

# FAITH IS ACTION

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## Look Up!

"...We look for a new Heaven and a new Earth,  
wherein dwelleth righteousness."

*2 Peter 3:13*

## In This Issue: Try the Spirits!



## Part One

“...Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world” (John 4:1).

For the past decade the Christian world has been in great spiritual confusion. I receive letters every week from those whose faith has been seriously shaken. One sister sounded as though she was about to have a nervous breakdown because of the teaching of false prophets, and especially of one in particular. But, friends, we are living in the last days when **many false prophets are gone out into the world!**

A *false prophet* is someone who preaches and prophesies that which is contrary to the *written Word of God*. It does not matter how great his *gift* seems to be, or even how *anointed* it seems to be: These in themselves do not mean that he is of God. This is why we have been admonished by the Apostle John to *try or to prove the spirits!* (I will direct your attention to the fact that the word *spirits* is plural.)

A *prophet* is someone who has a *prophetic or flowing spirit*, but there are **three kinds of spirits** that can operate through a human vessel: *God's Spirit*, an *evil spirit* of Satan, and even *man's own spirit*. Therefore, we must *try or prove or test the spirits* to see whether or not it is of God. We do not believe every spirit that says that it is God. Many people are fooled because the vessel flows forth, and they perceive it to be the Spirit of God. It is a spirit flowing forth, but *which of the three spirits is it?*

Now everyone has a spirit; for we are three-fold beings made up of *body, soul, and spirit*. *If one has a prophetic spirit, or the spirit of a prophet*, then he has an

*oratory spirit* that can flow forth. (1 Thes. 5:23, Heb. 4:12). Without a shadow of a doubt, fortune tellers would have been prophets of God if they had become born-again. They have *prophetic spirits*, but they are controlled by an evil spirit which gives them revelation and inspiration.

Man's spirit can also flow forth or prophesy; for Paul stated in I Cor. 13:1: *“Though I speak with the tongues of men and*



*of angels...*" (though I speak with a flowing spirit), "*and have not charity*" (God's love), "*I am becoming as sounding brass and tinkling cymbal.*"

If he does not have God's love, then he does not have God's Spirit working through him. He may have a *gift to speak*, but God's Spirit is not energizing it. This one who prophesies without God's anointing upon him, Paul says is become *sounding brass and tinkling cymbal*. This is just man's spirit, and the hearer does not have to obey it or be afraid of it. I have heard a lot of people get up and prophesy or flow forth in speaking or preaching, but the Spirit of God did not *bear witness*. In other words, there was no *anointing upon it*.

### SEDUCING SPIRITS & TEACHING DEMONS

You will find that wherever the *gifts of the Spirit* are freely in operation, there are seducing and imitating spirits trying to operate too. For everything that God has, Satan has a counterfeit, and he has already perfected his imitating spirits for this last day, and will culminate them in the *Antichrist* and the *false prophet* in the Book of *Revelation*. Therefore, one of the most important warnings spoken by the Holy Spirit for today is found in I Timothy 4:1:

*"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly..."* (this means that He is going to make himself very plain and unmistakable), "*that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils.*"

The Greek translation says, "*giving heed to teaching demons!*" There are ministers today who once were filled with the real power of God, but were influenced by seducing spirits and teaching demons, and have departed from the faith, or the *truth*. Consequently, they now have become ves-

sels with *teaching demons* who are causing great numbers of Christians to go into error through their false teaching. There is nothing that Satan likes better than to get a minister who has the influence over the people to depart from the faith. Having their confidence, he can lead the majority of them astray. I really believe that the devil works on preachers overtime, because he knows that if he can get the preacher, he can get 90 percent of the people!

Saints, we are living in dangerous times when these Scriptures are being fulfilled. We must be able to discern what is of God and what is of man and what is of Satan. We may discern that a spirit is speaking, but we must know *what spirit* it is before we obey it. One cannot judge a spirit to be of God just because it is *flowing*. *All prophetic spirits flow*. Neither can one judge the vessel speaking to be of God just because there is an *anointing* upon it, because the devil has an anointing too. How then can one *try the spirits*? How does one *prove or test* the spirit speaking through the vessel whether it is of *God, satanically-inspired*, or even just the human vessel's *own spirit flowing*?

