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If He Can Blind You, He Can Bind You

The Power of Deception and the Power of the Blood

TEXT **2 Corinthians 4:4; 2 Timothy 1:7; Revelation 12:11**

ASK **Where have I believed a lie, and what has God already done for me that I have lost sight of?**

If he can blind you, he can bind you. But the blood of Jesus is greater than the lie that has been holding you.

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1 The Word Hasn't Changed. Your Sight Has.

Move a word far enough away from someone who needs glasses and it goes blurry. The letters haven't changed. The message hasn't changed. The truth hasn't changed. Their ability to see it clearly has. That's what Peter warns believers about. God hasn't changed, His promises haven't changed, His Word hasn't changed, and what Christ did for us hasn't changed. But something has happened to the way we see. You can become so focused on what's right in front of you that you lose sight of what God has already done for you.

2 Peter 1:9, ESV For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins.

REMEMBER

Just because something has become blurry to you doesn't mean it has stopped being true!

2 What Exactly Has This Believer Become Blind To?

They have become blind to what God has already done for them, the cleansing they received from their former sins, the power God has given them to live godly lives, the promises God has made to them, the new life they have received in Christ, their need for continued spiritual growth, the importance of developing godly character, their own spiritual condition, the connection between knowing Christ and living like Christ, and the eternal perspective of God's calling on their lives.

Mark 8:17–18, ESV

> And Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why are you discussing the fact that you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened? Having eyes do you not see, and having ears do you not hear? And do you not remember?"

REMEMBER

They haven't necessarily stopped believing in God. They have lost sight of what God has done, what God has provided, and who God has called them to become.

3 There Is an Intelligence Behind Evil

We have an enemy, and he is not simply interested in making your day difficult, distracting your attention, interrupting your peace or creating a little confusion in your life. He is interested in deceiving you, and nations, leaders, governments and kingdoms too. If he can deceive you, he can influence your decisions. If he can influence your decisions, he can influence the direction of your life. And if he can influence the direction of your life, he can influence the generations that come after you. He is not stupid. There is an intelligence behind evil, strategy behind deception and purpose behind the lies. The devil doesn't need you to believe every lie. He only needs you to believe the one lie that keeps you from seeing the truth.

John 8:44, ESV

> You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

REMEMBER

If he can blind you, he can bind you.

4 He Is Not Just After You. He Is After What Comes After You.

A word to mothers and fathers: the enemy is not simply interested in your personal struggles. He's interested in your home, your marriage, your children, your grandchildren, and what you believe, tolerate and pass down. Deception doesn't always end with the person who believes it. Sometimes it becomes the atmosphere in which the next generation is raised. If he can convince a young man that sin and responsibility don't matter, he can influence the kind of husband and father that man becomes. If he can convince a young woman that her identity and value are determined by the world, he may influence the way she sees herself for years to come. And if he can convince mothers and fathers that spiritual things don't matter, he can help create a home where the next generation grows up without knowing the truth. If he can get you while you're young, he may keep you bound when you're old.

REMEMBER

The power of deception is real. But it is not greater than the power of redemption.

5 The God of This World Is Not the God Over This World

Paul calls Satan the god of this world, who has blinded the minds of unbelievers so they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ. He blinds the mind to hide the light, because if you ever begin to see Jesus for who He really is, everything begins to change: your perspective, your desires, your priorities. The things you once celebrated may become the things you repent of, and the things you once ignored may become the most important things in your life. But understand the distinction. He is intelligent, but he is not all-knowing. He is powerful, but he is not all-powerful. He is deceptive, but he is not the source of truth. He can tempt, but he cannot overturn the victory of Jesus Christ. There is only ONE who is Almighty, only ONE who is eternal, only ONE who holds all authority in heaven and on earth. And His name is Jesus!

2 Corinthians 4:4, ESV

In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

REMEMBER

Satan has power. But he does not have all power.

6 The Enemy Blinds Minds. God Opens Eyes.

Paul prays that the eyes of our hearts would be enlightened. The enemy is working to blind minds, and God is working to open eyes. When the light of the world comes into your life, you begin to recognize things you could not recognize before: the lie you have been believing, the bitterness you have been carrying, the bondage you have been excusing, the truth you have been overlooking. The truth doesn't just inform you. The truth sets you free. You don't have to keep living under a lie. You don't have to keep repeating the mistakes of the generation before you. You don't have to keep passing down what Jesus came to deliver you from.

Ephesians 1:18, ESV	Having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints.
John 8:12, ESV	Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."
John 8:32, ESV	And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

REMEMBER

What the enemy tried to establish through deception, Jesus can break through truth.

7 The Blood Is Greater Than the Bondage

Notice what Revelation 12:11 does not say. They didn't overcome him because they were stronger than him, smarter than him, or had never made a mistake. They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb! There is a reason we still preach the blood of Jesus, still sing about the blood, still celebrate the cross. The blood of Jesus is not a religious slogan. It is the testimony of a finished sacrifice, the price of our redemption and the foundation of our forgiveness. It declares that sin and Satan do not have the final word over those who belong to Jesus Christ. The enemy may be powerful, but the cross has already declared his defeat. I don't know what the enemy has been whispering into your life, what lies have been spoken over your family, or what patterns you have been fighting. But I know this.

Revelation 12:11, KJV — And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

Colossians 2:15, ESV — He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

REMEMBER

The blood of Jesus is greater than the lie that has been holding you.

8 God Has Not Given Us a Spirit of Fear

Power. Love. A sound mind. The enemy works through deception, confusion, accusation and fear, but God calls us to live in truth. That does not mean spiritual paranoia, fear of what the devil might do tomorrow, or a life spent looking for the enemy behind every problem. Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world.

2 Timothy 1:7, KJV For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

1 John 4:4, ESV Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

REMEMBER

We are not called to be impressed by the devil. We are called to be established in Christ.

The Response

This morning, let the light come in. Don't just ask God to change your circumstances. Ask Him to open your eyes.

- ✓ Lord, show me where I have believed a lie.
- ✓ Show me where I have allowed fear to become my guide.
- ✓ Show me where the enemy has been influencing my decisions without me recognizing it.
- ✓ And Lord, open my eyes to the truth of Your Word.

I don't just want freedom for myself. I want my family to walk in freedom. I want my children to know the truth. I want the next generation to know the power of Jesus Christ. I want the story of my family to be marked not by the lies we believed, but by the grace that delivered us.

Satan, the blood of Jesus is against you! You may be the father of lies, but Jesus is the Truth. You may be the ruler of darkness, but Jesus is the Light. You may seek to blind minds, but our God opens the eyes of the heart. You may seek to destroy families, but our God is still restoring lives.

The light of Jesus Christ is greater than the darkest lie the enemy has ever told.