

Counterfeiting the Divine

2 Chronicles 18

If the devil wanted to destroy as many people as was possible; how would he accomplish it? And the fact that he is doing it right now; is given by notice from Our Lord Jesus Christ. John 10: 10 - The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

Now there are two main strategies. One is to use overwhelming power, in an effort to quickly subdue the opponent. The blitzkrieg of World War 2 did exactly this. And this tactic was given to Hitler by his evil spirit guides. The other strategy is one of a passive offensive; using counterfeits and decoying tactics. Sun Tzu, the ancient Chinese general preferred this approach. He said that deception is the art of war. A Godly kind of this tactic has also been used very effectively by leaders. Remember Gideon and his band of 300. And General Stonewall Jackson in his last campaign; out-manoeuvred three opposing armies before he himself was killed.

Whenever the devil has tried to destroy the Church by persecutions; it not only failed, but it backfired on him; & resulted in revivals. Exodus 14:10 - 31 - And when Pharaoh drew nigh, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and, behold, the Egyptians marched after them; and they were sore afraid: and the children of Israel cried out unto the LORD. And they said unto Moses, Because there were no graves in Egypt, hast thou taken us away to die in the wilderness? wherefore hast thou dealt thus with us, to carry us forth out of Egypt? Is not this the word that we did tell thee in Egypt, saying, Let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians? For it had been better for us to serve the Egyptians, than that we should die in the wilderness. And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace. And the LORD said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward: But lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea. And I, behold, I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them: and I will get me honour upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host, upon his chariots, and upon his horsemen. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gotten me honour upon Pharaoh, upon his chariots, and upon his horsemen. And the angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them: And it came between the camp of the Egyptians

and the camp of Israel; and it was a cloud and darkness to them , but it gave light by night to these: so that the one came not near the other all the night. And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land , and the waters were divided. And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground : and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left. And the Egyptians pursued, and went in after them to the midst of the sea, even all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. And it came to pass, that in the morning watch the LORD looked unto the host of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of the cloud, and troubled the host of the Egyptians, And took off their chariot wheels, that they drave them heavily: so that the Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel; for the LORD fighteth for them against the Egyptians. And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand over the sea, that the waters may come again upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen. And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to his strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled against it; and the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. And the waters returned, and covered the chariots, and the horsemen, and all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them; there remained not so much as one of them. But the children of Israel walked upon dry land in the midst of the sea; and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left. Thus the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea shore. And Israel saw that great work which the LORD did upon the Egyptians: and the people feared the LORD, and believed the LORD, and his servant Moses.

So, the devil goes back to deceptive tactics. How effective is this? In the Battle of the Bulge, Germans dressed as Americans landed behind Allied lines, and caused a lot of trouble until they were discovered. When Nehemiah was rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem; he had to be on the watch for infiltrators. Nehemiah 4: 7 to 23 - But it came to pass, that when Sanballat, & Tobiah, & the Arabians, & the Ammonites, & the Ashdodites, heard that the walls of Jerusalem were made up, and that the breaches began to be stopped, then they were very wroth, And conspired all of them together to come & to fight against Jerusalem, & to hinder it. Nevertheless we made our prayer unto our God, set a watch against them day & night, because of them. & Judah said, The strength of the bearers of burdens is decayed, and there is much rubbish; so that we are not able to build the wall. And our adversaries said, They shall not know, neither see, till we come in the midst among them, & slay them, & cause the work to cease. And it came to pass, that when the Jews which dwelt by them came, they

said unto us ten times, From all places whence ye shall return unto us they will be upon you. Therefore set I in the lower places behind the wall, and on the higher places, I even set the people after their families with their swords, their spears, & their bows. And I looked, and rose up, & said unto the nobles, & to the rulers, & to the rest of the people, Be not ye afraid of them: remember the Lord, which is great and terrible, and fight for your brethren, your sons, & your daughters, your wives, & your houses. And it came to pass, when our enemies heard that it was known unto us, & God had brought their counsel to nought, that we returned all of us to the wall, every one unto his work. And it came to pass from that time forth, that the half of my servants wrought in the work, & the other half of them held both the spears, the shields, & the bows, & the habergeons; & the rulers were behind all the house of Judah. They which builded on the wall, & they that bare burdens, with those that laded, every one with one of his hands wrought in the work, & with the other hand held a weapon. For the builders, every one had his sword girded by his side, & so builded. And he that sounded the trumpet was by me. And I said unto the nobles, & to the rulers, & to the rest of the people, The work is great and large, & we are separated upon the wall, one far from another. In what place therefore ye hear the sound of the trumpet, resort ye thither unto us: our God shall fight for us. So we laboured in the work: & half of them held the spears from the rising of the morning till the stars appeared. Likewise at the same time said I unto the people, Let every one with his servant lodge within Jerusalem, that in the night they may be a guard to us, and labour on the day. So neither I, nor my brethren, nor my servants, nor the men of the guard which followed me, none of us put off our clothes, saving that every one put them off for washing.

