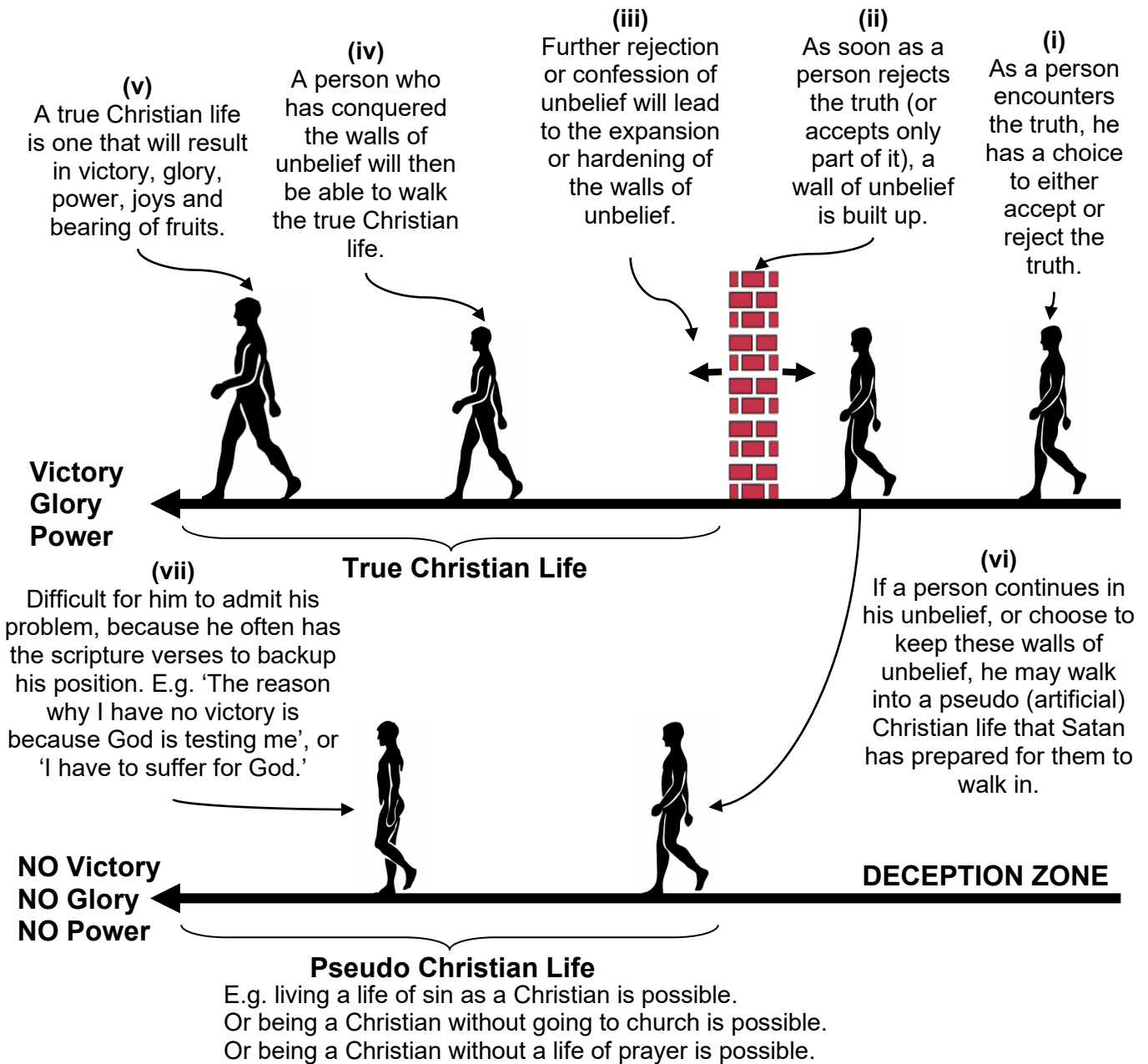


DISCERNMENT OF SPIRIT SPIRIT OF DECEPTION



Manifestation/Collaboration/Characteristics:

