

October 21, 1997 Oak Hill, NY

Receiving Faith

If Satan through the Church has deceived the whole world (Rev 18:2,3), and if it has corrupted it (Rev 18:2,3; 12:9; 20:3,8), then Rev 18:1,2,4 means to bring His people out of confusion – illusion. Deception is being led astray from Gen 3:16-19, from the Everlasting Covenant. That is, Jn 9:41 leads to Rev 18:8 and 19:3. Satan's job is to lead the whole world astray from Gen 3:16-19. Jn 3:18 leads to Rev 19:3 because they were led away from Gen 3:16-19, because they claimed to see (Jn 9:41), they claimed to believe (Jn 3:18; Gal 1:8; 2 Cor 11:13-15).

It's a pretty serious offense to God to call Him a liar — as if He deserved the second death prepared for Satan and his angels (1 Jn 5:10). Rev 21:8 — The fearful and unbelieving are the men who call God a liar in Jn 3:18,19,36. To not believe the testimony of God (Jn 3:18) is to call God a liar, because God tells people the truth about His Son. But those who are willing to do His will receive what He says — His testimony. 1 Jn 5:9 — The witness, the testimony of the Holy Spirit, is the FAITH one must receive when one hears the good news (Acts 13:46; Jn 5:24; Rom 10:17).

If one receives the witness of God as 1 Jn 5:9 says, one receives the Holy Spirit. The witness of God is the Holy Spirit who accompanies the sent one (the messenger), with the message of salvation (Jn 13:20; Lk 10:40-41; Rom 10:14). To receive the Holy Spirit is to receive faith. To receive faith is to receive the Holy Spirit who accompanies the Word of God, which one must hear to be saved from his sins (Mt 1:21,23).

1 Jn 5:7,8 — It is the Spirit who bears witness (NKJV) in accord with the water and the blood. 1 Jn 5:6 — It is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is the truth and the good news is the truth one must reject to be unworthy of eternal life — based on the good news one hears. This is what Rev 21:8 says about the first two classifications mentioned — the fearful and the disbelieving. They did not overcome Satan's devices that led them astray from eternal life.

When a righteous envoy or messenger confronts a person with the good news, it is the very testimony of God he has on his mouth. It is the very witness of God, and to dismiss it is to dismiss eternal life. It makes one unworthy of eternal life, as Jn 10:16 or Jn 3:36. Jn 5:24 and 1 Jn 3:14 *are one*, because 1 Jn 3:14 is not possible unless one *hears*, as in Jn 5:24, by a righteous messenger, as Mt 10:41 says. His reward is eternal life, bestowed upon the hearer who was not fearful of dreadful at what he heard (2 Cor 2:14). But if one heard the gospel by 2 Cor 3:17, he cannot be guilty because the witness of God was not present, but only the witness of Satan (2 Cor 11:15).

1 Jn 5:10 — Because he had not believed the testimony that God has given of His son, Jn 3:18 and Jn 3:36 apply to him, because Jn 3:19,20. The person who trusts in God possesses a witness, and is a witness to the truth. But the one who rejects this witness, which is God's testimony, is claiming that God is a liar. But the one who receives the false witness and testimony claims to see (Jn 9:39-41). Rev 18:4 are not His people and they will not respond to the messenger from Heaven in Rev 18:1,2, and 4, since they claim to see (Jn 9:41; Rev 18:4,8,23; 19:2,3).