

5. **1 Thessalonians 5:21** - "But **test everything**; hold fast what is good."
6. **Jude 1:3-4** - "Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints. For **certain people have crept in** unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ."
7. **Galatians 1:6-9** - Paul warns the Galatians about false teachers, saying, "I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to **a different gospel**—not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel **contrary** to what you received, let him be **accursed**."
8. **Colossians 2:8** - "See to it that no one **takes you captive** by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ."
9. **1 John 2:18-19** - John warns his readers about antichrists who have come into the world, saying, "Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now **many antichrists have come**. Therefore we know that it is the last hour. They went out from us, but they were **not of us**; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us."
10. **2 Timothy 2:15** - "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has **no need to be ashamed**, rightly handling the word of truth."
11. **Titus 1:9** - Paul instructs Titus on the qualifications for church leaders, saying that they must be "holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to **refute those who contradict**."
12. **Hebrews 5:14** - "But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to **distinguish good from evil**."
13. **Matthew 7:15-16** - Jesus warns his disciples to beware of false prophets, saying, "**Beware of false prophets**, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits."
14. **Acts 20:28-30** - Paul warns the elders of the church in Ephesus about the coming of false teachers, saying, "Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. I know that after my departure **fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock**; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to **draw away the disciples** after them."
15. **1 Corinthians 2:14** - "The natural person **does not accept** the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned."

16. **2 Thessalonians 2:9-10** - Paul warns the Thessalonian church about the coming of the antichrist, saying, "The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and **false signs and wonders**, and with all **wicked deception** for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved."
17. **Ephesians 4:11-14** - Paul describes how God has given various gifts to his people, including pastors and teachers, "to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and **carried about by every wind of doctrine**, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes."
18. **1 Peter 5:8-9** - Peter warns his readers to be sober-minded and watchful, "Your adversary the **devil prowls** around like a roaring lion, **seeking** someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world."
19. **Revelation 2:2-3** - Jesus commends the church in Ephesus for their discernment, saying, "I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but **have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false**. I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary."

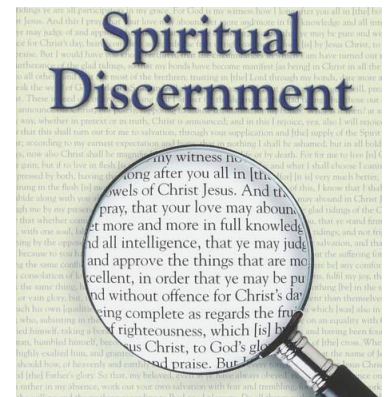
2. What is the difference between discernment & spiritual discernment?

Discernment and spiritual discernment both involve the ability to distinguish between truth and error or good and evil, but they differ in their **focus and scope**.

Discernment is a general term that refers to the ability to **perceive and understand** things accurately, to make **sound judgments** based on available information, and to make wise decisions. It involves using one's **reasoning** abilities, **intuition**, and **common sense** to distinguish between what is true or false, right or wrong, good or bad in various areas of life, such as relationships, work, and personal beliefs.

On the other hand, spiritual discernment is a specific type of discernment that refers to the ability to distinguish between what is **of God** and what is **not**, particularly in matters of faith and spirituality. It involves relying on the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the wisdom of God's word, and one's personal relationship with God to understand the truth and **recognize spiritual deception**.

Spiritual discernment is a gift from God that is developed through prayer, study of the Bible, and obedience to God's will. It enables believers to distinguish between false teachers, deceptive spirits, and other forms of spiritual deception, and to stay firmly grounded in the **truth** of God's word. Discernment, in general, can be developed through **practice and reflection**, and it can also benefit from a strong spiritual foundation.



