

MARK JENKINS MINISTRIES

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On Guard Against The Flood Of Deception

Dear Friend,

Recently at the Prayer and Power Conference, hosted by The Prayer Center in Tulsa, Oklahoma, a very distinct warning resonated throughout the messages regarding deception; its current existence in the church world and its continued increase in the days ahead. So, for this month's teaching let's discuss deception and discover what we can do to safeguard our family, our church and ourselves. Due to the illusiveness of deception, when a person is deceived, even one degree off, they don't realize they are deceived. Therefore, there may already be areas in which we are currently deceived and are not aware. Stop for a moment and consider all the wrong doctrines prevalent in churches today. Each one of them is rooted in some form of deception. Isn't it possible that one of those wrong ideas is still floating around inside of us? Unfortunately, yes.

Deception begins the moment mental interpretation of the scriptures replaces true revelation from the Holy Ghost, which is why it is so vitally important we refuse to settle for anything less than true revelation. Of course, the main area the enemy wants to cultivate deception is the area of doctrine. The devil desperately wants believers to accept false doctrine in place of truth because there is no power in anything but truth. Therefore, we must be on guard and quickly able to differentiate between truth and false doctrine. One rule to remember is that true revelation will never contradict the other established revelations in the scriptures. In other words, the Word of God will not contradict itself. Consequently, if something is believed to be a revelation, then it can't contradict other established revelations and be truth. Therefore, if a person believes they have received a great revelation about how Mary wasn't a virgin then you can feel free to use the paper it's written on to line the bottom of your bird cage because that is not truth. The goal of this letter is to inform you of what's to come and introduce you to some tools you can use to guard against the onslaught of deception.

We should be confident enough in our walk with Jesus to freely question what we hear from others or even what we believe we are seeing in the scriptures

ourselves. It is naïve to think that everything being presented as truth is, in fact, truth. Simply because a person seems sincere doesn't mean everything they are saying is truth. Their intention probably isn't to deceive you, but if what they are saying isn't truth then it is error. So, if you hear me or any other minister say something which sends red flags up the pole inside of you, then take the time to test it and see if it is really truth or not. Be aware, those red flags could also be alerting you to your own wrong believing. It could be that what you are hearing is truth and it is colliding with some long held beliefs of yours which are not truth. If that's the case then you also need to be willing to test your long held beliefs against the truth and turn loose of any error you might be holding onto. Don't let pride rob you of walking in truth. If you have a lifestyle of praying in tongues, then those red flags are waving because you have received an inoculation from the Holy Ghost against deception. At times you might experience nothing more than an uneasy feeling that you just can't shake. No matter what it is, don't just ignore the warning signs coming out of your reborn human spirit. Praying in tongues and meditating the Word has equipped you, inoculated you, to be able to detect truth from error so don't be surprised when you experience this benefit. In fact, it should be expected if you're praying in tongues.

Once those warning signs begin to go off what you should do is ask the Holy Ghost if what you are hearing is truth or not. He might give you a simple "yes" or "no" answer. I have found that, if at that moment I don't hear a specific answer, then in the weeks that follow the Holy Ghost may lead me to scriptures that either confirm or disprove the supposed revelation. If it's proven to be truth then we must hold on to it with both hands, but if He shows us it's false then we must not hesitate to turn loose of it and pray for the one from whom it came that their eyes would be open to the truth.

What about those times that we ask the Holy Ghost and hear nothing specific, yet inside there's still a "knowing" that something isn't quite right, what can we do then? One tool we can utilize is to look at **patterns** in the scriptures and see how what we heard compares to other established **patterns** for how God has operated in the scriptures. God never changes and because of that we can see **patterns** revealing how God accomplishes His will in the earth through man. What you will discover is that the Bible really does fit together like the pieces of a puzzle and when one piece doesn't seem to fit with the rest, then we have a duty to test it and see if it is truth or error.

As we study more along the lines of **patterns** in the scriptures, one thing we see about God is that He is a "faith" God. (Hebrews 11:6)

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him (God): for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.”

