

# THE DEVIL IS THE FATHER OF LIES

Speaking to a group of Jews, Jesus says, "You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies" (John 8:44).

The greatest weapon in Satan's arsenal is the lie. Perhaps his only weapon is the lie. Satan is the "father of lies" in that he is the original liar. The first time we see or hear of him in the Bible he is lying to Adam and Eve in the garden. He created doubt in Eve's mind by asking her a simple question. After planting seeds of doubt in Eve's mind with that question (Genesis 3:1), he directly contradicts God's Word by lying to her, "You will not certainly die" (Genesis 3:4). With that lie, Satan led Eve to her death; Adam followed, and so have we all.

Lying is Satan's primary weapon against God's children. He uses the tactic of deceit to separate Christians from the heavenly Father. Some of his more common lies are "there is no God," "God doesn't care about you," "the Bible cannot be trusted," and "your good works will get you into heaven." The apostle Paul tells us that Satan "masquerades as an angel of light" (II Corinthians 11:14), so that what he says and does sounds good and seems reasonable. But it is nothing more than a false appearance.

What Satan did in the garden back then is the same thing he will attempt to do in your life today. In II Corinthians 11:3, the Apostle Paul said, "I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ."

Satan will whisper accusing questions and deceptive statements. He schemes to twist your mind because if he can, he then diverts you from your purpose, distracts you from God's voice, destroys your potential.

If he can get you to believe a lie, your life will be affected as if that lie were true. Unfortunately, Satan's lies are easy to believe. Why? Part of the reason is that because of sin, we have a flawed internal lie detector. God warned us of two things:

- "The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure" (Jeremiah 17:9).
- "There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end, it leads to death" (Proverbs 14:12).

That's the problem, so what's our solution? How do we access God's power to stop Satan's lies? How can we demolish his strongholds in our lives? If Satan's primary weapon is lies, then our greatest counter-weapon is the truth of God's Word.