### A MORE SURE WORD OF PROPHECY

That sister who wrote me that letter should have known that it was not God's Spirit speaking through that false prophet, because she said that he was prophesying everything opposite to what God says in His Word! She was fooled just because she felt that it was anointed. She felt a powerful spirit behind it, but Peter clued us in 2 Peter 1:19:

*"We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place..."*

We have the *written Word of God*, and it is by This that we judge. As Isaiah 8:20

instructs us, "...If they speak not according to **this word**, it is because there is no light (truth) in them." If what they speak is contrary to the Scriptures rightly divided, they are of the devil, and their teaching is to be rejected as false.

The man that Satan is going to use to capture this generation is going to possess a great flowing, oratory spirit. In the Book of Daniel, it is revealed that the *Antichrist* will not come at first with great power to conquer, but will come with *flattery* and promises of peace. He will deceive and betray the chosen people of God thereby. The thing that is going to fool the world about him is that he is going to do great signs, wonders, and miracles, and the multitudes are going to follow him. They will declare, "Who can make war with him who can call fire down from heaven!"

False teachers and prophets are some of the greatest weapons that Satan has today. Those who are *really born-again*, do not worry much about him coming to them with alcohol, dope, cigarettes, etc. Satan knows that he can't get the *spiritual Christian* with these things. When the flesh has been crucified in the life of the believer, and he is desiring to do the will of God, then Satan must find another *spiritually-deceiving* route to come to him. He is not going to come to one who has served God for ten or twenty years with the lusts of the flesh. The moment that he came with these, they would recognize the devil and rebuke him.

No! He comes as "*an angel of light*," so close to the truth that it would deceive the very elect if it were possible. We had better be established in the truth, because if the devil can move you, mark it down, he will. But Jesus said in John 8:32: "*Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free!*"

I am not afraid to say that some that

read this message will fulfill this verse: "*The Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith.*" Now before I can depart from Baltimore, I must first arrive or *be in* Baltimore, and before one can *depart from the faith*, he must first *be in the faith!*" The term *depart* in the Greek means to *fall away into apostasy*. How are they going to leave the faith? (The faith refers to the embodiment of the teachings of Christ and all the N.T. doctrines, and refers in short to *sound teaching*.) "*By seducing spirits and doctrines of devils.*"

There are many today who were once used mightily of the Lord but are now preaching doctrines of devils. Some have even proclaimed that "*an angel appeared unto them and spoke to them,*" and I don't doubt that an angel did appear unto them, but it was not God's messenger. There are two kinds of angels, and even "*Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light!*" (2 Cor. 11:14).

I knew a preacher who had been married over twenty years to a faithful wife, and was used mightily of the Lord in the *gifts of the Spirit*. Then one day, "God" sent him a nice new young wife, and he got rid of that faithful wife who had suffered and prayed and fasted with him until he got a big ministry. This preacher had grown to the place where he could have really done something for God. He had the influence of people around the nation, and he had the finances to really propagate the Gospel, but the enemy tricked him.

Most of the time, God picks up a nobody from nowhere, has patience with him while He trains him and purifies him, and gives him His Word and anointing and power, and then all of a sudden, he thinks he knows it all, and is someone *special*. Because one is a preacher does not make him special. It is God who gives the

revelations and the anointing, and when God is anointing, who couldn't preach? Why, even an ole mule like Balaam's can preach if God puts His Word and anointing upon it! God had given Balaam a preaching spirit, and He just put that same spirit on that mule, and it preached. I believe it said, "*Hee-haw, Balaam, hear the Word of the Lord!*"

### THE SHINING ONE

God's people better know how to *try the spirits!* You see, the fact that one is born-again, he then becomes a *spiritual being*, and is cognizant of spiritual things, especially after receiving the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. He is now living in a spiritual realm, and there are many kinds of spirits operating there. Some of these are not of God, but only *imitate* the Holy Spirit. The devil realizes that if he were to come with horns and a pitchfork, you are going to know that he is a devil! But the Word says that he is *transformed into an angel of light*. In other words, he comes as the glorious being that he once was before his fall: a glorious archangel full of wisdom and subtlety!