Faith is the prerequisite necessary before the plan of God can be accomplished in the earth, but it must be accompanied by the essential ingredient of obedience to God’s word. An example of this can be seen in this instruction given to us by Jesus. (Mark 18:18)

“...they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.”

Someone must first believe these Words and then act on these Words for them to come to pass. Faith and obedience to the instructions will produce results every time. **God needs: the obedient actions of a man on the earth, empowered by faith from believing His Word, to cause supernatural results to be accomplished in this natural world.**

Here’s a good question, “Why doesn’t God just do whatever He wants to do and leave us out of it?” The answer rests squarely on the fact that God cannot lie nor can He change. When God invested His authority over this earth into the hands of His son Adam He did so with no intention of ever relieving man of this responsibility. Whatever was to be done on this earth would always need to use the authority of a man. One example of what I mean is the birth of Jesus into the earth. God didn’t just decide one day it was time to send Jesus into the earth to save mankind. If that were the case, God should have done that the day after Adam fell and then there wouldn’t be multitudes burning in hell forever. First there had to be a man in this natural world willing to obey God in an act of faith giving God the authority to reciprocate in the spirit. Abraham was that man. Abraham’s faith and obedience to God’s Word resulted in the birth of a miracle child named Isaac, but that was only part of God’s plan. God needed someone to have faith in His Word and obey His instructions so that God could later use that man’s same faith and obedience to accomplish a supernatural reaction; the virgin birth of Jesus. Since God lives where there is no time or distance, holding Abraham’s faith in reserve was possible. Abraham’s faith for a miracle son made it possible for God to ask Mary to believe that she, being a virgin, would bare His Son. We are beginning to see a **pattern** for how God works through us in order to execute His plan in the earth. **First faith and obedience to God’s Word in this natural world makes it possible for God to accomplish supernatural results.**

Another example of this **pattern** is again seen in the life of Abraham. Watch how God followed the same steps by first asking a man to obey His instructions,

which required him to believe God's Word, causing faith to be released. We will see how God used Abraham's faith and obedience to orchestrate the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. **Couldn't God have sent Jesus to the cross without first having someone's faith to raise Jesus?** No! Abraham's faith and obedience to God's Word in this world was essential in order for God to perform the supernatural work necessary in the spirit. There is a legal order to things because of the authority God originally gave to Adam, which must be followed. Man is the one, male or female, who must exercise faith in this natural world in obedience to God's instructions so that God's plan can work in the spirit culminating in a natural outcome. What won't work is for someone to start asking God for things that are completely outside His will and expect them to come to pass, like maybe asking to have a neighbor's wife. That won't work. Obedience to His Word is a key element in this "faith" transaction.

God needed a man to release faith in the earth, in obedience to His Word, so that God could raise His son from the dead. That's what is happening in the following verse. (Genesis 22:2)

"And He (God) said, 'Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah: and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.' "

God told Abraham to offer his miracle son up as a burnt offering. A person might wonder if God wanted Abraham to have a son or not? The truth is, **God needed a man to obey His request by faith to offer up his son believing that God would raise him from the dead. In turn, God could use this man's faith to later raise His Son, Jesus, from the dead.** God needed a man's faith in the earth. "Oh no, Brother Mark, God can do anything with or without my faith". Can He? Can God make a person accept Jesus? No He can't. God is limited to our faith and obedience to His Word. Once Abraham made the decision in his heart to obey God the faith was present in the earth for God to raise Jesus from the dead. (Genesis 22:12)

"...Lay not thine hand upon thy lad, neither do thou anything unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son."

Abraham's act of faith in obedience to God's Word believing that God would raise Isaac from the dead gave God the natural event and a man's faith to draw from in order to achieve a supernatural result. Here's the proof showing how God used Abraham's faith. (John 8:56)

“Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day: and he saw it, and was glad.”

When Jesus said this, Abraham had been dead for hundreds of years, so God must have opened his eyes to show him that his act of faith in obedience to God’s Word would make the day Jesus died and was raised from the dead possible. Abraham’s obedience and faith in the natural opened the door to the supernatural. This **pattern** is just one tool at our disposal to help us confirm what is and isn’t truth.

