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Willingly Deluded

“For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen” (Romans 1:25).

We often think delusion comes against someone’s will, don’t we? We see the poor chump caught in a game of shadows and we think, “poor fellow! He needs someone to clear the air.” We just need to get those poor deceived people to see the truth and then they’ll stop being deluded, right? Well, not often. Man’s hunger for delusion is illustrated in the very first delusion: *“Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, ‘Indeed, has God said, “You shall not eat from any tree of the garden”?’”* She replies, “yep.” *“The serpent said to the woman, ‘You surely will not die! For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’”* Eve bought it, and *“she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate”* (Genesis 3:1-6). Why? Why was this first lie successful in deluding Adam and Eve? Scripture says that the wickedness of false people makes *“the king glad, And the princes with their lies”* (Hosea 7:3).

You see, Adam and Eve were “glad” in the promise of the Serpent’s lie, because his promise was Lucifer’s hope: *“I will make myself like the Most High”* (Isaiah 14:14b). No one could have dissuaded them—they wanted to live that lie. The only problem was it required disobeying God, and fear of responsibility to His judgment had kept them from attempting disobedience. But then a false teacher came along in the form of the Serpent who gave

them what they needed—a “biblical” teaching from another “authority” that offered them cover. How? Eve willingly let herself come under his authority, not arguing with the Serpent’s answer. She chose his “covering” for her deeds over God’s, denying her responsibility to God. Adam on the other hand was not deceived. He knew there were consequences regardless of the Serpent’s teaching, but perhaps he thought he could get out of his responsibility to them by blaming God for giving him a helper who “led him astray” - getting what he wanted while escaping punishment because, “it wasn’t his fault.”

Adam and Eve obviously wanted what the Serpent offered, so when the opportunity came to get it “without consequences,” they took it, because the promise of sin made them “glad” while accountability was shifted elsewhere. So, they ate the fruit, and when God asked, *“‘Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?’ The man said, ‘The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate.’ Then the LORD God said to the woman, ‘What is this you have done?’ And the woman said, ‘The serpent deceived me, and I ate’”* (Genesis 3:11-13). Eve, realizing she had been tricked, pointed her finger at the trickster, hoping her desire for the lie’s promise went unnoticed, while Adam shifted responsibility onto God for giving him a “helper” who “led him astray,” just as many “Christians” intend to do about the “anointed” teacher that they’ve willingly followed into sin. What neither of them fully understood was no one can side-step their responsibility for their actions to God because *“the Lord searches all hearts, and understands every intent of the thoughts”* (1 Chronicles 28:9) - including the motivations that lead us to fall into deceptions and delusions. In the next Devotional, we’ll look at Delusion in more detail.

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