



# INSTRUCTIONS IN RIGHTEOUSNESS

Dr. Peter D. Wyns

Entry 5 - 5

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## Deception Or Hearing God

From the very start, the Christian life is built on faith. Without God-inspired faith, Christianity is only man's tradition. It simply becomes a religious form for an individual or a political paradigm for a nation. History gives numerous examples of so-called Christians who had religious faith but not Holy Spirit led faith. Many were passionate for religion but were not intimate followers of Christ. In the name of Christ, some committed grave atrocities; they misrepresented Christ and stained the world's view of Christianity. They were led by voices, but not God. Faith comes by hearing the voice of God. Unless we hear God, we have no real faith and we will be deceived.

Hearing God is not beyond anyone's reach, nevertheless, our attitude and approach determines if and how He speaks to us.

The cunning quality of deception leaves one thinking they are right, when in fact, they are wrong. There is a powerful deception at work in the world today. It is a demonic conspiracy designed to gently lead people away from their Judeo-Christian roots to a comfortable co-existence with the spirit of humanism.

In this study, we uncover 7 attitudes that can lead to the pitfalls of religious deception. We will also study the 7 steps we can take to hear the voice of God.

1. Deception comes through pride. Many Pharisees could not receive Jesus as Messiah because of their pride. Jesus warned not to follow their proud lifestyle of controlling others or living to be seen of men.

2. Deception comes from selfish ambition. Some people learned to be great singers in church; others gained amazing people skills. A selfish ambition for fame, fortune or political power has led many away from the Lord. Notoriety can come with an awful price. It can lead to deception and destruction.

3. Deception comes from greed. The slave trade brought a lot of money to many who claimed to be Christians. They allowed themselves to be deceived because of the financial benefits of ill-gotten gain.

4. Deception comes when we ignore Biblical Truths. Hitler promised economic rescue and deceived his (so called) Christian nation. Many Church people ignored the teachings of the Bible, followed Hitler's deceptions, and embraced evil as the deception grew.

5. Deception comes when we embrace sin. Samson, a man of God, was deceived into thinking that he could get away with sin. He entertained sexual immorality and paganism and he fell into ruin.

6. Deception comes when we embrace bad company. Lot moved into Sodom. He chose close fellowship with ungodly people. We should be friends of sinners but distance ourselves from their philosophies. Constant listening to the ways of the world will lead to deception. This can happen via the TV or the internet.

7. Deception comes when we fail to love the truth. Compromise on essential truths is a chosen form of deception. When we compromise on essential truths

God gives us over to believe lies.

*“The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan ... and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refuse to love the truth ... For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe a lie.” (2Thes. 2:9-11)*

Check to see if you embrace — pride, selfish ambition, greed, compromise on Bible principles, sexual sin, bad company or not loving the truth. If you embrace these, you will fall into deception.

The only weapon that fights deception is hearing the voice of God. Here are 7 conditions that we must meet in order to hear God clearly.

1. Dedicate Everything to God

The small things that you refuse to surrender to the Lord Jesus become walls that separate you from God.

2. Forgive All Who Hurt You

If you fail to forgive, you will have a wounded spirit and a wounded spirit cannot hear God clearly.

3. Obey the Lord in Everything

If you do not obey God, he will

stop talking to you. A disobedient person becomes spiritually deaf. Obedience is directly related to hearing. The more we walk in disobedience the more difficult it will be to hear God.

4. In Everything Give Thanks

Extravagant expressions of thanksgiving to God, even in the worst of situations, will change the atmosphere. A spiritual cloud surrounds us when we are under a spiritual attack. It may be a cloud of fear, panic, depression, grief, failure, rejection, disappointment or even demonic oppression. The powerful, ascending prayers of praise and thanksgiving can dispel the darkness so that we can hear God clearly once again.

5. Ask the Lord to Speak to You

Ask and keep on asking — for hearing God is essential for your life, your wellbeing and your future. We have not because we fail to ask. God gives His Holy Spirit to all who meet His conditions, if they ask. Furthermore, all Holy Spirit gifts come because someone has learned to ask and then they have learned to listen and obey. Ask for the best gifts. Then listen intently and follow through with obedience.

6. Believe that God will Speak to You

It is not enough for you to believe

that God will bless others, you must believe that He will bless you. Without faith, you will always be second guessing. Know that if you seek God and meet His conditions, He will speak to you. The more you hear, the more confidence you will have. When God speaks to you, listen and take a firm hold in faith.

7. Learn to Wait on the Lord

God does not speak to us according to our schedule, but His. This can be frustrating because we want answers, especially in a time of crisis. Waiting on the Lord involves aggressive, not passive listening; we ask and keep on asking. Waiting also requires faith and patience without panic or fear. God speaks in unusual ways and at a different time than we expect. Daniel went into the lion's den, Lazarus lay in a tomb and Joseph sat in prison in Pharaoh's Egypt. God spoke to them in His time and when He did, miracles followed.

Today, guard your heart against deception and learn to hear the voice of the Lord. The Church is in a season of great testing. You will not fail if you hear and obey. Make sure that your ears are unplugged. Listen up - the Lord is speaking! **AΩ**



## Christians for Messiah Ministries

**Instructions in Righteousness** is produced monthly by "Christians for Messiah Ministries." Dr. Peter D. Wyns is the President of "Christians for Messiah Ministries." After 35 years of extensive ministry in more than 35 nations, he is now based in the USA. This ministry continues because of your prayers and financial support. Your partnership is greatly appreciated. For information of Dr. Wyns availability to minister at your church, contact "Christians for Messiah Ministries."

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