



HEARING GOD
about

Spiritual Viruses

Like a virus, Satan slowly and quietly implants invisible, destructive things into the minds and hearts of good people to infect them with a debilitating and sometimes deadly spiritual disease. Here are the symptoms and sequence to see if you have been infected:

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the world powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 6:12)

But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural and demonic. (James 3:14ff)

By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another. (John 13:35)

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- 1 DOUBTS.** Satan began his seduction and infection of Eve and Adam (Genesis 3 says he was “with her”) with small, seemingly benign questions, then suggestions that God was not being totally generous or truthful with them. This is how he plants the virus.
- 2 DISTRUST.** If we are not “taking those thoughts captive in obedience to Christ” (2 Cor. 10:5), then a spirit of distrust becomes a stronghold that causes us to negatively perceive **anything** said or done by the people or entities we are doubting and distrust. And in reality, we don’t respond to truth. We respond to our *perceptions* of the truth.
- 3 DISTANCING.** Stage three is when the enemy lures us to distance ourselves from those people or entities by rejecting opportunities for collaboration and cooperation with open hearts to clarify our perceptions (Matthew 18), and instead, pursue our own agendas which we tend to view as far more noble, pure, and godly.
- 4 DISTORTION.** The longer he keeps us distanced and isolated with a few people who have bought into our one-sided negative perspectives against those people and entities, the more disoriented and distorted our narratives become regarding the truth.
- 5 DIVISION.** His final goal and proof of the virus is discord and division in the Body of Christ, rather than love, grace, and unity, even with our diversity. Rather than working through the differences so that we may be known by our love and commitment to each other in Christ, He lures us to point fingers, make accusations, and break away.