3. What are the main techniques used to deceive Christians?

1. **False teaching:** This involves distorting or manipulating biblical truths in order to promote false doctrines or beliefs. False teachers may claim to be Christian or to have a special revelation from God, but their teachings are not consistent with the Bible.
2. **Manipulation of emotions:** Deceptive leaders may use emotional manipulation to control and influence their followers. This can include using guilt, fear, or other emotions to manipulate people into giving money, following certain rules, or accepting beliefs.
3. **Charismatic leadership:** Some deceptive leaders have a charismatic personality that attracts people to them. They may have a magnetic presence, be gifted speakers, or seem to have supernatural powers. However, these qualities do not necessarily indicate that they are speaking the truth or following God.
4. **False signs and wonders:** Deceptive leaders may use signs and wonders to deceive people into thinking that they are performing miracles or have special powers. However, these may be staged or exaggerated, or they may come from sources other than God.
5. **Isolation from others:** Some deceptive leaders may try to isolate their followers from the outside world, including other Christians. This can make it easier for them to control and manipulate their followers and prevent them from being exposed to different perspectives.
6. **Groupthink:** Deceptive groups may use groupthink, which is a psychological phenomenon where members of a group conform to the beliefs and attitudes of the group, to create a sense of unity and conformity. This can make it difficult for individuals to think critically or question the beliefs of the group.
7. **Cult-like practices:** Some deceptive groups or leaders may exhibit characteristics of a cult, such as controlling behaviour, isolation, and a focus on the leader's authority rather than on God.
8. **Mixing truth with error:** Deceptive teachings may contain elements of truth in order to make them more convincing, but they also contain errors or distortions that can lead people away from the truth.
9. **Appeals to personal experience:** Deceptive teachings or leaders may appeal to personal experience or subjective feelings as a way of convincing people of their beliefs or authority, rather than relying on objective truth.
10. **Denial of sin or accountability:** Deceptive leaders or teachings may downplay the seriousness of sin, or deny that Christians are accountable to anyone other than God or the leader.
11. **Financial manipulation:** Deceptive leaders may use financial manipulation to control their followers or enrich themselves.
12. **False humility:** Deceptive leaders may use false humility, claiming to be meek or lowly, in order to gain the trust of their followers.
13. **Pseudo-intellectualism:** Deceptive teachings or leaders may use complex or obscure language and concepts to make their teachings seem more profound or intellectual than they actually are. This can make it difficult for people to understand or question their teachings.



14. **Appeal to authority:** Deceptive leaders may appeal to their own authority or credentials, or claim to have special insights or revelations that are not available to other Christians.
15. **Deceptive marketing:** Deceptive teachings or leaders may use deceptive marketing tactics, such as promoting their teachings or products with false or exaggerated claims, to attract followers or make money.
16. **Distortion of scripture:** Deceptive teachings may take verses or passages out of context or twist their meaning in order to support their false doctrines or beliefs.
17. **Psychological manipulation:** Deceptive leaders may use psychological manipulation techniques, such as mind control, brainwashing, or gaslighting, to control their followers and maintain their authority.
18. **Attacks on critics:** Deceptive leaders or teachings may attack or discredit anyone who questions or challenges their teachings or authority. This can make it difficult for people to speak out against deception.
19. **Compromise with the world:** Deceptive teachings or leaders may compromise with the values and beliefs of the world in order to gain acceptance or popularity, rather than remaining faithful to God's word.
20. **Fear tactics:** Deceptive teachings or leaders may use fear tactics to manipulate and control their followers. This can include fear of judgment, fear of exclusion from the group, or fear of losing one's salvation.
21. **Gimmicks and gadgets:** Deceptive teachings or leaders may use gimmicks or gadgets, such as special prayer cloths or anointed oil, to give the appearance of spiritual power or authority.
22. **Exaggeration:** Deceptive teachings or leaders may exaggerate their own accomplishments, abilities, or spiritual experiences in order to gain followers or enhance their reputation.
23. **False promises:** Deceptive teachings or leaders may make false promises, such as promises of health, wealth, or success, in order to attract followers or gain their loyalty.
24. **Discrediting of traditional authority:** Deceptive teachings or leaders may reject or discredit traditional Christian authority, such as pastors or church leaders, in order to establish their own authority and control over their followers.

4. What are the top ways a Christian can avoid being deceived?

1. **Know God's Word:** Regularly studying and meditating on the Bible is essential for developing discernment and recognizing truth from falsehood.
2. **Pray for Wisdom:** Asking God for wisdom and discernment is important in avoiding deception and making wise choices.
3. **Be Filled with the Holy Spirit:** The Holy Spirit can guide and lead Christians into all truth, helping them to avoid deception.

