



TALK IT OVER

THE ILLUSION: PULLING BACK THE CURTAIN

BOTTOM LINE

Know your Enemy and his strategy.

CONVERSATION STARTER

What is one thing for which you are grateful this week? What is one thing that is better about 2021 for you than 2020?

THINGS TO CONSIDER

What did you hear?
What do you think?
What will you do?

RESOURCES

- The Daily: newpointe.org/thedaily
- Priscilla Shirer at [Passion Conference](#) explaining the armor of God

KEY VERSES AND QUOTES

Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take you stand against the devil's schemes. Ephesians 6:11 NIV

There is a literal devil. He is an immaterial but intelligent being. His mission is to destroy by spreading ruin in our souls and society. His strategy is to use half-truths. This is his primary means. He will tell you just enough truth to get you to believe it. All the other stuff (disease, trials, trouble) is secondary. His signature moves are lies and deception. Jesus knows the fight is to believe truth over lies. Our souls are locked in a war of lies.

For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.

1 John 2:25 NIV

"The world is a system of ideas, values, morals, practices, and social norms that are integrated into the mainstream and eventually institutionalized in a culture corrupted by the twin sins of rebellion again God and the redefinition of good and evil." – John Mark Comer

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A Barna study found that only 9% of college graduates believe in absolute truth. How does that play into the strategy of the devil? What does "lies are counterfeit reality" mean? Scott Peck called the devil a "real spirit of unreality." What's the unreality he pushes?

Our freedom expands or shrinks with each decision we make. How have you believed lies that took away your freedom? What truths have you chosen that have expanded your life?

Why are lies so often more attractive than truth? Proverbs 30:8 says, "*Keep deception and lies far from me.*" How might your life and influence change if you prayed that prayer and God answered it? What's my part in the battle?

ACTION STEPS (This or one of your own)

I will pray Proverbs 30:8 daily and cooperate by making wise choices.

My Action Step: _____