& how many times did Our Lord Jesus Christ and the Early Church leaders warn the believers to be on guard for imposters. Matthew 7: 15 - Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Acts 20: 29 - For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.

This counterfeiting the divine has been very successful for the devil. In fact, there is even one occasion where God Himself sanctioned it. 2Chronicles 18: 1 to 27 - Now Jehoshaphat had riches and honour in abundance, and joined affinity with Ahab. And after certain years he went down to Ahab to Samaria. And Ahab killed sheep and oxen for him in abundance, and for the people that he had with him, and persuaded him to go up with him to Ramothgilead. And Ahab king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat king of Judah, Wilt thou go with me to Ramothgilead? And he answered him, I am as thou art, and my people as thy people; and we will be with thee in the war. And Jehoshaphat said unto the king of Israel,

Enquire, I pray thee, at the word of the LORD to day. Therefore the king of Israel gathered together of prophets four hundred men, and said unto them, Shall we go to Ramothgilead to battle, or shall I forbear? And they said, Go up; for God will deliver it into the king's hand. But Jehoshaphat said, Is there not here a prophet of the LORD besides, that we might enquire of him? And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, There is yet one man, by whom we may enquire of the LORD: but I hate him; for he never prophesied good unto me, but always evil: the same is Micaiah the son of Imla. And Jehoshaphat said, Let not the king say so. And the king of Israel called for one of his officers, and said, Fetch quickly Micaiah the son of Imla. And the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat king of Judah sat either of them on his throne, clothed in their robes, and they sat in a void place at the entering in of the gate of Samaria; and all the prophets prophesied before them. And Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah had made him horns of iron, and said, Thus saith the LORD, With these thou shalt push Syria until they be consumed. And all the prophets prophesied so, saying, Go up to Ramothgilead, and prosper: for the LORD shall deliver it into the hand of the king. And the messenger that went to call Micaiah spake to him, saying, Behold, the words of the prophets declare good to the king with one assent; let thy word therefore, I pray thee, be like one of theirs, and speak thou good. And Micaiah said, As the LORD liveth, even what my God saith, that will I speak. And when he was come to the king, the king said unto him, Micaiah, shall we go to Ramothgilead to battle, or shall I forbear? And he said, Go ye up, and prosper, and they shall be delivered into your hand. And the king said to him, How many times shall I adjure thee that thou say nothing but the truth to me in the name of the LORD? Then he said, I did see all Israel scattered upon the mountains, as sheep that have no shepherd: and the LORD said, These have no master; let them return therefore every man to his house in peace. And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, Did I not tell thee that he would not prophesy good unto me, but evil? Again he said, Therefore hear the word of the LORD; I saw the LORD sitting upon his throne, and all the host of heaven standing on his right hand and on his left. And the LORD said, Who shall entice Ahab king of Israel, that he may go up and fall at Ramothgilead? And one spake saying after this manner, and another saying after that manner. Then there came out a spirit, and stood before the LORD, and said, I will entice him. And the LORD said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go out, and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And the LORD said, Thou shalt entice him, and thou shalt also prevail: go out, and do even so. Now therefore, behold, the LORD hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of these thy prophets, and the LORD hath spoken evil against thee. Then Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah came near, and smote Micaiah upon the cheek, and said, Which

way went the Spirit of the LORD from me to speak unto thee? And Micaiah said, Behold, thou shalt see on that day when thou shalt go into an inner chamber to hide thyself. Then the king of Israel said, Take ye Micaiah, and carry him back to Amon the governor of the city, and to Joash the king's son; And say, Thus saith the king, Put this fellow in the prison, and feed him with bread of affliction and with water of affliction, until I return in peace. And Micaiah said, If thou certainly return in peace, then hath not the LORD spoken by me. And he said, Hearken, all ye people.

