Charm'd…

I've chosen to call our study "Charm'd" because Satan is a charmer.

Temptation → Toe Hold → Stronghold

"Strongholds are _incorrect___ thinking patterns based on falsehood."

How does he do this? Through the art of _____deception___.

"I have seen Satan beat up more Christians than I care to admit. Countless believers are living in defeat because they have been deceived. The enemy has deceived them and caused them to believe and live a lie. If we allow deception to take hold, strongholds can then be formed in our minds. Strongholds are incorrect thinking patterns based on falsehood. Demonic spirits love to use these strongholds to their advantage against a child of God. Strongholds have tremendous power to affect our feelings and emotions. Many blood-bought children of God Almighty feel guilt-ridden and worthless because they don't see themselves the way they ought to. Many Christians feel unloved and not good enough to be accepted by God because they see Him wrongly. Their perception of Him has been damaged and causes them to see Him as a distant and cruel taskmaster instead of a close loving Father who longs (deeply desires) to have an intimate loving relationship with them!" http://www.greatbiblestudy.com/sws_spiritual_warfare.php

An Explanation of Deception:

If I knew you were lying to me, would I be confused, or at risk of believing your lies?

But what if you were lying to me and I didn't know it? What might happen then?

Have you ever been lied to? How did that make you feel?

Was the one who lied to you more concerned for him/herself or for you?

What would motivate someone to lie? What would motivate them to deceive you?

Jesus said that Satan's motives and God's are distinctly different. While Satan wants to steal, kill and destroy—God wants to give you life; rich and real…abundant and full.

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; but I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." John 10:10

Jesus called the devil "the father of lies."

…He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. John 8:44

Satan is a deceiver.

The Bible speaks of deception __179___ times. And not one of those references tells us that we'll be let off the hook because we were deceived.

Deut. 11:16, ***"Beware, lest your hearts be deceived and you turn away and serve other gods and worship them."***

Though people are deceived and worship false gods, there will be _no___ _excuse_ for them on the Day of Judgment.

Rom. 7:9-11, ***"And I was once alive apart from the Law; but when the commandment came, sin became alive, and I died; [10] and this commandment, which was to result in life, proved to result in death for me; [11] for sin, taking opportunity through the commandment, deceived me, and through it killed me."***

Paul's account of sin is personified, but notice that though he said he was deceived by sin, it still killed him. Being deceived still kills.

2 Cor. 11:3-4, ***"But I am afraid, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ. 4 For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear this beautifully."***

Nowhere in these verses or the context surrounding them does believing in a false Christ and/or false gospel excuse the person from the consequences of that deception, nor is that consequence said to be lessened.

Eph. 5:6, ***"Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience."***

We see that the wrath of God still comes upon those who are deceived.

We see that even when people are deceived, the full consequences of that deception are dished out to those thus deceived.
http://carm.org/eve-was-deceived-adam-was-not

Therefore we can assume that "ignorance is not bliss."

The more you read the Bible, the more you're going to know God. And the more you get to know God, the more you experience His power and presence in your life. And the

more you experience God's power and presence in your life the more **CHARMING YOU WILL BE!!** ☺

Key Truths:

1. **You are targeted for enemy attack.** (1 Peter 5:8, Ephesians 2:1-3, 1 Peter 4:12, John 17:14-16)

2. **When Satan attacks you, he will most likely use deception as his first and most powerful weapon.** (John 17:17, 2 Cor. 11:3)

3. **The only thing stronger than a lie is the truth. God's Word is truth.** (John 17:17, John 8:32, Ephesians 6:14)

4. **If you have received God's gift of salvation, you have the power to expose and overcome every lie that Satan tries to use against you.** (I John 4:4, 2 Corinthians 10:4-5)

"You dear children are from God, and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world." I John 4:4

Choose, Learn and Celebrate:

1. Choose Truth.
2. Choose to be a student of God's Word.
3. Learn to recognize the devil's native tongue.
4. Learn to effectively use the "sword of the Spirit" to defeat Satan (Eph. 6:17 and 2 Tim. 3:16-17 and Hebrews 4:12).
5. Celebrate the power that is yours as a ___daughter_ of the __King____.

