

# Be Encouraged

## The Great Deceiver II

6/17/2001

Reading: [Matthew 4:1-11](#)

Text: [1 John 2:16](#)

### Introduction:

1. It's called the "Find the paper under the bottle cap trick!"<sup>i</sup>
2. [2 Corinthians 11:12-15](#)—Satan, an angel of light? His servants, servants of righteousness?
3. [1 John 2:16](#)—For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.
4. [Genesis 3:6](#)—good for food, pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable...
5. The Great Deceiver tries to fool us with our feelings, traditions, other people, church authority, false prophets, even God's own word!
6. Here are 3 more ways Satan tries to trick us:

## #1 Pleasure

### A. The lust of the flesh

1. It could be food—gluttony "Turn the rock into bread!" [Matthew 4:3](#)
2. It could be sex.—immorality
3. It could be drugs—lack of self-control,
4. "The flesh" could be anything that makes you feel good physically.
5. It could be something as simple as a back rub or something as caustic as smoking leaves of any sort!

### B. Everything is backwards!

1. "If it feels good, it must be wrong?" an equal and opposite extreme!
2. Like kids to parents, "You find wrong with EVERYTHING I like!"
3. [Amos 5:14-15](#)—Seek good and not evil, That you may live; so the Lord God of hosts will be with you, as you have spoken. Hate evil, love good;
4. Yet so many have changed the meaning of good and evil.
5. [Isaiah 5:20-21](#)—Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, And prudent in their own sight!

### C. What's wrong with PLEASURE?

1. Pleasure is not wrong; pleasure is the temptation! The trap! The Trick!
2. Eating is not wrong, but gluttony is.
3. Sex is not wrong, fornication and adultery are.
4. Drugs are not wrong, Drug abuse and addiction are!
5. Place your pleasure here: \_\_\_\_\_!

## #2 Possessions

### A. The lust of the eyes

1. This is more than what we see. Lust of the eyes is what we want!
2. It could be a nice house or car or even recreation!
3. It could be all the Kingdoms of the World! [Matthew 4:8](#)

### B. What's wrong with Looking?

1. Seeing is the temptation! Continuing to look is the hook. Lust is the sin.
2. When you look on purpose, what is the purpose of the look?
3. [Ecclesiastes 5:10-11](#)—He who loves silver will not be satisfied with silver; nor he who loves abundance, with increase. This also is vanity. When goods increase, they increase who eat them, so what profit have the owners except to see them with their eyes?
4. Satan's tricks: "One more dollar" "Greener Pastures" "Peace and quiet"

## #3 Power

### A. The Pride of life

1. This is more of a feeling than actual ability.
2. As simple as wanting attention to as heinous as destroying a life
3. It could be controlling someone else—[Matthew 4:6](#)

### B. What's wrong with Authority?

1. Having authority or power is not wrong, it is what you do ***WITH IT*** and what you do ***FOR IT!***
2. Satan makes us think we have it, when all we do is give it to ***him!***

## Conclusion:

### 3 Quick tests:

1. Does your pleasure disobey God directly or indirectly?
2. Do your possessions hinder your relationship with God?
3. Does your authority intrude on your submission to God?

### If you answered yes to any of these things, Satan is deceiving you.

1. His whole purpose is to distract you from God!
2. What shiny object or idea is he using to do it?
3. Look to JESUS the author and finisher of our faith! Obey HIM!

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<sup>i</sup> It could be the find the marble under one of these three nutshells or find the Ace after I rotate these 3 cards. It didn't matter it was another way to trick people out of their money or find out how much you have before they rob you. I had dropped my brother-in-law and his boys and my son at a corner in St. Louis and went back to get my wife and daughter and my wife's sister from the hotel since we only had one car. I came back and dropped off the girls and parked the car. I then came back to meet up with everyone. My son and wife's nephew were just looking around when a guy told them, "Come here! Take a look at this!" I spotted them as my son reached for his wallet. There were several people around, but it still made me anxious to see my son being conned! Who knows what might have happened had I not walked up and said, "Joe, let's go?" Naturally, the con, walked away when he heard someone else coming.