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## Deceive beguile & Craftiness Pt 4 our defence is spiritual discernment

This is our fourth & final study on the words deceive, beguile and craftiness in the scriptures. In our previous study we established that- (1) strong drink and wine deceive, (2) sin deceives each one of us, and (3) ultimately Satan is the source of all deception in the world. In this teaching we establish - (1) Be not tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine (2) Let no man beguile you with enticing words, and (3) May we discern the craftiness of those who sought to tempt us as Jesus perceived the craftiness of the chief priests & scribes.

Our three points established from the scriptures -

**1. Be not tossed to and fro & carried about with every wind of doctrine.**  
"That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive" (Eph.4: 14).

**2. Let no man beguile you with enticing words**

"And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words" (Col.2: 4).

**3. Discern those who tempt us as Jesus discerned the Pharisees.**

"And they asked him, saying, Master, we know that thou sayest and teachest rightly, neither acceptest thou the person of any, but teachest the way of God truly: Is it lawful for us to give tribute unto Caesar, or no? But he perceived their craftiness, and said unto them, Why tempt ye me?" (Luk.20: 21-23).

### Illustration

Karen and I watched a movie called -"God's not dead". A university Professor of Philosophy, on the first day of term and asked all the students to write on a piece of paper that God is dead. But one Christian could not and did not. The Professor required he present to the class his defence, and if the class could be convinced then the student would pass the paper, if he could not the student would fail. His Christian girlfriend told him to abandon the challenge and write "God is dead" just to pass the paper, but God led the student to present a case that revealed the Professor hated God because he let his mother die at the age of 12. Once this came out the student asked - how can you hate someone that is dead, that you deny exists?

Question to think about.

What scriptural defences did the student use in his case for why God is not dead?

Answer from the scriptures

- \* He was not tossed about with every wind of doctrine - he replied from the scriptures supported by sound reason and logic.
- \* He did not allow vain words to beguile him, but rather discerned that the Professor sought to spoil him through- philosophy and vain deceit, and traditions of men.
- \* He discerned the crux of the Professor's unbelief, and challenged him on that which had taken place in his heart.
- \* He walked in the Spirit and did not fulfil the lusts of the flesh, he chose the riches of Christ rather than his girlfriend (Gal.5: 16-18).
- \* He lived in the Spirit and was ultimately led by the Spirit of God (Gal.5: 25).

Let us pray, search the scriptures & ask God's help to discern those who beguile us with enticing words and man's wisdom. Amen!