

The Light - Junior Series
Lesson 84

God's Truth
vs
Satan's Counterfeits



John 14:6 "I am the Way the Truth and the Life..."

2015

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

If YOU have never personally believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, you have the opportunity to do so right NOW. Simply tell God the Father that you believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, who loved us so much that He came down from heaven and became a man to take our place and pay for the penalty for all the sins of all mankind. Jesus, the Savior died on the Cross for your sins and the sins of the whole world. Then Jesus was buried but He rose again and He is alive today seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven. When you make the decision to believe in Jesus in simple faith based on His work on the Cross, you are now a believer and will always be a child of God. When you die, you will spend eternity with Him in Heaven. ***(Acts 16:31) "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved." (John 3:16) "God loved the world so much that He gave is One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."***



LESSON



God, the Father is perfect and His plan is perfect for the world and for each believer. It's a wonderful, glorious, and generous plan. It has a solution for every possible situation anyone can experience. His goal is to seek and save all mankind and He did this through His Son, Jesus Christ...our wonderful Savior.

So if anyone were going to try to stop God, what do you think his goal would be to stop a PERFECT GOD with a PERFECT PLAN? It would have to be really genius, right? Yes, of course. Well

Satan is a genius and Satan's goal is to appear to be as much like God as possible. Pretty smart, right? Yes, BUT God is way smarter than Satan and it's interesting to see how God frustrates Satan in every way. Satan wants to be "king of the hill". He wants to seize God's position. Listen to what he wants to do in ***Isa 14:13-14***. "You (Satan) said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars (angels) of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, in the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. (14) I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.'" He wants to overthrow God and take His place!!!! NO WAY!!!



So Satan is the original master counterfeiter. What is a counterfeit? A counterfeit is an imitation of the genuine with the intent to defraud. In other words a counterfeit is false and it's a lie with the intent on masking or hiding the Truth and deceiving unbelievers and believers, too!

Do you see it? We want to recognize the genuine...TRUTH! It's bad enough that we have our own sinfulness to deal with and we don't see clearly. But on top of that, there is a whole crew out there...the kingdom of darkness... who is hard at work pumping out counterfeits to trick us up! They are actively trying to deceive us and defraud us of our prize... the blessings and privileges God has given us. And in our human nature, we are overmatched in trying to make out what is from God and what is from the kingdom of darkness. ***2 Cor 2:10-11*** "But one whom you forgive anything, I forgive also; for indeed what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, I did it for your sakes in the presence of Christ, (11) so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes."

However, we believers have GOD who far out matches Satan on EVERY level. But you have to know the difference!!!! You have to know the Word of God to tell the difference. You have to study. God will teach you His Word through the Holy Spirit.

Satan's secret weapons are counterfeits...lies...falsehoods! And the best counterfeit is one which is as close to the original as possible! How can we



tell the difference? We must know the REAL THING in order to spot the counterfeits and Satan has counterfeits...lots of them to try to deceive us.

Let's look at and compare them to God's TRUTH:

God's Truth is perfect and goes hand and hand with love for God and fellow believers:

John 8:32 "Know the truth and the truth will set you free."

John 17:17 "Sanctify them (set them apart) by the truth; your word is truth."

1 Cor 13:6 "Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth."

Eph 4:15 "Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ."

Col 1:5 "...the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel..."

Eph 4:21 "Surely you heard of Him and were taught in Him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus.

1 Tim 2:4 "...who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth."

Titus 1:1 "Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ for the faith of God's elect and the knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness..."

1 Pet 1:22 "Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart."

1 John 2:21 "I do not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it and because no lie comes from the truth."

1 John 3:18 "Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth."

2 John 1:3 "Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father's Son, will be with us in truth and love."

3John 1:4 "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth."

Satan's counterfeit to the truth in 1 Tim 4:1. "The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and doctrines taught by demons."

God's teachers and pastors are called by Him to bring the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus and to teach believers His Truth

1 Cor 12:28a "And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers..."

Eph 4:11 "It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers..."

Satan's Counterfeit teachers in 2 Cor 11:13-15 "For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. (14) And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. (15) It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve."

2 Pet 2:1 "But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them...bringing swift destruction on themselves."

God's True Gospel

Acts 4:12 "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

Joh 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (17) For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. (18) Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son."

Joh 3:36 "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."

1 Pet 2:24 "He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed."

2 Cor 5:21 "God made Him (Jesus) who never sinned to become sin for us (on the Cross), so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God (perfect in God eyes so we can enter heaven)."

John 1:12 "Yet to all who received Him (Jesus), to those who believed in His name, He (God the Father) gave the right to become children of God..."

Counterfeit Gospel in 2 Cor 11:3-4. "For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough."