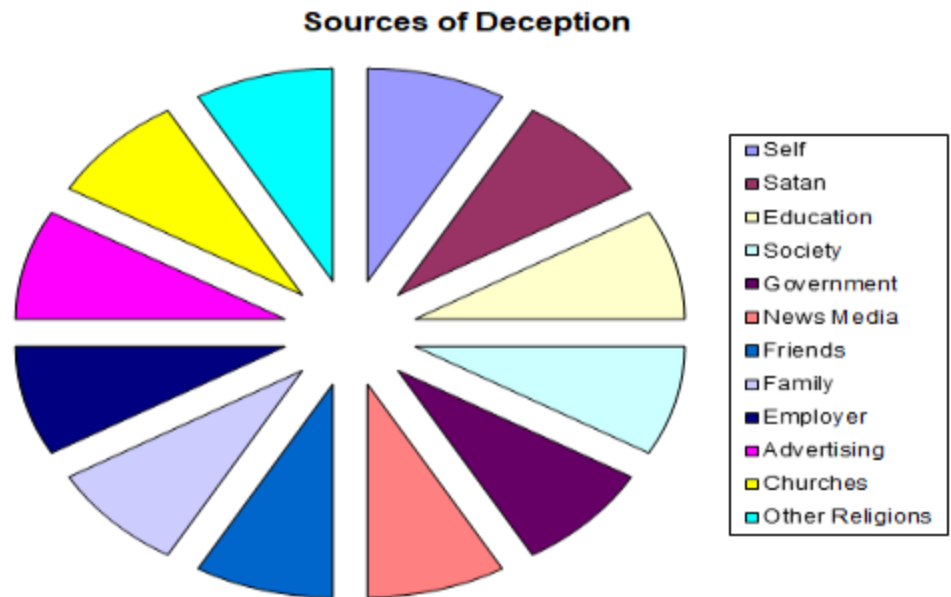




4. **Seek Accountability:** Surrounding oneself with other believers who can provide accountability and support is helpful in avoiding deception.
5. **Test Everything:** Christians should test everything against God's Word to determine if it is true or false.
6. **Follow Godly Leaders:** Following leaders who are grounded in God's Word and demonstrate integrity and humility can help Christians to avoid deception.
7. **Avoid Isolation:** Being part of a community of believers can help Christians to stay grounded in truth and avoid deception.
8. **Stay Alert:** Being aware of the tactics used by deceptive teachings or leaders can help Christians to recognize and avoid deception.
9. **Trust in God:** Ultimately, trusting in God and His Word is the best way to avoid deception and stay grounded in truth.
10. **Focus on the Gospel:** Keeping the gospel of Jesus Christ at the center of one's faith and practice can help to guard against false teachings and distractions.
11. **Practice Discernment:** Discernment is the ability to recognize and distinguish between truth and error. Practicing discernment involves asking questions, testing what is heard or seen, and seeking guidance from God and trusted mentors.
12. **Stay Humble:** Pride can blind us to our own weaknesses and make us vulnerable to deception. Staying humble and recognizing our own limitations can help us to avoid being deceived.
13. **Keep Learning:** Christians should continue to learn and grow in their understanding of God's Word and the Christian faith. This can help to deepen their understanding of truth and make them less susceptible to deception.
14. **Follow the Example of Jesus:** Jesus himself warned his disciples about false teachers and false teachings, and modeled a life of humility, obedience, and service. Following his example can help Christians to avoid being deceived.
15. **Practice Self-Examination:** Regularly examining one's own beliefs and motives can help to identify areas of vulnerability or potential deception.
16. **Be Aware of Cultural Influences:** Christians should be aware of how the culture around them may influence their beliefs and values, and be intentional about aligning themselves with biblical truth rather than worldly values.
17. **Cultivate a Heart of Humility:** Cultivating a heart of humility and teachability can help Christians to receive correction and avoid being deceived by their own biases and assumptions.
18. **Seek Wise Counsel:** Seeking counsel from wise and mature believers can provide a valuable perspective and help to avoid being deceived.
19. **Use Discernment in Media Consumption:** Christians should exercise discernment when consuming media, including social media, TV, and movies, and be cautious about sources that promote false teachings or values.
20. **Avoid Compromise:** Christians should avoid compromise with false teachings or values in order to gain acceptance or popularity. This can compromise their integrity and make them vulnerable to deception.

