin, and became jealous of David; who was chosen of God; and had made several attempts to take David’s life. But the Lord had helped David to escape every evil attempt of Saul, for God had plans for David’s life. And also, David had allowed Saul to escape from his hands more times than once, because David was a man of love.*

*B. As we are told in verse 3, of this 28th. chapter of 1 Samuel, Saul had put those that had familiar spirits, and wizards, out of the land.*

*a. Familiar spirits. This is speaking of evil spirits; demons or angels which are sent out by Satan.*

*b. Wizards-Hebrew-yiddeoniy (yid-deh-o-nee): one with knowledge (which is received at the hands of the devil), a male witch, or a sorcerer.*

*C. When Saul saw the host of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart greatly trembled. The reason for Saul’s fear and trembling, was because he knew that his heart was not right with God, and that the Spirit of God had departed from him. Without a doubt, Satan had probably told Saul that everything was going to be fine, and that he had nothing to fear. But now after being deceived, Saul was between a rock and a hard place. Satan had not only lied to Saul, but he had also left him completely on his own.*

*But Satan was not through yet. As we will see, this was just the beginning of Satan’s deception. Satan is such a liar. He will lead us right out into the middle of the battlefield; making us to believe all the time that all is safe and*

secure; and then take off running and hide; leaving us completely deserted.

*D. We also read of how Saul called upon the Lord, but the Lord did not answer him. The reason why God did not answer Saul, was because Saul had chosen to walk in the way of sin; rather than being obedient unto God, and following the leadership of God's Holy Spirit. We need not choose to walk in every sinful pathway that we come upon, and then expect God to run and bail us out every time we get into trouble; for God's system does not work that way.*

*E. When Saul saw that he could no longer get any help from God, he once again resorted to evil patterns. He had his servants find him a woman who had a familiar spirit; one to whom he could turn for advice. So they found him such a woman in Endor; which was to the far north of Jerusalem, and west of the Jordan River. Rather than humble himself before God, and ask for his forgiveness, Saul chose to go back into deeper sin, and allow Satan to do nothing less than deceive him completely.*

*F. Saul disguised himself, and took two other men with him, and went to the woman by night, with the intention of having her to raise up the spirit of Samuel. But the woman thought that all Saul wanted to do, was to deceive her, and cause her to lose her life; even though she had no idea that it was king Saul with whom she spoke. She knew of how Saul had previously cut off all the ones with familiar spirits, and the wizards from the land. She thought it was only a trap. But Saul swore to her that no punishment would come to her for her evil work.*

*G. Once Saul told the woman that it was the spirit of Samuel, which he desired for her to bring up; and believing that she had truly done so; she realized that it was Saul with whom she spoke, and asked him why he had deceived her. But the fact is, it was not really the spirit of Samuel, whom the woman had called forth; but an evil, deceiving spirit; pretending to be Samuel. For as we read in verse 3 of this chapter 28 of 1 Samuel, Samuel was truly dead, had been lamented by all Israel, and buried in Ramah. And the only one who has the power to bring back the spirits of those who are dead, is God Himself. You see, Satan is such a deceiver, that he will deceive those who are his own true followers, as this woman was in this story. Satan deceived her into believing that she had truly raised up the spirit of Samuel; and then filled her full of fear, which he loves to do to people. And Saul was also so deceived by Satan, that he truly believed that he was talking with Samuel; when it was nothing more than a demonic spirit.*

*H. The woman described to Saul, the gods which she saw ascending out of the earth; and Saul believed it to be the spirit of Samuel; and he humbled himself, and bowed to the ground.*

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*I. When the evil, lying spirit, which Saul perceived to be Samuel, asked Saul his reason for calling him up, Saul told Samuel (he thought) about the facing of the Philistine army; and how he was so distressed; and he wanted Samuel's advice as to what he should do.*

*J. Satan is such a perfect deceiver. He went through the exact steps with Saul; as he pretended to be Samuel; of how God had taken the kingdom out of the hand of Saul, and turned it over to David; because of Saul's failure to obey God's orders, in executing wrath against Amalek. Even though every bit of this was true, it was certainly not Samuel who was talking with Saul; but only an evil, lying spirit. But Satan's means of deceiving people, is so perfectly matched with the truth, that it is often very hard to discern what is truly of God, and what is not; especially when one is not walking with God, and serving Him faithfully, as we are all commanded to do. Saul had desperately failed in his walk with God; and that is why he was so easily deceived by the evil spirits. They told Saul that he and his sons would die just as Samuel had done; and that Israel would be captured by the Philistine army.*

*K. After hearing all this from whom Saul thought to be Samuel, Saul was completely powerless; for he had not eaten anything the whole day, nor during the night.*

*L. Once the deceiving spirit was gone, the evil woman came and tried to persuade Saul to eat; but succeeded only with the help of Saul's servants. So the woman fixed bread and meat for them to eat; and after they had eaten, they rose up and went away. Satan had Saul tore to pieces, by the use of his lying, deceiving spirits; which he loves to do to every person he possibly can.*

**4. One of Satan's main ways of deceiving people, in our day in time, is by giving them great riches; and by causing them to set their eyes upon worldly riches, money, and other such things; and causing them to take their eyes off of the Lord. We read in Matt. 13:22: "He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the Word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the Word, and he becometh unfruitful."** **5. We are also warned by Jesus, to be very careful in these last days, that we be not deceived by any man. We read in Matt. 24:3-5: "And as He sat upon the Mount of Olives, the disciples came unto Him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many."** Greek-blepo (blep-o): to look with caution, beware, to perceive (cautiously), or to regard.

