

**QUESTION: How does II Corinthians 11:13 compare to Matthew 12:25-26? What does it mean that Satan and his angels "transform themselves" into ministers of righteousness? Is his kingdom then divided?**

**ANSWER:** II Corinthians 11:13-15 is talking about how **Satan DECEIVES by PRETENDING** to be an "angel of light." **Satan is a liar and deceiver**; he COUNTERFEITS TRUE WORSHIP of GOD, he sends out COUNTERFEIT "Christians," FALSE prophets, supposed ministers of the gospel, and performs lying wonders and false miracles. Satan's kingdom is **not** "divided against itself" as referred to in Matthew 12:25-26. Jesus was only saying **IF** Satan's kingdom was divided against itself, it could not stand, because the Pharisees had accused Him of casting out demons by the power of Satan, instead of God. Perhaps what is confusing is the word "transform" in the King James and NKJ versions. We tend to think the English word "transform" can **only** mean **areal change** of character or composition, but the dictionary also says it can mean "to change the **outward form or appearance.**" The New American Standard translation uses the word "disguise" instead of transform.

- **II Cor. 11:13-15** "For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, DISGUISE THEMSELVES AS APOSTLES OF CHRIST. And no wonder, for even SATAN DISGUISES HIMSELF AS AN **ANGEL OF LIGHT**. Therefore it is not surprising if his SERVANTS ALSO DISGUISE THEMSELVES as servants of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their deeds." (NASB)

**Some other warnings against Satan and his forms of deceit:**

- **John 8:44** "You are of your father, THE DEVIL, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him....for he is a liar, and the father of lies."
- **I John 4:1-3** "Beloved, do not believe EVERY SPIRIT, but TEST THE SPIRITS TO SEE WHETHER THEY ARE FROM GOD; because **many false prophets** have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: EVERY SPIRIT THAT CONFESSES THAT JESUS CHRIST HAS COME IN THE FLESH is from God; and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; and this is the SPIRIT OF THE ANTICHRIST, of which you have heard is coming, and now it is already in the world." (**see Phil. 2:5-11** for the definition of "Jesus Christ coming in the flesh")
- **Galatians 1:6-9** "I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a DIFFERENT GOSPEL; which is REALLY **NOT** ANOTHER, only there are some who are disturbing you, and WANT TO DISTORT THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST. But even though we, or an ANGEL FROM HEAVEN, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we have preached, let him be accursed....if any man is preaching to you A GOSPEL CONTRARY TO THAT WHICH YOU HAVE RECEIVED, let him be accursed."
- **II Cor. 11:1-4** "....But I am afraid, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of Christ. For if one comes and preaches ANOTHER JESUS whom we have not preached, or you receive a DIFFERENT SPIRIT which you have not received, or a DIFFERENT GOSPEL which you have not accepted, you bear this beautifully (you might accept it).
- **I Timothy 4:1** "Now the Spirit expressly says that in the last days some will depart from the faith, giving heed to SEDUCING SPIRITS and DOCTRINES OF DEMONS; speaking LIES in hypocrisy..."
- **Read also II Thessalonians 2:3-9** (Verse 9) "The coming of the lawless one (the Anti-Christ) is according to **the working of Satan**, with all power, signs, and **lying wonders.**"