

Deceptive Signs and Wonders

Countless supernatural phenomena are being reported -- weeping statues of Mary, bleeding Hosts, cloud formation resembling Jesus' face, miraculous healing water, along with hundreds of apparitions and messages from heaven. If ever there was a time when we should exercise spiritual discernment, it is now!

Satan – the enemy of God and the enemy of our soul – is the father of lies and the great deceiver. He counterfeits God's revelation, deceiving multitudes by false religions and philosophies ranging from extreme religiosity and asceticism to crass immorality and witchcraft. False religion, having the appearance of godliness, is all the more dangerous.

Satan's ministers present themselves as apostles of Christ. Satan himself does not appear as the wicked and hideous dragon that he really is, but "transforms himself into an angel of light," as the Bible warns us in 2 Corinthians 11:14 -- an angel of light, that is, a messenger of God. Satan appears in the image of Mary or even as Jesus Christ.

Moreover, Satan is able to show signs and wonders, and many people are led astray. "For false Christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect" (Matthew 24:24). It is fearful to think how many people today are bewitched by anything supernatural and open themselves to all sorts of deceptions.

What then is our protection against our enemy's trickery? Our only defense is a complete trust in God and His holy Word. People are deceived and perish because "they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved" (2 Thessalonians 2:10). We have God's infallible Word, the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make us wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. We do not need new revelations. We dare not nullify God's pure Word by the admixture with Satan's lies and errors.

God had warned His people of old, the Israelites: "If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods'—which you have not known—and let us serve them,' you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the LORD your God is testing you to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice; you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him" (Deuteronomy 13:1-4).

Should God's people accept a doctrine or a religious practice if it is confirmed by signs and wonders? No, not if the new teaching is contrary to what God had already revealed. Indeed God allows Satan to propagate false doctrines and perform signs and wonders to test whether or not we would remain faithful to His Word.

We shall stand firm on the blessed Gospel of grace by which we are saved through faith in Christ Jesus alone. We shall not be moved an inch even if it rains miracles and wonders from heaven every day. We shall earnestly contend for the Faith once for all given to the saints. God will have no mercy on us if we do otherwise.