

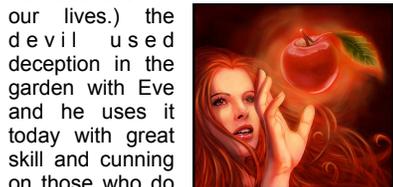


THE FRUSTRATION OF DECEPTION

BIG D WRITINGS JANUARY 09

I've been pretty frustrated lately. Since I've become a Christian, I can probably count on one hand how many times I have been this fired up. The definition of frustration is: *the feeling of being upset or annoyed, esp. because of inability to change or achieve something.* Yeah, that pretty much sums up my attitude about things lately and it's all because of deception...oh, not my deception, but the deception of a whole bunch of people who are being fooled right now in front of our very eyes.

The Bible says that deception, or the art of deceiving is the devil's tool for manipulating people in this world. Jesus called the devil the "father of lies." The devil is the one who "birthed" every lie ever told...interesting isn't it? (only women give birth....hummmm, if no one believes the lie can it be "birthed?" Maybe it takes a person to believe it for it to be reality...Eve (the mother of all the living) was the first one to believe the lie....of course, if we don't believe the lie, it will not be effective in our lives.)



the devil used deception in the garden with Eve and he uses it today with great skill and cunning on those who do not know and love the Truth, Who is Jesus. There is a frustrating component to deception especially to the one who isn't deceived. (I know, right? :) (Warning: a "duh, I already knew that" moment coming right now...) The one who is NOT deceived seems to be able to see clearly what the deceived person cannot. That in itself is incredibly frustrating. The one who is NOT deceived sees right through the deception (lie) and yet, no matter how hard they try, they simply cannot get through to the one who is deceived, and that is soooo frustrating.

In 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12 God tells us in advance that there is a time coming when the "lawless one," is coming to deceive.... see verse 9, "that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, 10 and



with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish.... ") those who will be deceived are those who do not know God) (still verse 10) "...because they did not receive the love of the Truth so as to be saved." So we see that those who will be deceived are those who don't know Jesus,

they are perishing...one of the hints that they don't have this "love of the truth" is that they will be deceived.

The deception we are seeing today, I'm convinced, is only a *foretaste* of what is to come, so we might as well learn how to deal with it now instead of really wiggling out when the BIG Deception comes. (I know, right? :)

Deception gets "ultra" frustrating when people who 'ought to know better' are sucked into the lie too! And all the while, those who "see" because they "love the truth" are waving their arms, screaming, "I've seen the road up ahead, the bridge is out!!!!" "Hello!!!" But they don't listen and this is BEYOND frustrating! And what IS beyond frustration? It's



ANGER (all anger is not bad, see the following) Sinful anger. The kind of anger that God says if we hang on to, could give the DEVIL a 'place!' (Eph. 4:26-27) The kind of anger that the Bible says will not achieve the righteousness of God. (James 1:19-20 please read this one for yourself.) Believe me, I've tried this and it's true, no matter how mad I get, my anger will not put the point of God across. Not only will they NOT see the 'righteousness' of God, but my anger could actually drive the deceived to believe the lie EVEN MORE! As those who are NOT deceived, we must be calm, cool, trusting totally in our great and awesome God, knowing that HE is in control, not the devil, not man. We should NOT get angry to sin, on the contrary, it's a call to prayer.

Time to get down on our knees and fervently, passionately pray for their eyes to be open, for the TRUTH to be revealed.

The time of the "lawless one" mentioned in 2 Thessalonians has not yet come, but the present times are good training grounds for us. How am I doing? Personally, not so good, but God has shown me that when I am frustrated (remember the definition of frustration: *the feeling of being upset or annoyed, esp. because of inability to change or achieve something.*) I am not acting in faith, I am actually lashing out because of a fear

that I am helpless to change the situation. But I AM NOT HELPLESS to change the situation because GOD is not helpless and HE lives in me! God has given me the power and authority to pray for people,

to intercede on behalf of others. When I ask God to open someone's eyes to something, HE HEARS MY PRAYER!!! I am

not a victim! I am a Victor in Jesus!



When everyone in the whole world seems to be deceived, as Christians, we are VICTORIOUS in CHRIST. OUR FAITH is the VICTORY THAT OVERCOMES THE WORLD!!! (1 John 5:4-5 please read this:) Christians are actually great assets to this world because we can pray for them that 'they may receive the "love of the truth" so as to be saved.' That's good news!!

God told us in His Word that deception would happen in this life on different levels, but what will we do about it right now? Will we let anger reign or the peace of Christ reign in our hearts? (Col. 3:15) Will we get so angry we sin and give the devil a 'place,' or will we pray like mad for those who are deceived? It's our choice....it's our responsibility to trust that God is

sovereign. God is in control TOTALLY, not partly in control, but TOTALLY in control, and that my friend is the victorious faith we have in Jesus Christ.

So, no worries, just taking every anxiety, every frustration, every need to the Lord (Who is listening) who not only hears us, but is the only ONE who is powerful enough to change a person and or situation from the inside out....

Anyway, I just had to vent and let you know what God taught me, just in case there is anyone else out there who has this same **frustration of deception** :)

Peace In, Big D:)

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Deception: *trick, deceit, sham, fraud, pretense, hoax, fake, blind, artifice; stratagem, device, ruse, scheme, dodge, subterfuge; cheat, swindle; informal con, setup, scam, flimflam, bunco*

bunco? Maybe not (all) the words I would have used, but accurate nonetheless. Funny though, that the dictionary in my computer leaves out the one word that sums up deception, and that is: LIE.