

Learning from Deceit
#11 in a Series on Victorious Living, Joshua 9:1-27
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Lesson #1: Spiritual deception *often follows a victory.*

³“But when the people of Gibeon heard what had happened to Jericho and Ai,
⁴they resorted to deception to save themselves.” Joshua 9:3-4 (NLT)

- Compare with the events of Joshua 8:33-35
(cf: Joshua 6-7; Matthew 3-4)

- God’s directive to the Israelites was clear
(Deut. 7:1-11; 20:10-20)

- The source of all deception is Satan.
(John 8:44; 2 Cor. 11:13; 1 Peter 5:8; Eph. 6:11)

Lesson #2: Spiritual deception *appears attractive.*

“The men of Israel sampled their provisions but did not inquire of the LORD.”
Joshua 9:14 (NIV)

**People are distracted from the spiritual realm when the
options before us are attractive in the material realm.**

- Deception *looks right*
“with weathered saddlebags, old patched wineskins, ragged clothes,
worn-out, patched sandals, dry, moldy bread.” (vv. 4-5)

- Deception *sounds right*
“We have come from a far country...” (v. 6, NASB)

- Deception *feels right*
 “We are your servants; make a treaty with us.” (v. 11, NIV)

How can we avoid spiritual deception?

- By carefully listening to God. (James 1:5; Joshua 1:8)
- By patiently trusting God. (Hebrews 6:12)
- By faithfully obeying God. (Exodus 34:12)

Lesson #3: Spiritual deception is redeemable.

“...We have given them our oath by the LORD, the God of Israel, and we cannot touch them now.” Joshua 9:19 (NIV)

The ABC’s of redeeming a spiritual mistake

Acknowledge your error (v. 19; 1 John 1:9)

Be a humble learner in the consequences (v. 20)

Commit to honoring God (v. 18)

KEY: Two disobediences do not equal one obedience

“9 I pray that your love will keep on growing more and more, together with true knowledge and perfect judgment, ¹⁰so that you will be able to choose what is best. Then you will be free from all impurity and blame on the Day of Christ.”

Philippians 1:9-10 (TEV)