

Hi Angus

Something has just become fairly clear to me. Have a read through this.

Satan is the father of lies (Jn 8:44)

The most effective deception is one that has a lot of truth. The more truth, the more effective the deception.

Look at how he deceived Eve in the garden.

1. Get Eve to doubt God's Word. *"Has God indeed said,"* Gen 3:1.
2. Challenge that the consequence of disobedience will not be death. *"You surely will not die!"* Gen 3:4.
3. He says that she can be like God, knowing good and evil. *"you will be like God, knowing good and evil."* Gen 3:5

Satan is afraid of the Word of God. Notice that in the armor of God in Ephesians, the only offensive weapon is the sword. *"the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God"*, (Ephesians 6:17 LSB)

Throughout the Scriptures, the Word of God is always used authoritatively by the prophets, New Testament writers and Jesus Himself. It is always the absolute standard by which evil is exposed. Jesus uses it to refute Satan and the religious leaders. The Word of God defeats Satan.

The Word of God is effective. *"For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart"*. (Hebrews 4:12 LSB)

Jesus very clearly said that *"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father but through Me."* (Jn 14:6)

Peter affirms this in Acts. *"And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."* (Acts 4:12 LSB)

*"He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.* (John 3:18 LSB)

*"He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."* (John 3:36 LSB)

*"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.* (John 5:24 LSB)

*"For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day."* (John 6:40 LSB)

*"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life.* (John 6:47 LSB)

*He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have that life. (1 John 5:12 LSB)*

*“He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned. (Mark 16:16 LSB)*

*The one who believes in the Son of God has this witness in himself. The one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the witness which God has borne witness about His Son. (1 John 5:10 LSB)*

Believing involves action. It is not our western idea of just mental ascent. See the Hebrews chapter on faith.

*Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the men of old gained approval. (Hebrews 11:1–2 LSB)*

You notice that faith involved action. You saw the early church put their faith into action by selling possessions to help others. The disciples went out and preached, even though they experienced persecution. Jesus said that you will know them by their fruit.