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SOULISH DECEPTION *OR* DEMONIC ILLUSION

What is trapping today's Christian?

Liberty S. Savard

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Introduction

This book began as a revision of *Spiritual Understanding and Warfare*. However, it ended with far more revision and updating than I had anticipated. It took on a new face and a new direction. So many changes and additions were made, the title has now been changed to *Soulsh Deception or Demonic Illusion* to reflect this new focus. It is with sincere hope and new purpose that I have been able to clearly explain and answer this question: Why haven't the deliverance practices taught in so many churches today set the body of Christ free—permanently? The Word of God (John 8:36) tells us that who the Son of God sets free, that person is free indeed.

There is a sure way to be free of Satan's wiles. It is not to just mount a more aggressive counterattack upon Satan. The sure way can be found in using the Keys of the Kingdom in prayer to cooperate with God's inner healing, surrendering to His will and power, and giving Him full access to heal the wounds and vulnerabilities in the unsundered soul of the person under attack

Consider this analogy: If your house keeps filling up with an onslaught of flies, wasps, and gnats because your window screens have holes in them, what is the best way to deal with that situation?

The best way is **not** to fire off a bug bomb, hang up fly strips, chase the pests with a swatter, or to bring in long-tongued lizards and frogs to catch and eat them! While effective to a degree, these works would only be temporary measures to stop the pests that are presently bothering you. Nothing would have been done to stop more flies and wasps and gnats from flooding into your home. The best way to do that would be to *heal* the hole-riddled screens.

This book is not designed to criticize deliverance ministry methods. Satan is very real and he's dangerous. He is also devious and has tricked us with many counterfeit issues. The words that follow are meant to show a permanent way of dealing with the attacks of Satan upon your soul, your body, your life, your loved ones, your church, and your nation.

It seems important that the first issue to understand is whether or not you are actually dealing with a demonic attack manifesting itself or an unsundered human soul pitching a fit. Contrary to popular belief, believers are not automatically able to determine the actual soulsh versus spiritual sources of another person's words and behaviors once they become Christians. Nor are you guaranteed to know the difference between the acts of

unsundered souls and evil spirits because you have attended deliverance seminars or you have taken classes on spiritual warfare in a Bible school.

Soulsh versus spiritual understanding is not automatically revealed from hopeful *hit-or-miss* praying, either. New Agers pray, Satanists pray, Muslims pray, and witches pray. There is nothing holy in the act of prayer in itself.

Our Holy God involves himself and sends forth His power when right prayers are prayed by His people. Right prayers are prayers aligned with His will.

There are many Christians who are not praying as effectively as they could, however. Too many are praying for what they perceive to be the right thing to pray for according to their finite thinking. It doesn't matter how spiritual or scriptural these prayers might *sound*; if they being prayed for soulsh reasons that are not in alignment with God's plans and purposes—He will not grant answers that would conflict with His will.

Spiritual understanding of your own behaviors or of another person's behaviors or words comes from feeding upon the meat of God's Word and then practicing it as purely as you know how. Some very valuable words to meditate upon and practice are found in Hebrews 5:12-14:

“For even though by this time you ought to be teaching others, you actually need someone to teach you over again the very first principles of God's Word. You have come to need milk, not solid food. For everyone who continues to feed on milk is obviously inexperienced and unskilled in the doctrine of righteousness (of conformity to the divine will in purpose, thought, and action), for he is a mere infant [not able to talk yet]! But solid food is for full-grown men, for those whose senses and mental faculties (the soul) are trained by practice to discriminate and distinguish between what is morally good and noble and what is evil and contrary either to divine or human law” (Amplified).

It is important to be trained by the reading and practicing of God's Word to distinguish between what is good and what is evil. Some people believe they always know the difference when they don't—not a good belief! Watchman Nee rightfully says this about understanding the difference between soulsh activity and the activity of evil spirits:

“The greatest advantage in knowing the difference between spirit and soul is in perceiving the latent power of the soul and in understanding its falsification of the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Christians must spend time praying, asking the Lord for understanding, and reading His Word to have their souls trained to distinguish the actual sources of words, visions, and directions they believe have come from the Holy Spirit. When Christians base their understanding of hearing His words basically upon asking other Christians, pastors, and ministers (who may all give scripturally correct answers) if they did hear God, they can

be manipulated by their own souls and the enemy when the other Christians, pastors, and ministers are not around. When there is no personal *ground-zero knowing* of what God's words will and will not sound like, there is room for confusion.

Too often the Christian community has offered hurting believers three choices for resolving their confusion—none of which will bring permanent healing and restoration to a wounded and needy mind, will, and emotions under attack by the enemy:

1. The first choice is to simply accept that Jesus died to atone for our sins and give us abundant life, and then start living like a whole person. Sort of the *fake it 'til you make it* approach which has never been very effective in spiritual matters. While believing and acting like all of your questions are answered in Jesus Christ is scripturally correct, but this is an attitude that can very hard to maintain when your unsundered soul is in a full-scream panic about its pain and neediness.
2. The second choice offered is to undergo deliverance methods and have demons cast out. Deliverance might be helpful if there is also a divine intervention and cooperation begun in the unsundered soul of the person who is confused and distressed. If this soul is not forced to surrender up its wrong beliefs, deceptions, wrong agreements, bad attitudes, and stronghold thinking to make room for that intervention and cooperation, the situation will revert back to whatever the original demonic involvement might have been.
3. The third choice is to enter into Christian therapy which can include extensive digging around in the past. We do not fix our present and embrace our futures by digging around in our pasts.

Some Christian therapists really do stand in the gap for desperate people, helping them face certain issues while holding on until they get a breakthrough with Jesus Christ. Some Christian therapists, however, borrow liberally from the secular *psychiatry and psychology industry* backed up by huge amounts of self-help books with the same jargon. While writing this book, I read an interesting comment about Freud's strong influence on Christian counseling today. The comment said that he is one of a few men who has continued to rule so many people's lives from the grave.

Far too many in the Church and in the world are trying to use secular methods of counsel to get healed—or they are fighting spiritual survival battles with Satan day and night—or they are trying to do both. Meanwhile, the world is falling apart while gangs are taking over and terrifying neighborhoods, people are dying of drugs and alcohol and AIDS, and children are killing each other at their schools.

Who Has the Authority Here?

Many Christians claim and attempt to exert the authority and power of the blood of Christ that they have been taught they can use regardless of the state of their own souls. They shout at the devil, they draw imaginary *blood lines* on the floor to show Satan where he