God's Communion Table

1 Cor 11:24-25 "...and when He had given thanks (to the Father), He broke the bread and said, 'This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.' (25) In the same way, after supper He took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.'"

Counterfeit communion table in 2 Cor 10:20-21. "No, but the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons. (21) You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons."

God's spirituality

Eph 1:3 "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ."

1 Pet 2:5 "...you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

Counterfeit spirituality in Gal 3:2-3. "I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard? (3) Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?"

God's Righteousness

2 Cor 5:21 "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

Counterfeit righteousness in Matt 19:16-28. "Now a man came up to Jesus and asked, 'Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?' (17) 'Why do you ask me about what is good?' Jesus replied. 'There is only One (Jesus) who is good. If you want to enter life, obey the commandments.' (18) 'Which ones?' the man inquired. Jesus replied, 'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, (19) honor your father and mother, and love your neighbor as yourself.' (20) 'All these I have kept,' the young man said. 'What do I still lack?' (21) Jesus answered, 'If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.' (22) When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth. (23) Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'I tell you the truth, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven.' (24) 'Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.' (25) When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, 'Who then can be saved?' (26) Jesus looked at them and said, 'With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.' (27) Peter answered him, 'We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?' (28) Jesus said to them, 'I tell you the truth, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.'"



God's Power

Rom 15:19 "...by the power of signs and miracles, through the power of the Spirit. So from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum, I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ."

Counterfeit power in 2 Thess 2:8-10. "And then the lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming. (9) The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit

miracles, signs and wonders, (10) and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved."

The Only True God

1John 5:20 "We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in Him who is true—even in His Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life."

Counterfeit gods in 2 Thess 2:3-4. "Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed (the anti-Christ of the Tribulation); the man doomed to destruction. (4) He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God." Satan has always wanted to overthrow God and replace God with himself. This started when Satan sinned and was judged by God. Satan had terrible arrogance or pride and thought himself to be better than God because where there is arrogance or pride; it blinds the one with the pride. It blinds them to be able to see the Truth. This happened to Satan...BIG TIME...and that's why he is always trying to take over God's position in heaven.

True Pastors and Teachers from God

2 Tim 2:2 "...and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."

1 Tim 2:7 "And for this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle...I am telling the truth, I am not lying...and a teacher of the true faith to the Gentiles."

Counterfeit teachers



The following passages in the Bible tell us that there will be FALSE or counterfeit teachers who disguise themselves as apostles and pastor-teachers and evangelists for Christ. 2 Cor 11:3-4 says "But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ. (4) For if one comes and preaches another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear this beautifully." 2 Cor 11:13-15 "For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. (14) No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. (15) Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds." These counterfeits are imitating the genuine with the intent to deceive you.

So they say they are sent by God. They use the name of Jesus. They may even perform signs and wonders to deceive people into believing they are from God with a special message. Matt 24:24 "For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect (believers)."

There are forces of evil in the universe who are pretending to look just like the messengers sent by God. They talk the talk. They look the part. They will be appealing. They will look like they have their act together. They will be daring, confident, attractive, smart, and powerful.

With Truth you can tell the genuine from the counterfeit

What do we need in order to recognize the genuine from the counterfeit? Paul tells us in Eph 6:11. "Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil." In other words we need to know God's Truth from the Bible. Study the Bible EVERYDAY and let the Holy Spirit lead you to use the Word in your soul as you live your life so your armor can repel Satan's arrows...his lies.



Since we are ultimately wrestling with superior, persistent and widespread forces of deception, we need spiritual power in the form of discernment (wisdom) to make our way through this mine field!

Wisdom and Discernment from God

Another reason that we need wisdom from the Word and discernment is that we face decisions each and every day that require it. God has a will and a plan for our lives, and each day we make decisions that either get us further into God's plan or move us away from His will.

Ask yourself...where does God want me to be? That's His geographic will for your life. What does God want me to think? He wants you to think the Truth from His Word that you are learning every day. What does God want me to do? That's God's operational will for your life...how He want you to behave every day. Go with God, kids. Stay with Him and you will know what Truth is and what lies are.

Our enemies... the kingdom of darkness, the world system, and our sinful flesh will use schemes and deception to lure us away from discovering God's will and blessings for our lives. So His Truth must be implanted in our souls so we can think like Jesus, be like Him, act like Him, and be able to tell the difference between His Truth and Satan's lies.

So don't you want this wisdom and discernment that can help you tell the difference between the Truth of our wonderful God and the lies of Satan? I know we all need God and His Truth to operate effectively in our daily lives and more importantly in our spiritual gifts. I know that without it we will fall victim to the lies and counterfeits of the kingdom of darkness.

...GOD wants
you to know!

**DON'T FALL FOR the LIES! GET THE MIND OF CHRIST...JESUS' TRUTH IN YOUR SOULS.
START TODAY!**

Close in prayer