6. One of Satan's main ways of deception, is by using false prophets and teachers. They are all around us. Therefore, we must continuously walk cautiously; alert at all times, that we do not fall for Satan's traps. We read in Matt. 24:11: **"And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many."** This is why it is so very important that a Christian stay in the Word of God everyday.

Then we will be able to recognize Satan's deceptions and traps, when he lays them before us.

7. Jesus also told us in Matt. 24:24, that there would be false christs and false prophets arise in the last days; and they would be able to show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they would deceive the very elect. Greek-eklektos (ek-lek-tos): the favorites, or the chosen ones of God.

8. We are also warned to avoid those who love to cause divisions. We read in Romans 16:17-18: "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words, and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple." Greek-akakos (ak-ak-os): the good, innocent, or harmless.

9. We are to grow up spiritually; that we recognize Satan's deceptive devices. We read in Eph. 4:11-16: "And he gave some, apostles, and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive: But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into Him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual; working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love." We all should pray and recognize our position in the body of Christ; that we all do our part, in bringing the body of Christ to perfection, and in edifying the body. We should continue until the body comes into unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God; until we all become as a perfect man, and reach full stature of the fullness of Christ. This is so very important, so that we all walk not as children, but as adults in Christ Jesus; so that we do not allow Satan to toss us back and forth in our faith; throwing every wind of false doctrine at us he possibly can; by the sleight of men, and

*cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive us. But we must always speak the truth in love, and grow up in Christ, who is the head of the church. That we every one do our part, that the church may be edified in love.*

*A. We are to no longer be as children, tossed to and fro by every wind of false doctrine; which Satan is an expert at producing.*

*B. Sleight of men. Greek-kubeia (koo-bi-ah): gambling, or fraud.*

*C. Cunning craftiness-Greek-panourgia (pan-oorg-ee-ah): trickery, or subtility.*

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*D. Whereby they lie in wait to deceive. Satan and his evil angels are continuously lying just at a distance; watching for any opportunity they can get, to deceive the people of God.*

*E. But speaking the truth in love. God's children must always speak truth, and do so in the love of God. Many times we are faced in situations, to where the truth of matters, may not be the most pleasant thing to speak. But yet, we must speak the truth, even when it hurts; and do so in the love of God.*

*F. May grow up into Him in all things, which is the head, even Christ. A Christian's desire should always be to grow up in our walk with Jesus Christ, in every area of our life. We should always desire to be more like Him, and to walk under his influence, in every direction which we may go while on this earth.*

*G. We all have our part in the body of Christ; our duties which we must fulfill in helping to accomplish the perfect will of God upon the earth. The mission of God will be completely accomplished, as we work together on the earth. But let us never forget, that Satan's greatest desire is to deceive us, and hinder us from accomplishing what God has put us here to accomplish. So let us always be alert, for the tricks and snares of Satan and his evil forces; for they are hid all around us.*

*10. We are warned in God's Word, that as the end times approach, Satan will be working harder and harder, to deceive the people of God, in any way he possibly can. And one of the main sources of Satan's deception, is by putting lies and vain thoughts into the minds and hearts of lost people; to use as his instruments of deception. We are told in Eph. 5:6: "Let no man deceive you with vain words, for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience." So many people bring themselves under the wrath of God Almighty, by listening to the lies of the devil which he speaks through so many different people. We are also told in 2 Thes. 2:3-5: "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, showing himself that he is God. Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?" Satan will cause such a great falling away, which we can see going on right now during the day in which we live. He is doing everything that he can do, even to the point of deceiving people into believing that he is actually God; working miracles and performing false acts of supernatural power; just as though he is the one in control; which is very far from ever being the truth.

11. The time is coming, when Satan's deceptive acts and tricks, will be over forevermore. He has but a short time left; and that is why he is working harder than ever before, to deceive people in every way he possibly can. We read of what his final fate is going to be, in the book of Revelation. We read first of all, of his capture and confinement for one-thousand years. Rev. 20:1-3 tells us: "And I saw an angel come down from Heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years. And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season." And then we read of how Satan will be loosed for a short time, after the thousand year confinement. He then will go out to deceive the nations once again; Rev. 20:7-10: "And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison. And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of Heaven, and devoured them. And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever." Satan's followers will be devoured by fire from Heaven for ever and ever, and Satan will be pitched into the lake of fire eternally. His deception will be over forevermore.

### **Conclusion:**

Satan has always, since he and his following angels were cast out of Heaven, been nothing but a deceiver and a liar; doing so in every way he possibly can. We must always walk close to God, reading his Word and praying to Him daily. We have, as Christians, been given all power and authority over Satan, and

*over all of his entire kingdom, through the name of Jesus Christ. Let us not ever think of Satan as anything except a liar and a deceiver; out to destroy the lives of everyone he possibly can. We are told in John 10:10, that he is a thief; and that he has come to steal, to kill, and to destroy.*

*Calvin Smith*