- **It is the underlying of all other spirits.**
 - E.g. A person who has the spirit of idolatry is deceived in the first place, because he is blinded to see that God alone is to be worshipped.
- **It can seldom function alone. It has to collaborate with other spirits to bring about an attack.**
- **It exists in the person who deceives others, as well as the person who are being deceived.**
- **It is behind all false teachings (non-truth or partial truth), false prophecies, and false spirituality.**
 - **Gen 3:4**, '*You will not surely die.*' (The devil was speaking the true fact about the tree of knowledge of good and evil, but not the true intention of God.)
- **Its purpose is to raise doubts or brings confusion to the truth**
 - **Gen 3:1**, '*Did God really say...*'
 - A person who is fond of asking such questions is likely to have been influenced by spirit of deception.
- **A person who has the spirit of deception:**
 - **Is usually proud, arrogant or has a high opinion of self.**
 - **1 Tim 6:3-4**, '*If anyone teaches false doctrines (i.e. has the spirit of deception)..., he is conceited (proud).*
 - **1 Cor 5:1-2**, '*...a man (Christian) has his father's wife (i.e. in state of being deceived.) And you are PROUD!*'
 - Results in 'I don't need others' syndrome.
 - **Would have an unhealthy interest in controversies**
 - is involved in arguments, excessive reasoning, quarrels and debates on subjects which are non-constructive to the building of faith. (**1 Tim 6:5**)
 - he is more interested in proving his position (i.e. his already made up teachings/presumptions) than to seriously look at the truth that was presented.
 - **1 Tim 6:4**, '*...result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions..*'
 - he is more interested in the tearing down of faith than of the building up.

- **2 Tim 2:15**, *'A workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. Avoid GODLESS CHATTER, because those who indulge in it will become more and more UNGODLY.'*
 - he will become ungodly.
 - he is *'always learning but never able to acknowledge the truth.'*(2 Tim 3:7)

- **Would have eyes focus on own desires and preference.**
 - **Gen 3:6**, *'When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and PLEASING to the eye, and also DESIRABLE for gaining wisdom...'*

- **Would interpret the Word or voice of God according to own desires and preference.**
 - E.g. If a person's eyes are fixed on getting rich materially, then their interpretation of the bible would be according to that desire.
 - E.g. If a person does not believe in miracles, he would use the bible to prove that signs and wonders has ceased.
 - **2 Tim 4:3**, *'..will not put with sound doctrine (i.e. being deceived). Instead to suit their own desires,.... say what their itching ears wants to hear.'*

- **Would serve God according to own desires and preference.**
 - **Rom 16:18**, *'For such people (i.e. those who are deceived) are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own APPETITES.'*
 - E.g. I join worship ministry because I like singing. Not because God has called me.
 - This person does not like to be told what to do, even by his church leaders, and would insist on doing what that is of his own desires. E.g. Leader tells him to be the usher on Sunday, he will say 'No, ushering is not my cup of tea.'

- **Would start to develop an automatic system of preference in their mind.**
 - Only hear the things you want to hear.
 - E.g. Pastor preaches Pt A,B,C,D, and he says ‘only Pt A is for me, and the rest is for other people.’
 - Results in the **Martyr’s syndrome**. (e.g. ‘My boss persecutes me because I am a Christian’. But the true fact is because he is lazy.)
 - Results in the **‘By default’ mode** (e.g. I’m sick. By default, go and see doctor. Not inquiring of the Lord what he should do.)

- **Would focus on the flesh (self, carnality -> world)**
 - **Gen 3:7**, ‘...*they realized they were naked.*’
 - Focus on the outward.
 - **Joshua 9:12**, how Israelites were deceived was because they looked at the outward (clothes, wineskins, bread) of the Gideonites.

 - Tends to ride on the emotional in the deceiving of others, or focus on the emotional/relational when deceived.
 - E.g. When a person is asked to leave the church because of causing division, the others would appeal to the pastor saying he is a good man and he care for others.

 - That includes false zeal, false patriotism, false passion, exaggeration, and faking of Holy Spirit manifestations.
 - E.g. ‘*I’m feeling headache because the spiritual atmosphere is bad.*’ The truth is that he is having headache because of unbelief.
 - E.g. ‘*I’m always attacked when the church is doing spiritual warfare.*’ Truth is that somewhere deep within you, you have a liking for it because that would mean people would give you more attention, or you have a kind of spiritual sensitivity that others don’t have.

 - E.g. always cry in the worship service – could be signs that you have wounds (or miserable because of greed) rather than you have been touched by the Spirit. This is false Holy Spirit’s manifestation.
 - As a result, cause others to mimic or long for the experience you have.

- **Victim mentality:** -
 - *'no one cares for me.'* The truth is that so much people are caring for him in ways he has not recognized it.
 - *'this church does not have love, because they rebuke the people through the sermon.'* Truth is that he has sin, but he does not want to acknowledge it. Thus, stirring up dissension in the church.

- Same as **spirit of seduction.**
 - Like to ‘博取人的同情’ . Act pitiful so that others could give him more attention.
 - E.g. Case of people leaving church because the church is no more preaching the truth. But the church pleaded them to stay by showing them favoritism, or giving them preferential treatment.
 - So church is using the spirit of deception to get people stay, and people who wants to settle for the truth would be attacked by the spirit of deception.
 - E.g. a pastor wants to leave church because of calling from God. But members cried and hold him back by telling him the church needs him. Sometimes, they would even give false prophecies to the pastor telling him God wants him to stay.
 - So pastor is held back by humanistic relationship, rather than obeying God's calling.
 - E.g. **1 Kings 13**, the man of God was deceived by the old prophet who told him God had spoken to him.
 - E.g. Jezebel painted her eyes when King Jehu went to confront her. In the end, the eunuchs who could not be lured by her looks threw her down from the tower. (**2 Kings 9:30-37**)
 - People with spirit of deception, or who deceive others like to do what we call ‘sweet talk’
 - Key to get out of the lure of deception is we mustn't be tied to a humanistic relationship. We mustn't form

humanistic relationship. The relationship in the church and the community is a spiritual one. We love and care for one another not because we could benefit from them in some ways.

