### **Beware!**

As for all the other distractions our magician Satan has in his magic bag, he would likely respond by quoting the comedian Jimmy Durante by saying, "I got a million of um." Think of just ten things that keep you from the Word of God or fellowship with other believers. After you think of these distractions, ask yourself, "How important are they...really?" Yes, Satan is truly a Master Magician. He gets you to see things that aren't there and gets you to miss the things that are right in front of you.

Selah... Pause... Think about that...

Dwell on that.

## SelahTrax

"Getting
The Word Out"
It's your turn...
Pass this on
to someone.

Revelation12:9(NKJV)

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.

### Don't Be Deceived!

"When something causes you to look up - Look Down!"

That gentle nudge you may be feeling in your gut right now is evidence the Bible is true and that God is drawing you to Himself.

You can believe the following or not... It is totally your choice...

John 14:6 (NKJV)

<sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Matthew 10:32-33 (NKJV)

32 "Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. 33 But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

#### **Make Copies for Free**

St-106

# The Master Magician

SelahTrax The Plain Truth in B & W
Copyright 2023
Wayne J Vasilenko

## Directing Your Attention...

## Re-directing Your Attention...

### You Are in Ultimate Control!

A few years ago there was a television program that showed how magicians perform their magic; it revealed the secrets of the illusions that have fascinated people for centuries. The magician that revealed these secrets as you might imagine, is not appreciated much by his peers as they try to make us believe they are really performing magic. The basic goal of magicians is to re-direct your attention so that you can be deceived into seeing, or unseeing, something that defies logic.

This forces one to wonder as to how much deception is going on around us every day, and how it may affect our lives in general. Before deception can take place it is always preceded by a distraction, or a re-direction of your attention. It is no wonder that in the Bible, Satan is also known as, "The Deceiver."

The first thing a magician does is to present you with things you are familiar with or comfortable with. He will present you with things that you know to be true utilizing the senses you normally use, in most cases they rely on your eyes. The reason they use mostly visual cues is that it is very easy to distract your eyes. When you focus your eyes on something you tend to narrow your field of view, so it is very easy for something to happen at the edge of your field of vision without you even noticing it. When the magician says, "watch closely" it is for a reason.

I recall in Army Basic Training that I was attending a class on "Booby Traps." One of the first things the instructor said was, "when something causes you to look up - Look Down!" He then went on to explain that the enemy would put visual distractions in your view to get you to miss something important in your path such as a trip wire attached to a mine. Not being aware of these distractions could cost you your life and the lives of others.

We deal with distractions all the time. For example, while working on an article, my wife asked me to help her with something. In doing so, I totally lost my train of thought concering my writing. In this case the result was no more than a little inconvenience; there was no harm intended and no harm done as a result. However when it comes to our lives in general, more so our Spiritual walk with the God, distractions can have a more profound effect. Distraction has a bad enough effect when it causes frustration, but the real killer may be like the mine attached to the trip wire! We are in the middle of a Spiritual Battle. God always wants nothing but the best for us. Satan on the other hand, wants to take anything God offers us away from us. A popular misconception is that Satan has all kinds of power and control over us. This is a deception in itself!

Satan has no power over us, he never did and never will.

The only power the Devil has is what we as individuals allow him to have. Remember— even in the Garden of Eden Satan did not and could not force Adam and Eve to disobey God; he deceived them into disobeying God. Satan told them that they would be like God if they partook of the forbidden fruit... they already were like God; they were created in His image! Satan cleverly distracted them from the truth with a false promise of something better.

This is exactly how Satan works among us today, he hasn't changed - his tactics haven't changed.

Many people have been attracted to Christianity by the prospect of drawing nearer to God who not only took care of the "Sin Issue" for us, but He also promised to take care of our needs and even our wants within limits. However, we are told by Satan that God did not take care of sin completely; he tells us we still have to do something. He may convince some that they have to perform certain rituals in order to be spared the penalty of their sins, he convinces others that sacrifices are still demanded by God. Religions are full of things one must do to appease God. In this case people are distracted by rules and regulations of religion rather than adhering to the Word of God; the result is they have been deceived. They have been deceived even though their initial goal was to draw near to God! You have to give Satan some credit here... he is clever.