

CONSIDER NOT

By Leroy Hyter

*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. **John 8:44***

In John 8 Jesus is confronted by the Pharisees, who not only accuse Him of speaking falsely, but who also are seeking for ways to kill Him. In response to their accusations and threats Jesus, in John 8:44, refers to them, not as children of God, as they would like to think of themselves to be, but as children of the devil. Children who, Jesus says, will surely do and carry out the lusts of their father.

Jesus continues on, in John 8:44, by listing two major characteristics of the devil. He first reveals that Satan is a murderer and that he has been one from the beginning. Secondly He reveals that the devil is a liar and describes him as one who doesn't even abide in the truth. Jesus said that when the devil lies, he's not simply trying to find a way to falsely manipulate the truth, he is speaking of his own, he is speaking what and who he actually is. For the devil is not only a liar, but also he's the father of lies.

In other words, just as God is perfect Love, Light and Life as well as perfect Truth. The devil is in perfect opposition to God's purity; he's total hate, darkness and death and as the father of lies he possesses no truth in him on any level.

Once while going through an intense test and trial I was led to read this particular scripture, John 8:44, and it truly ministered to me. At the time I was in the hospital and was mentally being attacked by the enemy. One afternoon my Pastor at the time, Pastor Green and the assistant Pastor of my church, Pastor Walker, came to visit me. When they asked me how I was doing, being that I was so overwhelmed by the oppression being waged against me, my response basically only described the intense battle I was having, within my thought life, against the condemning words of the enemy.

Before I could continue on Pastor Green quickly turned to John 8:44 and went on to remind me just who the devil actually was. With great urgency he pointed out the true characteristics of the devil, as based on John 8:44. He talked about the fact that the devil is a murderer, but what he focused on the most was mainly the fact that the devil is also a liar and that there is no truth in him or in anything he says. As I listened to him minister to me from this scripture I thought to myself that, he wasn't telling me anything that I didn't already know. I knew that Satan was a liar. But, in listening to him, what was clearly evident to me was the fact that I had allowed the pressure of my surrounding circumstances, that in many ways supported the lies the enemy kept feeding my mind, to cause me to strongly consider the possibility of what would happen if what the enemy was saying did, by some chance, come true.

While hearing my Pastor expound on this scripture it was soon revealed to me in a new light, that Satan was not only a liar, but was personally the embodiment of falsehood and that he possessed no ability to speak truthfully. On that thought I immediately began to see the error in the way that I was approaching the attack I was up against. I corrected my point of view and I corrected my way of thinking as I readjusted my strategy and approach to fighting off the enemy. I realized that the devil, leading up to this time, had been using my own power to defeat me and to keep me bound. It was not so much, his ability and power that was hindering me from successfully walking free of his oppressive attack, but it was more so my own fear and belief in his lies coming to pass.

It was now evident to me that there was no truth in anything the devil had said to me, and because his words were untrue, in light of God's Word, there was no possible way for them to manifest, except through my own fear, my own expectation and faith in their ability to do so and also through my own fear, lack of faith and little to no expectation for God's Word to truly come to pass. The Holy Spirit later revealed to me that the true weakness and error I demonstrated while going through this trial was not so much in my not recognizing that the devil was a liar, and it was not so much that I didn't believe in what God's Word said about what I was facing; my true error was in my decision to even consider the words and lies of the enemy.

I recalled that while I was going through this attack and while my mind was being bombarded by the condemning words of the enemy, though I always concluded my thoughts by confessing that I knew God's Word was true and

that I was sure that He was going to deliver me from this trial, I spent the majority of my thought life reasoning and considering the possibility of what would happen if the enemies lies came to pass. As subtle as this may have appeared at first, this one act of considering Satan's lies, opened up a door to the enemy, a door that whenever accessed could and actually has caused many of God's children to miss out on the blessings and promises confirmed for them in God's Word. Instead of considering the lies of the enemy, the Holy Spirit said, once we discover that a thought or word is being spoken that is in direct opposition to God's Truth, we should quickly cast it down and in turn confess and meditate on what is written in the Word of God regarding that matter.

The Holy Spirit led me to an example in the Book of Genesis that clearly revealed how, when we consider the lies of the enemy, we open the door to one of the enemies most effective weapons, which he consistently uses with hopes of causing the children of God to fall and fail in life.

I believe we all know the story of Adam and Eve. The Word of God states that when they were first created they not only had perfect fellowship with God, but also were both created in His Image and Likeness. In Genesis 2:17 God gives Adam a command not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and He warns him that if he were to eat of it he would surely die.

Adam obviously informed his wife Eve about this Law and command from God, because when she was first asked by the serpent, "Yea hath God said, ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? (Genesis 3:1)" She basically answered him correctly, as stated in Genesis 3:2-3. "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 in the midst of the garden God hath said, ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die."

The Holy Spirit told me that what caused Adam and Eve to loose this battle with the serpent was when Eve and then Adam gave consideration to what the serpent had said, even though what he said was in opposition to what God had told them. Let's read what the serpent said in Genesis 3:4-5:

"And the serpent said unto the woman, ye shall not surely die: 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." **Genesis 3:4-5**

It is obvious that the serpent is speaking a lie because his words are in opposition to what God had commanded. The Holy Spirit went on to tell me that actually the serpent's attempt to cause Man to fall from God's grace should have failed the moment Adam and Eve heard him speak in opposition to God. He said that had Eve never considered the serpent's lie the temptation would have been defeated right then and there. He also said that, there were actually two traps set by the enemy that Adam and Eve fell victim to; one, as we discussed earlier, was when Eve was enticed to consider the lies spoken by the serpent and two was when she was deceived into daring to reason in her mind the validity of the truth of what God had already established in His Word and command.

Genesis 3:6 reveals what happened once Eve considered the lies of the enemy Let's read it:

*And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her, and he did eat. **Genesis 3:6***

This would have never happened had Adam and Eve not given the serpent's words any consideration. Also had they simply obeyed and been a doer of God's Word as opposed to being someone who decided to reason out in their minds whether what God had said was valid and true, it's possible that the fall of Man would have never occurred.

We like Adam and Eve often do the same thing. How many times have we heard a word that was spoken in direct opposition to the truth of God's Word, and we chose to consider it and worried about it's possible reality, rather than casting it down and bringing it to the obedience of Christ (II Corinthians 10:5)? Also, how many times has God given us a Word or command and instead of being quick to act on it or to obey it, we chose to reason it out in hopes of determining whether it's a Word applicable to our lives?

We must judge every thought and word that we hear by the Word of God and whenever we discover or discern that thought or word to be one that is not in agreement with God's Truth, we must *Consider It Not*. Also once we receive a Word from God, and we know for sure that it is from Him, we must never reason ourselves out of obeying it, but instead quickly act on it.

The Holy Spirit told me once that the true child of God, who walks successfully through life, and who consistently overcomes the enemy, is one that is simply a doer of God's Word and not one to reason if or not the Word should be acted on or obeyed. Even during times when they may not have the full understanding as to why they should obey, they simply do and obey the Word anyway and pray to get the understanding later; we too can be that victorious child of God when we do the same.

I am writing and sharing all of this today to simply say, *Consider Not* the lies of the enemy and be quick to act on and obey the Truth's of God's Word.