- **Would focus on the lack (or the weak part of things)**
 - **Gen 3:7**, '*...they realized they were naked.*' (I have no clothes)
 - Results in lack of gratitude, peace and joy. (**Philip 4:6-7**)
 - Results in focusing on things that make them feel good or look good.
 - E.g. 'I must own this car to improve my self image.'
 - The **"I must have this" syndrome.**
 - This includes feeling better about ourselves because we do what we consider to be spiritual; such as go to more meetings, and do more things for the Lord.
 - Will have the tendency to enter into perfectionism(spirit of law/legalism). Will be easy to get depressed when things are not perfect.
 - Or use of hard work to achieve what he feels he has lacked. Results in being workaholic or work orientated, leaving very little time for God.

 - '*I like the church. It has everything good, except for that part.*' Once we have this mentality, we open door to the work of the spirit of deception.

- **Could still hear the voice of God (but only partial or frequently mistaken voice of self/satan to be voice of God.)**
 - **Gen 3:8**, '*Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord..*'
 - Could operate in gifts of Holy Spirit, but lack discernment.

 - Or worst, thinks that he is only one who can hear God's voice correctly.
 - Becomes prophet of his own. Self-proclaimed prophet.

 - Sometimes the attack of the deceptive spirit could be so strong that it always counters the truth or true prophecy.
 - E.g. Church proclaims, we are entering into tough times. But because of the work of spirit of deception, this person experienced good times indeed. He would be made to feel that he is receiving lots of

grace from God, while discrediting what the church proclaims.

- We should always test the spirits. Esp. when we are receiving huge grace where obviously our walk with God is in a mess.

- **Would lack intimacy with God.**

- **Gen 3:8**, '*...and they HID from the Lord.*'
- The hearing of the voice of God does not lead them to intimacy with Him.
- E.g. a person who can see visions or prophesizes all the time, but have no prayer life.

- **Would have fear (the spirit of fear)**

- Collaboration with the spirit of fear, which will also collaborate with spirit of unbelief (i.e. lack of complete trust in God.)
- Results in despair and discouragement easily.
- Results in the focus on works (spirit of legalism)

- **Would have the tendency to put blame on others (or other things)**

- **Gen 3:12**, '*the man said, 'the woman YOU put here with me..'*'
- Adam was putting the blame on the woman and also God.
- **Gen 3:13**, '*... the serpent deceived me..'*'
- Eve was putting the blame on satan.

- E.g. People tends to blame it on spiritual warfare.
- Blaming others and blaming on circumstances becomes a way of life.
- Tendency to develop into a judgmental spirit (i.e. fault finding, gossiping, critical spirit, lack of appreciation of others, always seeing that other's actions are never good enough.)

- **How do we know we are under attacked by the spirit of deception (on top of the manifestations listed above)?**

- **No victory, glory, joy and fruits in our Christian lives**

- E.g. The life being a Christian is of no difference to the life before being a Christian, except going to church on Sundays, and praying before meals.

- **No prayer life or powerless prayer life**
 - Our prayer should be 100% answered. If our prayers are not answered all the time, despite of the fact that we have been very zealous in prayer, it means we have the form of godliness but denying its power (2 Tim 3:5). And we had not been hearing the voice of God well.

- **Vicious cycle of problems/suffering**
 - E.g. If one has been leaving from one job to another because of the bad boss at every job, he needs to examine if the problem is because of him himself.
 - Or if the child not behaving himself, even after repeated discipline, need to examine if the problem is caused by one's way of parenting, or harboring of wounds in one's heart.

- **Not being able to live up what you preach**
 - E.g. Pastor preached that members should be praying for 2 hours a day, but he himself is not praying 2 hours a day.
 - Or Father tells son not to smoke, but he is smoking.

- **Lack a daily repentance.**
 - A person who has the spirit of deception would rarely admit that he has the spirit of deception or that he has sins. So a way to battle with the spirit is to go against that nature of the spirit by constantly acknowledging our sins before God.

- **Could not flow with the spiritual stream that the Holy Spirit is flowing in the church that he attends.**
 - E.g. Church is moving into mission and evangelism, but a person who is deceived would choose to flow in different or opposite direction.
 - Basically, lack of discernment of time.
 - When time to move, this person would choose to stay. When time to stay, this person would choose to move.