Charm'd…Study Guide

The women we are going to study over the next several weeks are these:

- EVE—who was charm'd by the desire to be independent
- SARAH—who was charm'd by the temptation to take matters into her own hands
- DELILAH—who was charm'd into mastering the art of manipulation
- MICHAL—who was charm'd into thinking that she was judge and jury of others
- SAPPHIRA—who was charm'd by the praise of others

Each week we will read the biblical account of this woman's charm'd experience and consider these questions:

1. Who was she? (historical context, relationship with God, impact on the story)
2. How did the devil deceive her? (Desire that gives birth and leads to death; James 1:15)
3. What were the results of her being charm'd by Satan?
4. What lie did she believe? What truth could she have clung to?

Along the way we will exercise praying like warriors not wimps using this template to pray:

1. Identify the lie.
2. Address the spirit and renounce it in Jesus' Name.
3. Speak God's truth.
4. Praise God for Who He is and what He does.
5. Declare your victory.
6. Visit your answered prayer.
7. Amen.

Week One: Let's Get Acquainted with Eve

From before I remember, my parents have always enjoyed sharing how independent I was as a preschooler. Some of the first words that came out of my mouth were, "I do it me-self!"

As soon as I could walk without their help, I didn't want to hold their hands.

As soon as I could dress myself, I did. As soon as I could ride my tricycle…you get the idea.

This spirit of independence might be more deeply rooted in some of us than others. And perhaps, it's there because our sin nature produces an insatiable desire to resist authority; fear the loss of autonomy;

and insist that we get to make our own decisions even if they end up proving to us the wisdom of doing otherwise. All of this originated in the first woman, the one we call Eve.

Eve: The Woman Charm'd by Satan to be Independent

Day 1: Read Genesis 1:26-31.

As you read, jot your thoughts regarding the following questions in a journal.

When God spoke his intention, before He ever created humans, He had a plan. Read Genesis 1:26 carefully and jot down what you see about God's plan.

Then God blessed them. Read Genesis 1:28-31 carefully and jot down what you observe about the blessing God gave Adam and Eve.

When you pray today: Remember that you are a warrior and not a wimp.

God's given us everything we need to establish our victory and to advance the Kingdom of Light into every nook and cranny of darkness. We have the weapons we need, and the wisdom to know how to use them. We've got the power that resurrected Jesus from the dead and the presence of the living Christ alive and well within us. We just need to know how to activate all of that. And that's what I'm going to share with you as we move through this study.

You are going to become familiar with this prayer template:

1. Identify the lie.

Invite the Spirit of God to search your heart and show you any lie that you might be believing today. Be still for a minute or two and listen to what you "hear." If anything comes to your mind and resonates with you, jot it down. For instance,

The devil says God's authority in my life is oppressive. He points to the times when my pride has been wounded and the "price" of obedience has been big, and tells me I don't have to live this way anymore.

2. Address the spirit and renounce it in Jesus' Name.

Satan, you are a liar. I know that God has my best interest in mind. Even when I "suffer" for doing things God's way, it's only temporary "suffering" because God knows better than you.

3. Speak God's truth.

It is written, "Submit to God and be at peace with him; in this way prosperity will come to you." Job 22:21

4. Praise God for Who He is and what He does.

Lord, I praise You for how you (fill in the blanks on how God has proven Himself faithful to you in the past).

5. Declare your victory.

I will see God come through on my behalf and one day understand that denying myself, taking up my cross and following Him is way better than doing things my way.

6. Visit your answered prayer.

Thank You LORD for answering my prayer and bringing me through this season where it's hard to trust You completely. I know that You are more powerful and that nothing happens that You can't use to bring about good.

