"The time is coming when an army of young warriors will hit the streets – fearless and bold beyond anything we have ever seen. Even death itself will hold no fear. They will cry to the church "REPENT" and to the comfortable, "SELL what you have and GIVE TO THE POOR". They will be hated and despised by religious authorities. They will openly decry the TV preachers and eschew the watered-down pap that passes for 'gospel' in our day. They will reject sin and love people – even the homeless and the very least. Utterly pure of heart, they will befriend the prostitutes and the gang bangers. They will look and sound just like Jesus. With great daring and ruthless aggression, this army will make war on the devil and the darkness. Their music will be hymns of battle. Their sound will ROAR over the crowd. Truly these shall be the 'Sons of Thunder'."

Andrew Strom

For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

1st John 3:8

OVERCOMING DECEPTION AND FEAR

Prayer Study #439

First Love Ministries, Inc., of Perry, Georgia USA

The Two Greatest Problems of the Church at the End of the Age: DECEPTION and FEAR

1. **Deception: The enemy's attempt to pull the wool over the eyes of the Church:**
   a. **By flattering words**-Romans 16:17-18: *Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.*
   b. **By false reports**-2nd Thessalonians 2:1-12: *Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. Let no one deceive you by any means; for the Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. Do you remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. The coming of the*

lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

c. **By false reasoning**-Colossians 2:4: *For this I say lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words.*
d. **By evil spirits**-1st Timothy 4:1: *Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons….*
e. **By false prophets**-Matthew 24:24 NCV: ***False christs and false prophets will come and perform great wonders and miracles. They will try to fool even the people God has chosen, if that is possible. Now I have warned you about this before it happens.***
f. **By false signs and wonders**- 2nd Thessalonians 2:9: *The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs and lying wonders.* Matthew 24:24: ***For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders, to deceive, if possible, even the elect.***

The Effects of Deception

a. **Division**-Romans 16:18-19: *Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned and avoid them. For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.*
b. **False Doctrine**-1st Timothy 4:1: *Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons…*
c. **People, who have a false anointing and satanic signs and lying wonders, put in positions of leadership**-2nd Thessalonians 2:9-*The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs and lying wonders…* 1st John 2:18-20: *Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come by which we know that it is the last hour. They went out from us, but they were not of us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us. But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things.*
d. **An inability to intelligently minister to and pray for the afflicted, mentally confused, oppressed and troubled-both saint and sinner- and an inability to expose the devil's tactics**-Acts 16:16-18: *Now it happened,*

as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune telling. This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour.

Paul was plagued at Philippi for days with this woman following them and announcing to all around that they were servants of the Most High God who were proclaiming the way of salvation. Instead of paying her to be their public relations expert as some might today, they cast the spirit of divination out of her, which in this case surely must have been a religious spirit. We surely don't need repulsive religious spirits to advertise for us. A much better advertisement are those rejoicing ones who are aglow with a new love for the Deliverer.

The Antidote for Deception

a. **Obeying the Truth of the Word of God**- Galatians 3:1: *O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been openly set forth, crucified among you?*

b. **The Gift of Discernment**-1st Corinthians 12:10: *...to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.* To truly operate in this gift whose operation is simply finding the mind of Christ, we must first find the heart of Christ. The heart and love of Jesus is summed up in His own words: ***"I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world"*** (John 12:47). Some times this gift, which is so needed today, can produce sorrow in the one walking in the gift because the information in our spirit man is painful, as people operating in this gift pick-up not only the good and right and holy but also discern the fake and phony and oppression and depression and sorrow and defeat in people's lives.

c. **The Witness of the Spirit**-Romans 8:16: *The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God…* 1st John 5:9: *If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is the witness of God which He has testified of His Son.*

