



“I also will choose their delusions, and I will bring their fears upon them, because when I called, none did answer; when I spoke, they did not hear...” Isaiah 66:4

James, the always practical half- brother of Jesus, gives us critical insight into this passage of Isaiah when he says, “But be doers of the Word and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.” (James 1:22). You see friends, to hear the voice of God, either through His Word preached or spoken directly to your heart by the Spirit and then not to obey it is to be deceived!

The deception is subtle enough – “that word may be for others, but surely I don’t need it.” “He isn’t speaking to me...” Gradually we begin to elevate ourselves – very much like Lucifer’s pride – and soon we believe, and falsely so, that we need no correction. To place your opinions on an equal footing with the Scripture is to be lost in the mire of self-deception and self-importance.

Obedience to God is important if we are to enjoy His blessing and His safety. Quick obedience to His Word is necessary if we are to experience the blessings of the obedient life He intends for us! To obey the Word of the Lord – via His Spirit or the Scriptures – positions us to walk in humility and thus be in line for the blessing of the God. “If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land: But if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.” (Isaiah 1:19 – 20).

“Humble yourself in the sight of the Lord – agree with Him, obey Him – and He shall lift you up.” (James 4:10)

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