THE STRUCTURE OF DECEPTION	
DECEPTION (distorting reality)	
DISSIMULATION (hiding)	SIMULATION (showing)
Masking Concealing one's own or matching another characteristics to eliminate an old pattern or blend it with a background pattern.	Mimicking Copying another's characteristics to create an old pattern, or imitating it.
Repacking Adding new or subtracting old characteristics to modify an old pattern by matching another.	Inventing Creating new characteristics to produce a new pattern.
Dazzling Obscure old or add alternative characteristics to blur an old pattern, reducing its certainty.	Decoying Create alternative characteristics to provide an additional, alternative pattern, and increase its certainty.

5. other Resources



- Church Booklets & materials (STP, Statement of Beliefs, Bible Course)
 - 228 booklets & articles including:
 - **New Covenant – Does It Do Away With God's Law?**
 - **Have The OT Dietary Laws Been Done Away?**
- Website Sermons - 7 on the "New Covenant"
 - 2 Favourite Sermons I heard long ago & I wrote down the key points to put in a **place of "treasured messages"** -- that **impacted** me! (See next page)

(7 points on) How Not to be Deceived

GTA 4/24/82

Rev 12 Satan deceives the whole world. Everyone knows what it is like to be deceived.

1. Realize the source of your present knowledge

- You have learned from many sources, School, TV, friends, Church, parents, books
- Make sure the foundational things you believe are correct, and you have proven them

2. Do not depend on your *present* knowledge to make a decision

- you may need to study more, ask others who are knowledgeable, or set the topic aside to allow some time to pass...don't jump into a decision...carefully evaluate

3. Do not depend on the ministry alone for all the answers

- They are not experts in everything, they can have biases, they are not perfect...put your trust not in men (blindly). They also have been willingly deceived by wanting approval, wanting to be "in", to be right with others, wanting to be "in authority", not "out of line", part of what the mainline thinking was.

4. Beware of attractive ideas

- It may be designed to appeal to your vanity, or prejudice

5. Admit that you like to be "stroked" (complimented, respected)

- People need to be accepted, and respected ... so appeals to your vanity can be effective at getting you to lower your guard...Salesmen often compliment the "discerning buyer of good taste" ... suckers for someone to build up their ego... be on your guard

6. Beware of "brand new ideas"

- Be open minded but don't be gullible. There are many brilliant, gifted, scholars who are deceived, who can dazzle you with words (and will if you let them). Examine your motives for wanting to believe something new, put the teaching to the test, set the idea aside and come back to it... be objective

7. Put God in your knowledge

- God's word is truth. God's law made David wiser than his teachers...The Bible says a group called the "very elect" cannot be deceived...(but don't be so vain to think you are invincible)

Art of Deception - Ron Dart 4/83

1. Don't try to Reason with Devil - He will twist truth with technicalities eg Satan & Eve.

2. Complexity - Too many things to look at at once--Info Overload eg Football plays to deceive opponent

3. Obscurity - eg Magicians tricks. Quoting from obscure texts. Quoting from friendly sources.

4. Misdirection - eg Getting people to look at back of room to conceal something
Blaming Satan for ones own shortcomings. Also using a Straw Man

5. Implication - eg Asking if something has changed ... and even if nothing changes people will think so

6. Misinformation - eg. Wartime planting of false info on corpse. Out of context quotes.

Creative Rumors

7. Innuendo - eg. Ask someone to Pray for someone because they having "problems"

- Deceiver always has the advantage. They may be evil or sincere.
- Don't be gullible ... healthy skepticism is good ... "Prove all things" is a skeptical attitude
- We have a right not to Listen... Solomon "Pr 14:7 ¶ **Go from the presence of a foolish man, when thou perceivest not [in him] the lips of knowledge.**" Help Sheep... don't tolerate false teachers
- If you like to look at works from other churches ... be vigilant ... every evidence/assumption/innuendo must be examined