This is how he came into the Garden of Eden to tempt Eve. He was not a *snake* as we know it. A snake does not have any vocal cords, and he could not have even made the snake talk. That would have been a greater miracle than God performed when he made the mule talk! The interpreters made an error in translation concerning the word *serpent*:

If you are familiar with a *homograph*, you know that it is a word that has *two different meanings*; although the *spelling* of both is the same, such as "*pine*," meaning *to languish*, and "*pine*," a type of *tree*. Likewise, is the Hebrew word for *serpent*: "*nachash*." It means "*shining one, beguiler*

*and enchanter.*"

Because the snake is an enchanter, the interpreter used the word *serpent* instead of its other meaning *shining one*. Do you believe that Eve would have talked to a snake? No, and Satan did not come as a snake, but as a glorious creature. Our English version says that he was wiser than all of the beasts of the earth, but by *beast* it does not mean *wild animal*. It is the same word that is translated in *Revelation* as "*living creature.*" The *nachash* was wiser than any living creature that God created. He came into that garden upright and beautiful with golden wings: Lucifer, *the shining one*, who had once been the *anointed cherub*, and that's the way he still transforms himself into an *angel of light!*

The old serpent's nature was to deceive, to charm, and to *beguile*. This is what Paul told the Corinthians: "*But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled* (the term in the Greek means to *completely deceive*) *Eve through his subtlety* (craftiness), *so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity* (purity) *that is in Christ*" (2 Cor. 11:3).

Following through in verses 13-15, he completes the analogy:

*"For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.*

*And no marvel, for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.*

*Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works."*

Naturally, Satan is going to come as a glorious messenger from God, and naturally his apostles and prophets are going to present themselves as bringers of light and truth and deliverance, but we must *try the spirit*, and the prophecy and the message to see whether or not they are based on

the Word of God, the *only Gospel, the only truth!* If they conflict with the truth that we have already received which is set forth in the Word, then it is not the Spirit of God giving the inspiration no matter how convincing, anointed, or charismatic the vessel. Even if an *angel* comes, we check it with the Word of God!

### KNOW THEM BY THEIR FRUITS

Many preachers today are practicing all kinds of imitations of the *gifts of the Spirit*. (And remember there are *real gifts of the Spirit*, and some of them had them at one time in their ministries), but the Scripture says that we shall know them by their *fruits*... not by their *gifts*:

*“Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly they are ravening wolves.*

*Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?... Wherefore, by their fruits ye shall know them”* (Matt. 7:15-20).

I know that some may not like this message and think that I should preach something to edify, but we had better know the truth, because many of God’s people are being ruled by demon spirits. Entire cities are being ruled by demon spirits. When Philip went down to Samaria, Simon the sorcerer controlled the whole city. Everyone thought that he had the great power of God, but he ruled them by sorcery (Acts 8). And today some of the biggest sorcerers and manipulators are standing in God’s pulpits. They don’t preach the true Word anymore. They give the people a little formula to get blessed and prosperous and be successful, while they pollute the Word of God and twist the Scriptures to fit their own philosophies.

I know of one teacher who had received one of the greatest revelations on the *divine*

*nature* that I have ever read, but it is polluted with one little lie that absolutely kills all the rest of the truth and condemns its followers to soul-damning error! *So close... so close* to the truth; no wonder Jesus said, *“If the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!”* (Matt. 6:23).

Paul said in I Cor. 3:10-11, *“For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”* Christ is the foundation, which foundation Paul told Timothy *“standeth sure, having this seal, the Lord knoweth them that are his.”* (2 Tim. 2:19). *But we are to take heed, every man, how he buildeth thereupon.* First, one must be upon the true foundation. If not, his foundation cannot stand. It will fall. If his foundation is false, his whole building is condemned to fall. Second, he must take heed *how he builds* once he has been established on the true foundation.

Over the years the Lord has shown me why many Christians fail and are shaken in their faith. It is because they put their faith in a feeling or an experience instead of in the Blood of Jesus and the Word of God. They base their experience *on an experience*. Their salvation is based on what they feel. The believer must not base his faith on an experience, a manifestation, an ideal, a person, a personality, a group, or an organization, but he must base his faith, and ultimately the security and the destiny of his soul, on the everlasting Word of God!

We must know the Word of God if we are going to stand. We must know the Truth if we are going to be able to discern the liar and the false prophet. We do not judge by the manifestation, or by the feeling, or by the anointing, but only by the Word that has already been established! We are to *reject anything and everything else as false:*

*“But though we, or an angel from heaven,*

*preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed."*

*As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed."* (Galatians 1:8-9).

