

Perception **VS. TRUTH**



March 1, 2026

Perception vs Truth

2 Corinthians 10:3 (NLT) *We are human, but we don't wage war as humans do. ⁴ We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy arguments. ⁵ We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ.*

Introduction: The warfare of Perception vs Truth. Today we will reveal the enemy's first and ongoing work to attack the character, veracity and authority of God's Word by using deception and sowing the seeds of doubt.

How you perceive God is how you will receive from God!

1. Did God say?
2. Is God true?
3. Faith is an act

1. Did God say?

Genesis 2:16 *And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: ¹⁷ But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it. For in the day that thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die.*

Genesis 3:1 *Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? ² And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: ³ but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. ⁴ And the serpent said unto the woman,*

(1) *Ye shall not surely die: v⁵*

(2) *for God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.*

(3) *v⁶ And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and*

(4) *that it was pleasant to the eyes, and*

(5) *a tree to be desired to make one wise,*

(6) *she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat,*

(7) *and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.*

1 John 2:16 *For all that is in the world, the (3) **lust of the flesh**, and the (4) **lust of the eyes**, and (5) **the pride of life**, is not of the Father, but is of the world.*

- Satan the first liar and sinner

Ezekiel 28:15 *Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, **till iniquity was found in thee.***

John 8:44 *Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*

2. Is God true?

Hebrews 3:13 *But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.*

A. Sin's primary weapon is distortion

In Genesis 3:1 The serpent questions God's Word, planting doubt.

- Sin doesn't always appear evil; it often disguises itself as "reasonable" or "desirable."

B. Sin attacks the mind before the action

2 Corinthians 11:3 *But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.*

- The enemy twists truth to make God seem restrictive or untrustworthy.

C. Sin Distorts the Character and Nature of God

- From loving Father to harsh ruler; Sin convinces people God is withholding good

Genesis 3:5 *for God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.*

- From faithful provider to unreliable source; Doubting God's promises lead to self-reliance.
- From merciful redeemer to distant judge; Guilt and shame push people away from God instead of toward Him.

Truth! **Hebrews 3:13** *But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day;*

Romans 8:32 *He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?*³³ *Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.*³⁴ *Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.*³⁵ *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*

3. Faith is an act

A. When God's Word is doubted, authority is forfeited

- Jesus overcame temptation by standing on the Word.

Matthew 4:4 *But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*

B. Sin causes believers to settle for less

- Instead of walking in victory, they live in defeat and fear.

2 Timothy 1:7 *For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*

C. The gap between promise and manifestation – ACTION!

James 1:22 (NLT) *But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.*

D. Restore the Right View of God

- **RENEW YOUR MIND WITH TRUTH!**

Romans 12:2 (NKJV) *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

- **CONFRONT LIES WITH GOD'S WORD!**

Ephesians 6:17 (NKJV) *And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;*

- **ACT ON GOD'S WORD IN FAITH!**

Hebrews 11:6 NKJV *But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

- **IT IS YOUR TIME TO FIGHT!**

2 Corinthians 10:3 NKJV *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, ⁵ casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,*

- **TURN YOUR TRIAL INTO A TESTIMONY**

Revelation 12:11 *And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they loved not their lives unto the death.*

- **TESTIMONY- Camilla & Brian Berry**
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Worship God with your First-Fruits, Tithes, and Offerings:

Malachi 3:10 *Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, **And try Me now in this,**” Says the Lord of hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it. ¹¹ “And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, So that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field,” Says the Lord of hosts; ¹² “And all nations will call you blessed, For you will be a delightful land,” Says the Lord of hosts.*