7. Amen. (So be it. I am surrendered. Yes! to You!)

Day 2: Read Genesis 2

As you read, jot your thoughts regarding the following questions in a journal.

What is significant about the garden called Eden? (be sure to collect everything you see written)

What did God intend for Adam to do when He placed Him in the garden?

When did God tell Adam about the forbidden fruit? Before or after Eve was created?

What problem did God solve by creating Eve?

Why did Adam call Eve, "Eve?"

The traditional meaning of Eve is LIFE.

Use the template and the example from yesterday to guide your praying today.

1. Identify the lie.
2. Address the spirit and renounce it in Jesus' Name.
3. Speak God's truth.
4. Praise God for Who He is and what He does.
5. Declare your victory.
6. Visit your answered prayer.
7. Amen.

Day 3: Read Genesis 3:1-7

As you read, jot your thoughts regarding the following questions in a journal.

1. Who was Eve? (historical context, relationship with God, impact on the story)

2. How did the devil deceive her? (Desire that gives birth and leads to death; James 1:15)

3. What were the results of her being charm'd by Satan?

4. What lie did she believe? What truth could she have clung to?

Pray like this:

Identify the lie: The serpent said to Eve, "No! You will not die, in fact, God knows that when you eat [the fruit] your eyes will be opened and you will be like God knowing good and evil."

Address the spirit and renounce it in Jesus' Name: Satan, you are a liar. There is not an ounce of truth in you. What God says is true, He's never been wrong and He will never be wrong. In Jesus' Name I rebuke you and your lies.

Speak God's truth. In Genesis 3:3 God said, "You must not eat it or touch it, or you will die." People have been dying ever since. Their relationship with God is dead. Their ability to fulfill their purpose is dead. Their loving relationship with their Creator is dead apart from Jesus who brought us alive again through His death and resurrection.

Praise God for Who He is and what He does. LORD we praise You for always being a step ahead of Satan. We praise You for being God and for being good, always good. We praise You for knowing what we don't know and for never ever acting outside of Your perfect holiness and love.

Declare your victory. I acknowledge that I have the power to resist temptation and to choose to anchor myself to Your Truth. Your Word is Truth and I choose to cling to it today. As I choose You and Your Word over me and my limited thinking and deceptive feeling, I will win every time. Even if it seems like I'm losing in the moment, time will show me I win with You.

Visit your answered prayer. Thank You LORD that You've given me what I need to resist temptation. I choose to be dependent on You rather than independent and one my own. I love that You are in charge and I am not. Thank You for teaching me dependence through suffering.

Amen. So be it. You have said that settles it.

Day 4: Read Genesis 3:8-19

As you read, jot your thoughts in your journal.

Why did Adam and Eve hide from God?

Do you think God knew where Adam and Eve were? Why did he ask 'Where are you?'

Who did Adam blame? Who did Eve blame? Did it matter to God whose fault it was?

What were the consequences of their choices?

I heard someone say, "You have the freedom to choose whatever you want. But you don't have the freedom to control the consequences of your choices." What are your thoughts related to this?

Do you think the results of Adam, Eve and the serpent's behavior were punishment or natural outcomes?

Use the template to pray today regarding your inclination to do things your own way.

1. Identify the lie.
2. Address the spirit and renounce it in Jesus' Name.
3. Speak God's truth.
4. Praise God for Who He is and what He does.
5. Declare your victory.
6. Visit your answered prayer.
7. Amen.

Day 5: Read Genesis 1-3

As you read, jot your thoughts in your journal.

Ask God to show you something you missed before.

Who was Eve? (historical context, relationship with God, impact on the story)
How did the devil deceive her? (Desire that gives birth and leads to death; James 1:15)
What were the results of her being charm'd by Satan?
What lie did she believe? What truth could she have clung to?

Pray using the template:

1. Identify the lie.
2. Address the spirit and renounce it in Jesus' Name.
3. Speak God's truth.
4. Praise God for Who He is and what He does.
5. Declare your victory.
6. Visit your answered prayer.
7. Amen.