



Power From on High

Series: Power From On High
Title: Paul's Farewell Speech,
Part 8
Lesson: 112

Text: Acts 20:28-31
Date: Sept. 21, 2025

Four key tests to identify false teachers:

1. Doctrinal test
2. Fruit test
3. Scriptural test
4. Gospel test

I. Six characteristics of false teachers:

A. _____

2 Corinthians 11:13–15 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. 14 No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.

2 Timothy 3:13 But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

B. _____

1 Timothy 6:3–4 If anyone advocates a different doctrine and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness, 4 he is conceited and understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions,

C. _____

2 Peter 2:14 having eyes full of adultery that never cease from sin, enticing unstable souls, having a heart trained in greed, accursed children;

D. _____

2 Peter 2:1–2 But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. 2 Many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned;

E. _____

Luke 6:26 “Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for their fathers used to treat the false prophets in the same way.

F. _____

Romans 16:17 Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them.

2. Five strategies of false teachers:

A. They _____ as angels of light.

2 Corinthians 11:13–15 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. 14 No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.

B. They use _____ speech to prey on the naive.

Romans 16:18 For such men are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but of their own appetites; and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting.

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

C. They depart from _____ doctrine.

1 Timothy 4:1–3 But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, 2 by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron,

D. They _____ Scripture.

2 Peter 3:16–17 as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction. 17 You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness,

E. They attack God's _____.

1) Creation - Benny Hinn & Kenneth Copeland

There are three problems with the gap theory:

1. In Gen. 1:31 God said that all that He made was “very good.” There is no hint of a catastrophic event.
2. If dinosaurs existed before the second creation, they would not have had anything to eat because plants were not created until day three, nor would they have had light, since that was not made until day four.
3. The gap theory demands that there was death before the fall, but Scripture tells us that death came after Adam's fall.

Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned

2) Omniscience - Kris Valuation

3) Decreed will - Kris Vallotton Bethel church & Bill Johnson

Romans 9:17 For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I raised you up, to demonstrate My power in you, and that My name might be proclaimed throughout the whole earth."

Amos 3:6 If a trumpet is blown in a city will not the people tremble? If a calamity occurs in a city has not the Lord done it?

4) Self-existence - Kris Vallotton

Psalm 82:6 I said, "You are gods, And all of you are sons of the Most High.

7 "Nevertheless you will die like men And fall like any one of the princes."

5) Salvation - Steven Furtick

Mark 6:4–5 Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and among his own relatives and in his own household." 5 And He could do no miracle there except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them.

Matthew 13:57–58 And they took offense at Him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and in his own household." 58 And He did not do many miracles there because of their unbelief.

6) Election - Todd White

Ephesians 1:4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love

7) General - Paula White & Andrew Wommack

Psalm 115:3 But our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases.

Psalm 135:6 Whatever the Lord pleases, He does, In heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deeps.

8) Sickness and suffering - Bill Johnson

James 4:13–15 Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit.” 14 Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. 15 Instead, you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that.”

Andrew Wommack

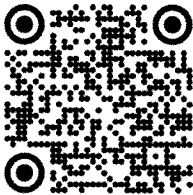
Ministries that are not heretical but fruitless.

1 Corinthians 3:8–15 Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. 9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. 10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. 11 For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

12 Now if any man builds on the foundation with **gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw**, 13 each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. 14 If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. 15 If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

Discussion Guide

1. Of the six characteristics of false teachers, which do you think is the easiest to recognize, and which is the hardest to detect? Why?
2. How might clever speech or persuasive arguments seduce those who are spiritually naive?
3. Why is twisting Scripture so effective for false teachers, and how can careful Bible study guard us against this tactic?
4. Why do false teachers seek to undermine or diminish God's absolute rule and authority, and how does this reflect their true motives?



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Answers: Deceptive, Proudful, Greedy, Immoral, Popular, Divisive, masquerade, clever, sound, twist, sovereignty