



VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

Weekly Bible Study - 14:12:2011

Website: www.victoriouschristianministry.org

Study 23: DISCERNING THE SPIRITS

Nehemiah 6:10-14

Their enemies never gave up despite previous failures. They now enlisted the services of false prophets to entice Nehemiah - a religious person into abandoning the work God had called him to accomplish. However spiritual discernment gave him the victory. The Bible warns Christians not to believe every spirit but to try them with a view to ascertaining if they are of God. ***The gullible believer who zealously imbibes everything without scrutiny can easily fall into the devil's trap through false prophecy. This could potentially result in making a shipwreck of one's faith.*** The proliferation of churches and Christian organisations with divergent doctrines and unscriptural beliefs is a sure indication of satanic infiltration into the sanctuary. The heavenly minded, would be serious enough to detect and avoid false prophets. To do this effectively, one must first be aware of the dangers of false prophecies as well as of the disguise of false prophets.

1. DANGER OF FALSE PROPHECIES:

Nehemiah 6:10; Judges 3:16-23; 1 Kings 13:18-24; Jeremiah 8:9-11; 23:16-18,21,22,25-29,32; Matthew 24:11,24; Deuteronomy 13:1-5; 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12; 2 Timothy 3:5-6; 2 Peter 2:1-3,17-23; Acts 20:27-31

False prophets are agents of the devil operating in various capacities with the intent to deceive unstable souls. They misquote and misinterpret scriptures, use signs and wonders, dreams, visions, erroneous teachings, false promises, as well as liberal theology as instruments of deceit. Through false prophecies they remove the people of God from the path of righteousness often through a gradual lessening of their consecration while at the same time giving them a false sense of security.

2. DISGUISE OF FALSE PROPHETS:

Nehemiah 6:10; 1 Kings 13:18-24; 1 John 4:1-3; Matthew 7:15; 2 Corinthians 11:13-15; Titus 1:16

As direct confrontation of the devil can be easily recognised and resisted by the believer, the devil sometimes comes as a friend. To achieve his aims the "wolf" disguises himself as a sheep with the intent of gaining easy access to the sheepfold. He camouflages his mission as that of the angel of light to gain easy access to the heart of man. He produces counterfeit signs to create a sense of awe and submission. He uses liberalism and eternal security to keep his culprits hell bound. Their lives contradict their preaching.

3. DISCERNING FALSE PROPHETS:

Nehemiah 6:11-14; 1 John 4:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 5:21; Matthew 7:16-20; 2 John 10,11; Isaiah 8:20; John 8:32; Acts 17:11; 2 Corinthians 13:8

Your Spiritual Welfare Is Our Concern

Holy living and closeness of walk with God, as well as sound knowledge and absolute submission to the scriptures, are the best ways of overcoming the devil. Also scrutiny of the prophet's life, comparison of his teachings, revelations and visions with the written word of God can yield vital clues for distinguishing the "wolf in sheep's clothing" from genuine sheep.