

Name: _____

Date: _____

DISCERNING TRUE MIRACLES FROM FALSE

“For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.” (Matthew 24:24)

Objectives

<i>Knowledge of God’s Will</i>	As Christ’s second coming approaches, many false christs and prophets will arise to deceive people with great signs and miracles.
<i>Knowledge of God</i>	The Lord Jesus came full of grace and truth, and He seeks to save mankind.
<i>Good Works</i>	Be watchful and prepared by loving the truth. Do not love unrighteousness or the things of the world, but discern false prophets with God’s power.

A. False Miracles in the Old Testament

1. *The Egyptian wise men and sorcerers (Ex 7:11–8:19)*
2. *The medium at En Dor (1 Sam 28:3–20)*

B. False Miracles in Apostolic Times

1. *Simon the sorcerer (Acts 8:9–13)*
2. *Elymas the sorcerer (Acts 13:4–12)*
3. *The demon-possessed slave girl (Acts 16:16–18)*

C. False Miracles and Christs in the End Time

1. *False denominations and religions (Mt 24:24; 1 Tim 4:1)*
2. *The lawless one (2 Thess 2:3–4, 9–12; Rev 16:13–14; 19:20)*

D. Discerning Miracles with Truth

It is dangerous to base our faith upon miracles, as Satan can also perform them (2 Thess 2:9–10). To discern between what is true and false, we should evaluate according to the truths of the Bible.

Ultimately, we must seek out and love the truth. To do so, we must:

1. *Turn our feet from the things of the world*
2. *Desire the truth as a deer pants for water*
3. *Pursue the word with friends*
4. *Memorize and practice God’s words*
5. *Do not love unrighteousness or the things of the world*

E. Discerning False Prophets

Matthew 7:15–18 teaches us that we must know the characteristics of false prophets.

1. *Beware of their words:* They often speak lies, and are arrogant and prideful.
2. *Beware of their motives:* They are often motivated by personal benefits, and love receiving respect and honor.
3. *Beware of their actions:* They employ subtle methods that are cruel, deceptive, and unbiblical.

Just as a tree is consistent in the kind of fruit it produces, a true messenger or worker of God will consistently live out the truth of God’s words.

Life Application: Stand Firm in the Faith

1. Love the truth
2. Do not love unrighteousness or the things of the world
3. Discern false prophets

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Lesson 10 Homework Assignment

Discerning True Miracles from False

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

Memory Verse (Matthew 24:24):

1. What does the memory verse warn of and remind us to do?
2. “Beware of false _____, who come to you in _____ clothing, but _____ they are ravenous _____. You will know them by their _____.” (Matthew 7:15–16)
3. What are some of the purposes of false miracles?
4. Why is it dangerous to base our faith solely on miracles?
5. Pick one way you can love the truth and explain how you plan to enact it in your daily life.
6. What temptation or weakness is a challenge to your faith? What will you do to stand firm?