Hebrews 10:15a: *But the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us….*

d. **The Multitude of Counselors**-Proverbs 11:14: *Where there is no counsel, the people fall; but in the multitude of counselors there is safety.*

e. **Proper Spiritual Authority**-Hebrews 13:17 KJV: *Obey them that have rule (guide) over you, and submit yourselves; for they watch for your souls, as*

them that must give account, that they may do it with joy and not with grief; for that is unprofitable for you. Hebrews 13:17 Message: *Be responsive to your pastoral leaders. Listen to their counsel. They are alert to the condition of your lives and work under the strict supervision of God. Contribute to the joy of their leadership, not its drudgery. Why would you want to make things harder for them?*

f. **Walking in the dunamis power of God**-1st Corinthians 2:4-8: *And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power[dunamis], that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power[dunamis] of God. However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.*

g. **Asking the right questions:**

1. Is what is happening in the Word of God? Revelation 22:17-18
2. Does the message bring glory to Christ? Psalm 24:7-8
3. Are Jesus and the Cross at the center or are experiences and sensational manifestations and phenomena the center? 1st Corinthians 1:18
4. Is the prophetic voice humble or drawing attention to self? 1st Peter 5:2-3 & 5:5-6
5. Are angels being glorified? Colossians 2:18
6. Is there too much advertising of merchandise? Matthew 21:13
7. Do the speakers try to help the Holy Spirit and push you over? Psalm 119:128
8. Are you coerced or made to feel guilty about giving? 2nd Corinthians 9:7
9. Do they pray? 1st Thessalonians 5:17
10. Do the speakers spend a good bit of time talking about their accomplishments? Isaiah 64:6
11. Is there talk about sin and repentance? Luke 15:7
12. Is the music trance-inducing music? 1st Corinthians 14:8
13. Do you feel uncomfortable? Isaiah 32:17
14. Did the speaker let the supernatural happen or did he try to make it happen? 2nd Thessalonians 2:9-12
15. Is the speaker under spiritual authority? Hebrews 13:17

16. Do your spiritual authorities witness to the movement? Proverbs 11:14
17. Does the fruit remain? John 15:16

"Don't depend on an experience to keep you. It is not the blessing that keeps you; it is a person, the Lord Himself. You must abide in Christ. God never meant to give us any blessing that would fix us up so we could get along without Him. We must recognize our constant need of the Lord and depend continually on Jesus."
E.N. Bell

(We do not need the gift of discernment to discern a false prophet, for Jesus said in Matthew 7:15-20: ***Beware of false prophets…You shall know them by their fruits***.)

2. Fear: 2nd Timothy 1:7: *For God hath not given us the spirit of fear but of power and of love and of a sound mind.*

Causes

a. **Disobedience**-Genesis 3:10: *So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."*
b. **Impending Judgment, including Natural Disasters**-Luke 21:26: ***"…men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken."*** Hebrews 10:30-31: *For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine. I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The Lord will judge His people."*
c. **Persecution**-John 20:19 *Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them,* ***"Peace be with you."*** 2nd Timothy 3:12: *Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.*
d. **Suspicion**-Acts 9:26: *And when Saul had come to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples; but they were all afraid of him and did not believe that he was a disciple.*
e. **Uncertainty**-2nd Corinthians 11:3: *But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.*
f. **Final Events**-Luke 21:25-26: ***"And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken."***

g. **Death**-Hebrews 2:14-15: *Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.*

h. **Not really knowing who we are in Christ**: Romans 8:14-19: *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For you have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but you have received the Spirit of Adoption, whereby we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God, and, if children, then heirs-heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ-if so be that we suffer with Him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creation waits for the manifestation of the sons of God.*

Effects

a. **Overwhelming Distress, Making it difficult to reason or think**-1st Samuel 13:5-8: *Then the Philistines gathered together to fight with Israel, thirty thousand chariots and six thousand horsemen, and people as the sand which is on the seashore in multitude. And they came up and encamped in Michmash, to the east of Beth Aven. When the men of Israel saw that they were in danger (for the people were distressed), then the people hid in caves, in thickets, in rocks, in holes, and in pits. And some of the Hebrews crossed over the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. As for Saul, he was still in Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling. Then he waited seven days, according to the time set by Samuel. But Samuel did not come to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him.*

b. **Paralysis**-Matthew 28:1-4: *Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone from the door and sat on it. His countenance was like lightening and his clothing as white as snow. And the guards shook for fear of him and became like dead men*.

