

“When Darkness Sounds Divine”

Source Scripture: 2 Corinthians 11:13-15

- Today we will continue this week's conversation on discerning between the voice of GOD and the Enemy.
- Focusing on the enemy's playbook of deception. Not when the enemy comes **obviously evil**, but when he comes **sounding Divine**.
- Paul warns us in:
2 Corinthians 11:13-14 (NKJV)
“¹³ For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.”
- That means the enemy does not always show up with horns and a pitchfork. He shows up in:
 - Spiritual language
 - Twisted Scripture
 - Religious-sounding ideas
 - “God wants you happy” ideology
- And if we're not careful, we will start **calling demonic deception “divine direction.”**
- Today I want to preach from the topic, **“When Darkness Sounds Divine.”**

I. Satan's Strategy is Imitation

2 Corinthians 11:14-15 (NKJV)

¹⁴ And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. ¹⁵ Therefore, it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

- That word “transforms” in the greek (Metaskay-Mateezo) means **to disguise, to change appearance**. *change the form of a person or thing, change one’s form, or to be changed in form.*

- Not only does Satan disguise himself, but his ministers do too—people who look like apostles, prophets, or teachers, but are working deception.

He doesn’t change his nature—he only changes his **presentation**.

Matthew 7:15 (NKJV)

“¹⁵Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.”

- So Paul says Satan comes as an angel of light, and Jesus says false prophets come in sheep’s clothing—different images, same warning: what you see on the outside is not always what’s really there.

- The enemy knows:
 - You won’t follow obvious darkness
 - You won’t bow to obvious sinSo he wraps **lies in religious language**.

A. “Has God Really Said...?”

Genesis 3:1 (NKJV)

3 Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden’?”

Notice his strategy:

1. **He questions what God clearly said.**
“Has God indeed said...?”
– Planting doubt in the mind.
2. **He twists what God said.**
God said they could eat of **every** tree except one.
The serpent flips it to sound restrictive and unfair.

3. He adds a little compromise.

“You will not surely die...” (v.4) – Half-truth, whole deception.

- This is still how he talks today:
 - “Did God really say you have to wait until marriage?”
 - “Did God really say forgive them after what they did?”
 - “Did God really say you can’t walk in that lifestyle if you ‘love Jesus’?”
- He doesn’t start with full rebellion. He starts with:
“Has God really said...?”

II. The Enemy can sound spiritual

The enemy doesn’t just tempt with obvious sin. He uses **spiritual-sounding lies** like:

- “God wants you happy, right? So it’s okay to do what makes you feel good.”
- “God understands your struggle, so you don’t have to begin your change yet.”
- “Follow your heart. God gives you the desires of your heart.”

Jude 4 (NKJV)

“For certain men have crept in unnoticed... who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.”

- This is that same spirit today—grace twisted into permission.
- “God is gracious” becomes “God doesn’t really expect you to change.”
 - People, **GOD wants you holy more than He wants you comfortable.**
 - Happiness that comes from disobedience is **not from God**—it’s Lake bait.

Principle:

If the “voice” you’re hearing:

- Lowers God’s standard
- Justifies your flesh
- Makes sin seem reasonable

It is not the Holy Spirit. It is darkness dressed up as revelation.

III. Conviction and Condemnation:

A Big area of confusion rest in the question. **Is this God correcting me, or the enemy condemning me?**

Revelation 12:9-10 (NKJV)

⁹ So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. ¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.

- Satan’s job description: **ACCUSER**.
He doesn’t just accuse your actions—he attacks your **identity**.

John 16:8 (NKJV)

“⁸ And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment”

- The Holy Spirit also speaks about sin—but in a very different way.

A. God’s Conviction

God’s voice sounds like this:

- “You lied. Repent. I’ll cleanse you.”
- “You’re off here. Come back.”
- “That attitude is wrong. Let’s change your heart.”

Characteristics of Conviction:

- Specific: It points to a clear behavior or area.
- Redemptive: It always offers a way back.
- Hopeful: It says, “You can be forgiven. You can change.”
- Leads to repentance, humility, and restoration.

B. Satan's Condemnation

The enemy's voice sounds like this:

- "You're a liar."
- "You're filthy."
- "You'll never change."
- "God is done with you."
- "Why even try anymore?"

Characteristics of Condemnation:

- Vague shame: You just feel "dirty" with no clear way out.
- Identity attack: It labels who you are, not what you did.
- Hopeless: It says there is no way back.
- Leads to hiding, isolation, and giving up.

Romans 8:1 (NKJV)

8 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

- If you are **in Christ** and walking toward Him—even stumbling—then **condemnation is not your portion.**

IV. How the Enemy Uses Condemnation

- First, he tempts you with compromise:
"It's not that bad. God understands. Just this once."
- Then, after you fall, he switches voices:
"Look at you. You call yourself a Christian?"
"Don't even bother praying. God is tired of you."
"You can't go back to church after that."
- The same voice that **invited you into sin** now **chains you with shame.**

Hear me:

Any voice that tells you:

- “Stay away from God.”
- “Hide from His presence.”
- “Don’t confess, don’t repent, just stay stuck.”

...is **not** the Holy Spirit. That is the **accuser of the brethren**.

V. Training Your Ear

“4 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.”

- So we are commanded not just to hear, but to test what we hear.

Let’s make this practical. When a thought, feeling, or “word” comes, ask:

1. Does This Voice Agree with Scripture?

- God will not contradict His Word to make you feel better.
- If it excuses sin that Scripture condemns → **Not God**.

2. What Fruit Does This Voice Produce?

Galatians 5:22–23 – Fruit of the Spirit

Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

Galatians 5:19–21 – Works of the Flesh

Sexual sin, impurity, idolatry, hatred, jealousy, outbursts of wrath, drunkenness, etc.

Ask:

- Does this voice lead me toward repentance or rebellion?
- Toward humility or pride?
- Toward openness or secrecy?

VI. Stop Agreeing with the Accuser

- The enemy's power in your life is often in **your agreement** with his lies.
 - He says: "You're dirty."
You say: "I'm dirty."
 - He says: "You're done."
You say: "I'm done."
 - But God has given you a different confession:

Romans 8:33–34

³³ Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

Colossians 1:13

¹³ He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

- We are no longer under the jurisdiction of darkness. We don't belong to the accuser—we belong to the Son.
- That's why agreeing with his lies doesn't fit who we are anymore.
- When you agree with the accuser, you **silence your own faith**.
When you agree with God, you **silence the accuser**.

Conclusion:

We have to expose the Angel of Light

- We're living in days full of:
 - False prophets
 - False "words"
 - False comfort

- The enemy is still asking, “Has God really said...?”
And he is still accusing day and night.

But Jesus said:

John 10:27 (NKJV)

“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.”

- You are not called to live confused.
- You are not called to live condemned.
- You are not called to live deceived.

You are called to:

- Hear the Shepherd
- Reject the stranger
- Silence the accuser
- Walk in truth

Final Declaration (Have them say it out loud)

- “Lord, we belong to You. We are Your sheep, and we hear Your voice.
- We renounce every lie and every voice that is not from You.
- We refuse the condemnation of the accuser.
- We receive the conviction of the Holy Spirit that leads us back to You.
- We submit our minds, our emotions, and our decisions to the Holy Spirit.
- We choose Your Word over our feelings and over the culture.
- Teach us to recognize Your voice more clearly every day.

In Jesus’ name, Amen.”