We have been alerted; we have been warned and put on guard by the Holy Ghost, "*Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits!*" Satan not only has his false vessels that he works through, but they have *seducing spirits* working with them. This is how false doctrine is born and propagated. A *deceiving spirit* comes and very craftily lies to an individual. If he continues under the influence of that *spirit*, his spiritual perception becomes *distorted*, so that even when he reads the Bible, he does not see the *truth* that can deliver him, but he sees the *delusion* that has overtaken him! Therefore, the *very Scriptures* that *disprove* his doctrinal delusion, he uses to *support it!*

This is how Satan deceives those who go into error by blinding their minds, the seat of the understanding, that they cannot receive the *truth* even when they read it, hear it, and quote it! Once they receive a deluding spirit of error, then whatever they read, whatever they see, whatever they hear, all seem to support their delusion. They have a wall up against the *truth*, and they reject it. They choose to believe a lie, and consequently, God gives them over to it unto their own damnation. This is how born-again people become apostate:

*"...Shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;"* (1 Tim. 4:12).

## THE LOVE OF THE TRUTH

One never has to worry about going

into error and false doctrine when he is honest-hearted and has a love for the truth. Jesus promised, "*Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*" When one is obeying the Word of God, God continues to shed light or truth upon his pathway. Then as he measures up to it, he stays free, and God's grace is ministered to him to perform those things that the truth demands. It is when he does not want to do the truth, and wiggles around it that he gets into trouble, and opens up the door for the enemy to send him a delusion. I don't care how hard the truth is to swallow sometimes, I want to know the truth, and I want to have a love for the truth! When anyone rejects *known truth*, he then is a candidate for a lying spirit to take him:

*...Because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth..."* (2 Thes. 2:11-12).

If you have a heart to know the truth, God will send you the truth, and you will not be deceived by Satan's lying spirits. I remember when I was first saved how gullible I was. All one had to do was tell me that he was a "Christian," and I would listen to anything he said. And if he said that he was a *preacher*, I thought he was the next thing to God. It did not occur to me that he might be a devil. Since then, I've learned that some of the biggest devils of all have *preacher* in front of their names: "*The Right Reverend, Most Holy...*" They are wolves in sheep's clothing, Jesus warned.

The way that Satan deceives most of this type of preachers is through *pride*: They aspire to find a new revelation in the Bible that will bring them fame. Satan tells them, "You great mentor, only you could have found that." (I don't want to find

anything that is not in there!)

Anytime a spirit comes and tells you that *you are the only one* who has this revelation, look out! Then he really paints them in the corner by telling them that nobody else will understand them, and they will be persecuted, because they are the only one with the understanding. Sadly enough, no one can get them out of that lie, because they believe that they are the only one who has the revelation on the subject!

I watch these preachers that leave the truth, especially through their periodicals. I see where they first start to make a move away from the truth. Then in their next issue, they progress a little further into their deception. Pretty soon, they are proclaiming outright contradictions to the Word of God!

And Paul said that they have paid attention and given heed to these seducing spirits and doctrines of devils until their *conscience is seared as with a hot iron*. They cannot be convicted anymore; their conscience has been rendered insensitive to the truth and the real Spirit of God. In fact, they can get right up in the pulpit and willfully speak lies and manipulate the people, and it does not bother them. When something is *seared*, it is insensitive to feelings; they have been burned out!

These ministers are possessed by a *teaching demon*, and when that demon teaches through them, those looking for a spiritual manifestation, will feel and hear a spirit flowing forth, but it is not the Holy Ghost!

An end-time event that literally rocked the religious world was the mass suicide of “Jonestown,” Guyana. One “preacher,” Jim

Jones, through the inspiration of a seducing spirit, persuaded 900 “Christians” to leave their homes and families in the US to follow him to this remote retreat. Gradually, his teachings became more radical, distorted, and controlling. It was reported that one day he threw the Bible on the floor and declared, “You don’t need this anymore—You’ve got me!”

An alarm should have sounded in those people’s hearts and sent them packing! Instead, they obediently took their own lives, with their little children, following the deceiving Jim Jones into the horrors of eternal hell. Paul said, “...*Seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived*” (2 Tim. 3:13).

As we have brought out by the Word, these false prophets and preachers have gone into apostasy because they rejected some known truth. They have *departed from the faith*. God sends His Word to convict them and convince them, but they reject it. They resist the truth until finally nothing that God sends to them will change them. They want to embrace that lie, and God gives them the desire of their hearts, until they believe that lie and are damned thereby. Because they would not receive the love of the truth, *God... not the devil... God shall send them a strong delusion that they might believe a lie and be damned*:

“As for such as turn aside unto their own crooked ways, the Lord shall lead them forth with the workers of iniquity...” (Ps. 125).

*Don’t Miss the Continuation of this message next month.*