

CAN CHRISTIANS BE DECEIVED?

MOST CHRISTIANS GENUINELY BELIEVE THAT, APART FROM FIGHTING AGAINST THEIR FLESH, THEY AREN'T DECEIVED!

**MOST CHRISTIANS TRULY BELIEVE
THAT THE CHURCH THEY'RE CURRENTLY ATTENDING IS THE
"GOD'S OWN"**

**MOST CHRISTIANS REALLY BELIEVE THAT THE DOCTRINE THAT THEY
CURRENTLY SUBSCRIBE TO IS THE ONE GIVEN BY GOD'S OWN LIPS,**

**MOST CHRISTIANS TRULY BELIEVE THAT THE BIBLE THAT THEY CURRENTLY
READ IS THE BEST ONE AVAILABLE THAT HAS BEEN PRODUCED BY MODERN
SCHOLARSHIP USING MODERN AND SOPHISTICATED TECHNIQUES**

*"Know ye not that a little leaven
leaveneth the whole lump"
(1 Corinthians 5.6)*

**DECEIVED CHRISTIANS LIKE, BELIEVE
OR DESIRE THE FOLLOWING.**

Can you find yourself in the following list?

- You like the modern versions of the Bible.
- You believe the music on the radio and the movies are alright.
- You like the world's fashions hairdo's, clothes & nose rings.
- You go to a church with women pastors.
- You go to a charismatic or Pentecostal church.
- You believe in joining together with other churches.
- You believe the King James Bible has errors.
- You believe baptism in the Spirit happens after being saved.
- You believe we should get back to the Ten Commandments.
- You believe in the Azusa Street revival and what it stood for.
- You liked the Pensacola and Toronto "blessings".
- You believe you must be healed as a Christian.
- You desire the "signs and wonders power" as spoken of in the Bible.
- You believe in signs and wonders are for today.
- You desire "pentecostal" experiences and the "pentecostal" gifts.
- You look for and desire daily blessings in the Lord.
- You believe doctrine isn't important.
- You believe in evolution or theistic evolution.
- You believe you have to be baptised to be saved.
- You believe you can lose your salvation.
- You don't believe in the resurrection (*rapture*) of the church.
- You believe babies should be baptised to be saved.
- You believe that tithing is taught in the New Testament.
- You believe everlasting punishment is wrong.
- You believe in the British-Israel theory

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- You believe in the World Council of Churches.
- You believe Roman Catholics are Christians.
- You involve yourself in Promise Keepers
- You believe the Alpha Course is Scripturally based
- You believe in Inter-Faith church services.
- You believe Billy Graham is right when he instructs his counsellors to send his converts back to the religions from which they came.
- You believe in the unity of the churches.
- You believe in Benny Hinn, Joyce Meyer, Qobson, Scott Peck and Kenneth Copeland to name a few.
- You believe Christians should be prosperous.
- You believe that Christians should always be healthy.
- You believe that Christians can do Martial Arts and have Homeopathy, Acupuncture or Yoga.
- You read plenty of books on Christian psychology believing they can help.
- You believe in the Meyers Briggs Personality Test.
- You believe in tests that can reveal the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- You believe Christians should love themselves more.
- You believe in Christian Psychology & counselling.
- You believe in The Four Temperaments teaching.
- You believe in the church offering Stress Management courses.
- You believe in the Healing of Memories
- You liked "Boundaries" by Cloud & Townsend.
- You believe we shouldn't judge others
- You believe homosexuality is a hereditary disease and not a sinful lifestyle choice.
- You believe in learning to love yourself more.
- You believe God is love only & not wrath.
- You believe churches should find out what people want.
- You believe Pastors should share more rather than preach.
- You believe in the acceptance of evolution.
- You believe that there should be less emphasis on doctrine.
- You believe self-esteem is an important part of the Gospel.
- You believe in infant baptism.
- You believe churches should attract people to services and not just teach the Bible all the time.
- You believe toleration of all religious views is important.
- You believe fellowship is more important than doctrine.
- You like the term "partner" instead of spouse.
- You believe that dating is alright.
- You believe that Pastors should preach to needs.
- You believe in preaching on issues rather than Bible.
- You believe there is such a thing as Christian Rock music.
- You believe that Calvinism is Scriptural.
- You believe Freemasons can be Christians and vice versa.
- You believe Amway is alright in a church.

HOW DID YOU GO?

That's the very nature of deception - we don't even know that we are being deceived, otherwise we would change our belief or practice.

TO LEAVE DECEPTION –

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GET BACK TO THE CROSS!

Start reading the King James Bible. The victory that Christ won over Satan came about through His willing submission to the father's will: *"Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me; nevertheless not my will but thine be done."* (Luke 22.42)

When we follow that same path, then His triumph is ours. This way of victory confounds not only Satan but also sincere Christians who mistakenly believe that God's purpose has been frustrated and the church defeated, if we do not take over the world and set up His kingdom.

It is beyond our comprehension that the wounds inflicted in murderous hatred by thorns, lash, nails and spear drew forth the blood that that saves those who believe that Christ died for their sins.

It is this path that we are to take if we are to be Christ's disciples. Contrary to popular thinking, this way of the cross and the denial of the self to know the resurrection life is the way of inexpressible joy. The victory is best stated: *"They overcame him (Satan) by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death."* (Revelation 12:11).

Victorious Christians are those who have gained such an insight into the cross that it has left its indelible stamp on their lives. Overwhelmed by the staggering realisation that the Creator of the universe would become man in order to bear the full weight of the eternal judgement that they deserved, they gladly confess that they no longer belong to self but to the Lord Jesus Christ who purchased them with His blood.

They are then freed from the inner criminal and their own self-centred anxieties that blinded them to the joy of surrender. Their lives are not their own, for they now belong to Jesus Christ totally and forever. He has given them eternal life and they will never perish. *"But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world."* (Galatians 6.14)

By Harley Hitchcock.