

Defining Self-Deception

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Broadcast Dates: 7/5/26, 7/12/26 & 7/19/26

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Scriptures:

- 1 Corinthians 3:18
- 1 Corinthians 3:18-20, *MSG*
- 1 Corinthians 15:33
- 1 Corinthians 3:18, *NLT*
- Galatians 6:3, 5, 7, *NLT*
- Genesis 3:11, 12, 15
- Romans 2:1, 2, *MSG*
- 2 Timothy 3:13, *NLT*

Summary:

To experience God's best, it's important not to live in deception. This especially applies to believers because believing the wrong thing causes us to deceive ourselves. Operating too long in deception can harden our hearts and lead us to believe a lie. We're all susceptible to this; God therefore wants to work with us to help us stop fooling ourselves. Letting Him guide us in this area keeps our spiritual eyes open so that we can see the dangers of associating with the wrong kinds of people and avoid being corrupted. When we see others in self-deception, we must tell them the truth, but do so in love. Studying God's Word concerning this keeps us from falling into this trap.

Notes:

1. Self-deception causes us to believe that lies are the truth, and vice versa. It distorts our thinking.
2. The person the world considers wise is the person who God considers a fool. We'll never know if we're fooling ourselves if we are deceived.
3. We all face the temptation to believe the wrong thing. God wants to help us accept the truth.
4. Examples of self-deception include ignoring obvious red flags in a relationship because we don't want to face the possibility of it ending, believing we're overqualified for a job when the feedback shows otherwise, and downplaying personal responsibility by blaming others for our failures.
5. When we see the signs of operating in self-deception, we must take responsibility for our actions.

Category: spiritual growth

Keywords: deception, believing, deceive, believe, lie, fooling, corrupted, truth