God on Their Lips, Judas in Their Hearts: A Deceived Conscience

The sin of dishonest gain, so often excused with human justifications, has spread like a pandemic today among those who claim to be with God. It is present in homes, in churches, in ministries and in consciences that have been taught to tolerate iniquity under the cover of grace. People deceive themselves, believing they can keep what they have stolen, what they have hidden, what they have gained by wronging others – and still enjoy God's blessing.

Many religious people today live in **the sin of Judas**, yet claim that God is with them. They fool themselves, mistaking religious activity for the presence of God. But **God cannot be manipulated by rituals, songs or a spiritual appearance.** He searches the heart and requires truth. When someone steals — whether by tax evasion or by any other means — and then considers himself right with God, **Scripture directly rebukes this self-deception.**

In Jeremiah 7:9-10 we read: "Will ye steal, … And come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, We are delivered to do all these abominations?"

This delusion is so serious today that many believe they can enjoy the manifestations of the Holy Spirit – such as speaking in tongues, prophecy or other spiritual gifts – and still live in sin. **But the Holy Spirit is not present where a life is two-faced.** He does not dwell where sin is tolerated, hidden or justified. To claim spiritual gifts while living in iniquity is **an offence against God's righteousness and a deception of one's own conscience.**

This same delusion grips not only those who sin openly — such as those who steal — but also those who accept them in their midst without rebuke or separation. Scripture shows us clearly, in the case of Achan, that the whole congregation was affected by the hidden sin of a single man. God said: "Israel hath sinned, and they have also transgressed my covenant … and have also stolen, and dissembled also, and they have put it even among their own stuff." *(Joshua 7:11)* Although it was Achan who sinned, God held the whole people guilty. God was not with Israel until the sin was uncovered and removed.

So it is not only the sinner who is cut off from God, but also the community that tolerates sin in its midst. **To live in sin, or to allow it in silence, is to cut yourself off from the presence of God.** Do not deceive yourself into believing that God dwells in you while you hold on to what He hates.

Scripture warns plainly: "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." *(Matthew 7:22-23)*

The words "**I never knew you**" show beyond any doubt that the Holy Spirit was never present in the lives of those who lived in iniquity. Therefore the gifts they displayed were not genuine but counterfeit — coming from another source, foreign to God.

Where sin is harboured, the gifts are not the work of the Holy Spirit but **a spiritual deception — a dangerous imitation produced by fallen angels who disguise themselves as angels of light.** This delusion is serious, because it offers a false spiritual security while the heart remains far from God. Scripture warns: "And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light." *(2 Corinthians 11:14)*

This reality must be taken with the utmost seriousness. **Not every religious manifestation is proof of God's presence.** The true work of the Holy Spirit is done in holiness, in purity and in truth.

God does not approve an unclean life, and the Holy Spirit does not dwell in a temple of iniquity. That is why the word of the Lord spoken through Jeremiah still stands today: "Amend your ways and your doings, and I will cause you to dwell in this place." *(Jeremiah 7:3)*

Scripture warns with clarity: "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." *(Galatians 6:7)*

True worship is not measured by physical presence in a holy place, but by purity of heart and obedience to God's commandments. Only those who live in righteousness and truth are indwelt by the Holy Spirit and acknowledged as His own.

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