How diabolical; by sending a false & lying spirit into the false prophets; the devil deceived everyone with false prophecies of victory; which resulted in Ahab's destruction. By the way; this tactic has not been shelved. It is used regularly, & even on a daily basis. For example; what do you do when someone prophecies that God will give you one hundred dollars for every dollar that you give that fraudster? What did Our Lord Jesus do when confronted by a lying spirit in one of His disciples? Matthew 16: 23 - But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

Because this tactic is so destructive on the Church; we should seriously study it. And don't look at what others may have; make it more personal. In the early 1900s, there was a revival in Wales. Evans Roberts, a leader in it; noticed how quickly it got knocked off track. And he later recounted it to some friends, and Mrs. Jesse Penn-Lewis wrote it down. It was published; in fact, it is still available. It's called, "War on the Saints", and is a must read for those in deliverance. Recently, it was re-edited, and now it is, "Secrets of Spiritual Warfare". While the whole book is good; chapter seven is what we will be looking at now. It's called, "Counterfeiting the Divine", and one section deals with seeing in the spirit world.

Counterfeit Visions and Dreams

Supernatural visions and manifestations are also a fruitful source of profit for deceiving spirits. The forces of evil have gained a strong foothold when such displays are given, especially when the believer relies upon and quotes more from these experiences than from the Word of God. For the aim of the wicked spirit is to displace the Word of God as the rock-ground of his life. It is true that the believer may refer to and quote the Scriptures; but often this will be done only to support the experiences and to strengthen faith—not in God, but in His apparent manifestations. This covert drawing of the believer to put more faith in the manifestations of God than in the pure Word of God is a keenly subtle deception of the Evil One, and it is easily recognized in a believer thus deceived.

When evil spirits are able to give visions, the ground is not necessarily known sin but a condition of passivity—in other words, non-action of the mind, imagination, and other faculties. As we have seen, spiritualist

mediums, clairvoyants, crystal gazers, and others who know that the least action of the mind immediately breaks the clairvoyant state understand that this essential condition of passive non action is the means of obtaining supernatural manifestations.

Believers who do not know these main principles can unknowingly fulfil the conditions for evil spirits to work in their lives, and they ignorantly induce the passive state by wrong ideas of the true things of God. For example, they may: (1) sink into a passive mental condition that they think is really "waiting on God" in times of prayer; (2) deliberately will the cessation of their mental action in order to obtain some supernatural manifestation that they believe to be from God; (3) practice a passive attitude in daily life that they believe is really submission to the will of God; (4) endeavor to bring about a state of personal negation—in which they have no desires, needs, wishes, hopes, or plans—that they think is full surrender to God and a will lost in God.

The deceiving spirits are careful not to frighten the believer by doing anything that will open his eyes, but they keep within the range of what he will receive without question. They will impersonate the Lord Jesus in the special way that will appeal to the person. To some He may appear as "Bridegroom," to others, as seated on a throne and coming in great glory. As in spiritualism, evil spirits will also impersonate the dead to those who grieve over their loved ones, and since they have watched these loved ones during life and know all about them, they will give ample "proofs" to establish the deceived ones in their deception.

Visions may come from one of three sources: the divine, from God; the human, such as hallucinations and illusions because of disease; and the satanic, which are false. Visions given by evil spirits also include anything supernatural presented to and seen by the mind or imagination from outside it—such as terrible pictures of the future, the flashing of Scripture texts as if they were lit up, and visions of widespread movements—all counterfeiting either the true vision of the Holy Spirit given to the "eyes of...understanding" (Ephesians 1:18) or the normal and healthy action of the imagination. The church is thus often made a whirlpool of division through believers relying upon "visions" for guiding their decisions, instead of the principles of right and wrong set forth in God's Word.

Apart from visions that are the result of disease, detecting divine from satanic visions depends a great deal upon knowledge of the Word of God and the fundamental principles of His working in His children. These principles may be briefly stated in this way: 1. No supernatural vision, in any form, that requires a condition of mental non action or which comes while the believer is in such a condition can be taken to be of God.

2. All of the Holy Spirit's enlightening and illuminating vision is given when

the mind is in full use and when every faculty is awake to understand, the very opposite condition than that required by the working of evil spirits.

3. All that is of God is in harmony with the laws of the way God works, as set forth in the Scriptures.

Many believers have been caught by visions of a worldwide sweeping in of souls, given by Satan, whose malignant hatred and ceaseless antagonism is directed against the true seed of Jesus Christ, which, in union with Him, will bruise the Serpent's head. The Devil's aim is to delay the birth and growth of the holy seed. To this end, he will encourage any widespread superficial work for God, knowing it will not really touch his kingdom nor hasten the full birth into the throne-life of the conquering seed of Christ. The safe path for believers at the close of the age is one of tenacious faith in the written Word as the sword of the Spirit to cut the way through all the interferences and tactics of the forces of darkness, all the way to the end.