Now, let’s take this **pattern** and apply it to a scriptural question and see if it can help us come to any conclusions. Here’s the question: **When were the first people born again?** This isn’t so much a matter of anyone intentionally trying to deceive, but rather a matter of relying on mental intellect instead of revelation to answer a spiritual question, which is a slippery slope. Let’s see if our **pattern** can help us.

It would have certainly been easier had the Bible identified exactly when the first people were born again. But, there is not scripture or verse that makes such a clear-cut statement. Thank God we have the advantage of using this **pattern** to help answer our question. **Patterns**, as I am describing, should never take the place of the Holy Ghost revealing truth to our spirit. They should only be aides to help us differentiate between true revelation and mental understanding. With that in mind, here’s the verse that is often singled out as the one describing when the first people were born again. (John 20:22)

“And when He (Jesus) had said this, He breathed on them, and saith unto them, ‘Receive you the Holy Ghost.’ ”

Because Jesus was now in His glorified body, having been raised from the dead, when Jesus spoke He spoke as God. Without His natural earthly body, Jesus needed to obtain faith from a legal resident in order to accomplish the outpouring of the Holy Ghost. What Jesus needed from these men was their faith and obedience to His instructions for the faith necessary to later send the Holy Ghost into the earth and the new birth to be possible. Jesus stood in front of His disciples, breathed on them and told them to **“receive the Holy Ghost”**. How could these people be born again before the Day of Pentecost, when the Holy Ghost was poured out? The “promise” they were to wait for was not just the infilling of the Holy Ghost it was both the new birth and the infilling of the Holy Ghost. Religious thinking has caused us to isolate these into two separate events, when all the time God intended this to be one complete action, born again and instantaneously baptized in the Holy Ghost, which is the picture Jesus was showing us. The focus of attention seems to only be on Jesus breathing on

the disciples because the word, “breathed”, is the same word used when God “breathed” into Adam and he was made a living soul. With the same word being used in both places our minds might tend to conclude that these men were the first to be born again. Mental conclusions and revelation knowledge are not the same thing.

If we believe that these men were born again because Jesus breathed on them and said, “Receive you the Holy Ghost”, what about Thomas? Thomas wasn’t in the room when Jesus breathed on the others and nothing was ever mentioned about him being breathed on. Was poor old Thomas just out of luck? No, Thomas was not out of luck because he, like the rest, would be born again and baptized in the Holy Ghost in the upper room the instant the Day of Pentecost had fully come. We will see later how the Feast of Pentecost also helps us answer this question.

Keep in mind our **pattern**. Faith by a man on the earth, or in this case men, needed to be released based on the Word of God spoken to them by Jesus. God would later use **that faith** to accomplish the supernatural work in the spirit; the fulfillment of the “promise”. How else could the outpouring of the Holy Ghost have taken place ushering in the new birth without first the faith of a man? God **had to** use their faith in order to pour out the Holy Ghost and breathe life into their spiritually dead human spirits, resulting in them being born again and baptized in the Holy Ghost. What these men received the moment Jesus breathed on them was nothing more than what any Old Testament saint received when the Holy Ghost would come upon them to accomplish a specific task. In this case the task they were empowered for was to wait to receive the outpouring; the fulfillment of the “promise”.

Did these men know all that their faith was going to accomplish? Of course they didn’t. They were just doing what they were told which fits perfectly into our **pattern**. When God first asked Abraham to offer his son he had no idea his faith would later be used by God to raise Jesus from the dead. How could he? And yet we know that that’s exactly what God did.

Referring back to Jesus breathing on the disciples, if that action caused them to be born again, then isn’t that a precedent set by Jesus and shouldn’t He have had to remain on earth and continue to breathe on every person until all were born again?