Statement of Beliefs +

- 1 – God
- 2 - The Father
- 3 – Bible
- 4 - Jesus Christ
- 5 - Holy Spirit
- 6 – Mankind
- 7 - Angelic Realm
- 8 – Salvation
- 9 – Faith
- 10 – Repentance
- 11 – Baptism
- 12 - Laying on of Hands
- 13 - Kingdom of God
- 14 - Resurrections
- 15 - Prophecy
- 16 - Gospel
- 17 - Judgment
- 18 - Law of God
- 19 - Biblical Covenants
- 20 - Ten Commandments
- 21 - Sabbath
- 22 - Annual Holy Days
- 23 - Tithing and Giving
- 24 - Biblical Dietary Laws
- 25 - The Hebrew Calendar
- 26 - Sin
- 27 - The Christian
- 28 - The Christian’s Relationship with God
- 29 - The Christian’s Relationship with Fellow Man
- 30 - The Christian Family
- 31 - Healing
- 32 - The Church of God
- 33 - Ministry of the Church
- 34 - Fellowship of the Brethren
- 35 – Traditional Christian Doctrines
- 35a – x-The Fall of Man
- 35b – x-The Immortal Soul
- 35c – x-Heaven
- 35d – x-Hell
- 35e – x-Trinity
- 35f – x-Gospel*
- 35g – x-Kingdom of God*
- 35h – x-Born Again
- 35i – x-Sunday
- 35j – x-Christmas
- 35k – x-Easter
- 35l – x-The Rapture
- 35m – x-The Lord’s Prayer
- 35n – x-Predestination
- 35o – x-Speaking in Tongues
- 35p – x-Law & Grace
- 35q – x-Infant Baptism
- 35r – x-Baptism*
- 35s – x-Penance
- 35t – x-Eternal Security
- 35u – x-Universalism
- 35v – x-The Church*
- 35w – x-The Cross
- 35x – x-Pictures of Jesus
- 35y – x-Religious Medals/Statues
- 35z – x-Ministerial/Religious Titles
- 35aa – x-Faith Healing
- 35ab – x-Abstinence/Asceticism

The Plan of God

2-Father

LOVE

4-Jesus

7-Angels

- Michael
- Gabriel
- Satan
- Demons

13-Kingdom of God

(King, subjects, territory, laws)

Family of 1-God

"Sons of God" (Eternal Life)

19-Biblical Covenants

- Noahic
- Abrahamic
- Mosaic ("Old")
- Davidic
- "New"

5-Holy Spirit

(essence, power, mind & spiritual extension & presence of God)

- **Fruit** - love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness & self-control
- **Gifts** - wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, & fear of the Lord

3-Bible

- People
- Places
- Dates
- Actions
- 15-Prophecy*

Lifecycle- 6-Mankind & Spirit in man

(essence which imparts the power of the human mind to physical brain tissue)

- Birth
- Learning
- 26-Sin
- ...Illness, 31-Healing
- Work
- ...Marriage, 30-Family
- ...Calling
- Old Age
- Death
- 17-Judgment
- 14-Resurrections

8-Salvation

- 9-Faith
- 10-Repentance
- 11-Baptism
- 12-Laying on of hands

27- The Christian

Prayer

- Integrity
- Courage
- Care
- Courtesy

Meditation

- Consideration
- Armor of God
- Good Choices

Fasting

- 24-Food laws

Worship

- 23-Tithing
- Hope
- Other

Vices

- pride
- greed
- wrath
- envy
- lust
- gluttony
- sloth
- other

32-Church

- 33-Elders/Deacons
- Flock
- 16-Gospel
- Doctrine
- 34-Fellowship
- 29-Man's Relationship with fellowman

22-Holy Days

- 20-Ten Commandments
- 21-Sabbath
- Passover
- Unleavened Bread
- Pentecost
- Feast of Trumpets
- Day of Atonement
- Feast of Tabernacles
- Last Great Day

35-Traditional Christian Doctrines

- a-Fall, b-Immortal soul, c-Heaven, d-Hell, e-Trinity, f-Gospel, g-Kingdom, h-Born again, i-Sunday, j-Xmas, k-Easter, l-Rapture, m-Lord's Prayer, n-Predestination, o-Speaking in tongues, p-Law & grace, q-Infant baptism, r-Baptism, s-Penance, t-Eternal security, u-Universalism, v-Church, w-The cross, x-Pictures of Jesus, y-Religious medals/statues, z-Religious titles, aa-Faith healing, ab-Abstinence/Asceticism, Other

Second Death - (Perishing)

Time: (Past - History - Creation, 25-Hebrew Calendar ... Present -(World events) ... (Future - 15-Prophecy*) ... Eternity ...)