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The Devil Is the Father of Lies

Dr. David DeWitt (an excerpt from "The Attributes of the Devil" material)

Introduction

Wise leaders, like wise military generals, business entrepreneurs, and coaches do not go into a battle, business, or a ball game without carefully studying their enemies, competition, or opponents. They want to know how the opposition operates. They study their character, their methods, their plays, and schemes. To be effective against an enemy, you must know your enemy, so you can be prepared to effectively counter his attacks. And they also realize that there is, indeed, an enemy. What they are entering into is not an ice cream social on the church lawn. It's a real battle with a real enemy. If they don't understand that, they will lose, fail, or be defeated.

For this reason alone, a study of the devil is very important. Christians need to be informed. It was important to Paul *that no advantage would* be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes (2 Corinthians 2:11).

The devil is the god of this world, in whose case **the god of this world** has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God (2 Corinthians 4:4). The beliefs, morals, and philosophies of this world are the promotions of the devil. So what is he like? We know something about the attributes of man and the attributes of God. What about the attributes of The Devil?

The Devil Lies and Deceives

John 8:44

You are of your **father the devil**, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and **the father of lies**.

2 Corinthians 11:3-4

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 ... 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.

1 Timothy 4:1-2

But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to **deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons**, by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron.

The truth is the way things actually are

A lie is a deception,

Which falsifies the way things actually are So that the end result of a communication is misleading

The Devil Is in the Details

What exactly can we expect from the devil as *the father of lies*?

- There is no truth in him. The devil never influences people to see things as they actually are
- ➤ He speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies. It is an attribute, from his nature, to speak lies. So, the devil believes that lying is good. It seems that the reason the devil loves lies is simply because truth is an attribute of God.
- The serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness. The Greek word (*panourgia*) means cleverness, craftiness, or trickery. Trickery is to intentionally mislead someone. But a clever crafty trick uses partial truths with misleading and illogical thinking.
- ➤ The lies of the devil can be identified because they complicate devotion to Christ with another Jesus, a different spirit, or a different gospel.
- As we near the later times, the lies of the devil and his demons will result in professing believers who will fall away from the faith.
- The devil, his demons, and those they influence are liars seared in their own conscience. In other words, they don't feel guilty about lying, or see that their lying is wrong.

Applications

- ✓ We should never compromise the way things actually are. It may not always be appropriate to inform someone about something, but only when silence is not deceptive.
- ✓ We should never conclude that lying is a good thing in any situation.
- ✓ Lying starts with the truth and then perverts it. Lies cannot exist without some truth to pervert. Lies are always **another** Jesus, a **different** spirit, or **a different** gospel, which requires the existence of the real Jesus, a spirit of truth, and an actual Gospel.
- ✓ Lying usually accompanies all other sins. Therefore, lying is a good "red flag" indication of other sins.
- ✓ As we approach the later time before the Great Tribulation, which precedes the Second Coming of Christ, lying will become common and accepted among "Christians."
- ✓ Liars, being *seared in their own conscience*, believe their own lies. So lying is a deception, even when the deception is not intended. [For example, the cultists believe their own lies.]