Their faith wasn’t all that was necessary. There was also the necessary **act of obedience** to go and wait for the “promise”. The act of breathing on the disciples did not relieve them of the necessity for a corresponding act of obedience. God

gave them a choice whether or not to obey Him and wait in Jerusalem for the “promise”. Again, God never intended the new birth and being baptized in the Holy Ghost to be two independent events. Maybe this will help you better understand. Jesus could have just as easily said to these men, “I’m **not** going to be able to stay here with you so before I go I need you, as a legal citizens on earth, to believe My Words telling you to receive the Holy Ghost. Get ready and, Receive the Holy Ghost! Thank you, now I have your faith and I will use your faith after you obey me and remain in Jerusalem to later pour out the Holy Ghost in you and you will be born again AND baptized in the Holy Ghost.” I hope that helps you to understand what is happening here. So, just like Abraham’s faith was held for two thousand years until God acted on it to raise Jesus from the dead, the disciples’ faith was held until the day of Pentecost. The disciples provided the faith, but there was still the necessity of obeying His Word and waiting in Jerusalem for the “promise” in order to complete the transaction. What if not one single person bothered to obey His instruction to go and wait for the “promise”, could the Holy Ghost have been poured out? How? Their act of obedience enabled the spiritual reaction to take place and all those who patiently waited were instantly born again and baptized in the Holy Ghost.

“Mark, why is this important?” It’s important because the truth is important. It’s important because it is too easy to accept mentally conceived ideas in place of the truth and before long what you end up with is another powerless, man-made doctrine. Don’t think that the people who preach that tongues are of the devil are doing so because they chose to be deceived. They were deceived because somewhere along the line they accepted mental understanding over true revelation. **When a person believes something to be the truth that is error then it becomes very difficult for them to receive truth.** Once the Holy Ghost reveals truth to you, don’t be afraid to ask Him to confirm that truth. I have found that the Holy Ghost isn’t the least bit touchy when I approach Him with a question about what He has shown me. When the Holy Ghost began to reveal the truth to me about this question, I actually began to doubt whether or not I was really hearing the Holy Ghost. This didn’t upset Him. He simply began to point out more evidence to confirm the truth. We shouldn’t settle for just one single verse. We should ask the Holy Ghost for more proof. Once I did, He used a **type and shadow, another tool**, to confirm what He had shown me. The **type and shadow** was the Feast of Pentecost. (Acts 2:1)

“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come...”

I thought to myself, “Yes, the Feast of Pentecost was taking place.” Keep in mind; the Feast of Pentecost had several names. It was also called the Feast of Weeks, as well as, the Feast of First Fruits because it was the celebration of the

harvest of the first of the summer wheat. What significance might a celebration of the “First Fruit” have with being born again? Could it be that the “First Fruit” being celebrated in the natural was actually the **type and shadow** of the “First Fruit” of the Holy Ghost being poured out and the first born again experience taking place? With that in mind, I looked up the Feast of Pentecost and discovered it took place 7 weeks from the second day of Passover, 50 days from the crucifixion of Jesus. This was the picture of the “Seed” going into the ground and dying. Unbeknownst to those waiting in the upper room, the harvest of that “Seed” was soon to take place. If the Passover celebration pointed to the real Passover Lamb, Jesus, then the celebration of the “First Fruits” pointed to the real “First Fruits” of those who were being born again and baptized in the Holy Ghost in the upper room. **The conclusion is that the type and shadow also points to the first new birth taking place in the upper room.** Thank God for leaving us all these tools to help us confirm the truth of His Word. All these things were necessary in order for God to use these men’s faith to accomplish the supernatural in this natural world.

In closing, the message that I hope every person reading grabs hold of is this, we do not have to be deceived by the deluge of false messages that are about to flood the earth. Praying in tongues is truly our inoculation against deception. We must read the Word over and over while praying in tongues and allow the Holy Ghost to become the Teacher of our new nature. What we will discover is that truth will begin to be revealed in ways that will astound us. It is so exciting to receive truth and know that the Holy Ghost has become our Teacher. Furthermore, don’t hesitate to test what you hear, no matter the source. In the midst of this flood of false doctrine we cannot be so naïve as to think that everything we hear will be truth. Ask the Holy Ghost if what you are hearing is truth and be willing to test what you hear or believe with such tools as **patterns** and **types and shadows**. See if what is believed to be truth is really truth. You have the Teacher Himself living inside you, if you are baptized in the Holy Ghost. If not, receive Him right where you are and be filled with the Holy Ghost. In the days ahead, it will be essential to have the Holy Ghost leading you through the minefields of deception.

~ Grace be with you

Mark Jenkins