In addition, all dreams as well as visions can be classified as divine, human, or satanic. Each can be discerned, first, by the condition of the person and, second, by the principles distinguishing the working of God or Satan. Dreams arising from the natural condition of the person and attributable to purely physical causes may be recognized as natural when there is no deception and when such physical causes really exist and are not used as a cover by deceiving spirits to hide their workings.

Passivity of mind is an essential condition for the presentation of dreams by evil spirits. At night, the brain is passive, and while the activity of the mind in the daytime hinders the workings of such spirits, they have their occasion at night when passivity is more pronounced in sleep. Believers who are fighting to regain the use of their mental faculties in normal action can refuse these night presentations by evil spirits as definitely as they refuse their workings during the day and, in due time, find their complete cessation. Apart from the condition of the person, divine dreams may be distinguished from satanic ones by their import and exceptional value. (See Genesis 37:5-9; Matthew 1:20; 2:12.) Satanic dreams are characterized by their mystery, absurdity, emptiness, and folly, as well as by their effects on the person. With divinely-given dreams, the recipient is left normal, calm, quiet, reasonable, and with an open, clear mind. With satanic ones, he is elated or dazed, confused, and unreasonable.

The presentation of evil spirits at night is frequently the cause of morning dullness of mind and heaviness of spirit. The sleep has not been refreshing because of their power, through the passivity of the mind during sleep, to influence the whole being. Natural sleep renews and invigorates the faculties and the whole system. Insomnia is, in a great degree, the work of evil spirits adapting their workings to the overwrought condition of the person in order to hide their attacks.

Believers who are open to the supernatural world should specially guard their nights by prayer and by definite rejection of the first insidious workings of evil spirits along these lines. Many say, "The Lord woke me," and place their reliance upon "revelations" given in a state of half-consciousness, when mind and will are only partially alert to discern the issues of the guidance or revelations given to them. If such believers watch the results of their obedience to night revelations, they will find many traces of the deceitful workings of the Enemy.

They will find, too, how their faith is often based upon a beautiful experience given in the early hours of the morning or, conversely, is shaken by accusations, suggestions, attacks, and conflict manifestly of the Evil One. Faith must be based on an intelligent reliance upon God Himself in His changeless character of faithfulness and love to His own. All workings of the Enemy at night can be stopped by recognizing their source. They also can be definitely refused in the name of the Lord Jesus while revoking all ground unknowingly given in the past for such workings. There are two sides when seeing into the spiritual realm. 2 Kings 6: 11 - 17 - Therefore the heart of the king of Syria was sore troubled for this thing; and he called his servants, and said unto them, Will ye not shew me which of us is for the king of Israel? And one of his servants said, None, my lord, O king: but Elisha, the prophet that is in Israel, telleth the king of Israel the words that thou speakest in thy bedchamber. And he said, Go and spy where he is, that I may send and fetch him. And it was told him, saying, Behold, he is in Dothan. Therefore sent he thither horses, and chariots, and a great host: and they came by night, and compassed the city about. And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do? And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them. And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.

Revelation 16: 12 to 14 - And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared. And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

If you have had any involvement in drugs or the occult; and have not had massive deliverance from them; you can be sure that most, if not all those

seeings are not from God. And work diligently to get rid of clairvoyance and clairsaudience; as they deceive people into accepting subjective experiences instead of the Word of God. Secrets of Spiritual Warfare, Chapter Seven has a section on this. Counterfeit Revelation

The person beset with constant demonic presentations to his mind thinks he only has a vivid imagination. Or even worse, he may think that some of these things are visions from God and that he is favored of God, especially when the vision is of "great plans for God" or wide visions of what God is going to do. In visions such as these, the believer is always at the center, the special instrument of this service.

Many of the plans for "movements" in connection with revival, which have gone even as far as print, have been of such a character, plans given by "revelation," which have resulted in gaining only the few caught by them and no others. The aftermath of revival, where men have left their regular calling and followed a will-o'-the-wisp, or elusive, revelation of "launching out on God," has been of such a character, Worldwide plans are conceived and dissipated in a few months. Such deceived believers become ultra-devotional, with an excess of zeal that blinds them to all things but the supernatural realm and robs them of power to wisely meet the claims of other aspects of life. All this comes from an evil spirit's access to the mind and imagination through the deception of counterfeiting the presence of God.

What will be the result of an unsaved person trusting in experiences which counterfeit the presence of God? Matthew 7: 21 to 23 - Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. And as we seem to be in the last days; we have to be very careful. The many false and counterfeits of the Divine will only increase. Matthew 24: 22 to 25 - And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened. Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before.

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