c. **Silent Testimony**-John 9:20-22: *His parents answered them and said, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind; but by what means he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we do not know. He is of age; ask him. He will speak for himself." His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue.*

The Antidote for Fear

a. **Reverential Fear of and Trust in God**-Matthew 10:28: *And fear not them who kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.* Psalm 112:7: *He will not be afraid of evil tidings; His heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.*
b. **Walking in the Dunamis power of God**-2nd Timothy 1:7: *For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power [dunamis] and of love and of a sound mind.*
c. **Walking by faith**-1st John 5:4: *For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world-our faith.* We must learn to declare the Word of God by faith over the land and over our circumstances!

   Faith, by the way, is largely a New Testament concept. In fact there are only two mentions of faith in the King James Old Testament. The first ironically, Deuteronomy 32:20, speaks of God's anger with the Israelite people because they had no faith. He says they therefore are a perverse generation. The second mention is in Habakkuk 2:1-4 in which the Lord gives that wonderful promise that the just shall live by faith. In other words, you are justified, just as you had never sinned, by your faith. Hebrews 11:6 tells us, "*But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who come to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."* And Galatians 5:6 tells us that faith works through love.
d. **Accepting the Perfect Love of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit-**John 4:18: *There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.*

To overcome both deception and fear, we must walk in the dunamis power of God.

Why are we not walking in the dunamis power of God?

1. We are not truly baptized in the Holy Spirit. Acts 1:8 ***But you shall receive power [dunamis] when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.***
2. **We are entangled with the affairs of this world**. 2nd Timothy 2:3-4: *You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.*
3. **We are operating in the fleshly, carnal mind of man rather than the mind of God-**Romans 8:6-7: *For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God nor indeed can be.* Romans 12:2: *And do not be*

conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

THE FUTURE

I do not know the future and can only guess what the Lord will do in the days ahead. These are some of my thoughts based on prophetic words that others have uttered and on my own prophetic sense of what the Lord is doing. I think many well-intentioned believers try to scare people about what is coming. I see the same events taking place, but it fills me with excitement to see what the Body of Christ, especially those *sold out* ones, will do on the earth as we war against the kingdom of darkness. I do know without any doubt that that warfare is increasing, and the epic battles of the Last Days will require a whole-hearted commitment to Jesus. So, I warn you that great challenges are ahead, but nothing that happens will surprise the Commander in Chief.

I believe that the Lord will soon restore hope to the Church so that the Church can restore hope to the world. The Church is engaged in a life and death struggle against the Gates of Hell, but the Lord is releasing Songs of Victory, much like Exodus 15. On the opposite end of the spectrum, there is a satanic or dark awakening going on today that has and will lead to a vast satanic army and widespread persecution, and there will be infiltrators in the Church who have been groomed by the enemy. These infiltrators will be used to clear the way and to enthrone the Anti-Christ. We are going to see more horrific things than we saw with Hitler and Stalin and Mao and are seeing now with ISIS. Yet Jesus has and will win.

The infiltrators, many belonging to the 100,000 or more covens in the United States, are victims born through preconception curses and transgenerational drug lines. These infiltrators are and will be used as informants, sex slaves, and assassins. Most of them have multiple personality disorder. Four million people have been diagnosed with Multiple Personality Disorder in the United States. This will be a common disorder that those involved in deliverance ministry will be encountering. The kingdom of darkness will especially be coming after the deliverance ministers and the intercessors, but those who know their God will do exploits (Daniel 11:32) and those who know their authority in Christ will do great destruction to the kingdom of darkness and lead many sons and daughters to real freedom in Christ.

<u>David Wilkerson</u>

"Beloved, we are at the place where we must be willing to literally die to everything. As long as your heart is set on knowing Jesus, is with knowing you are loved, that God has sworn to be your keeper, when you are overwhelmed in your darkest hour, you will hear Him say: "Peace! Be calm! Don't panic!" Is anything too hard for Him? Remember: 'Weeping endures for a night, but joy comes in the morning.'"