

# DO NOT BE DECEIVED: BE ON GUARD

## LAST WEEK'S MESSAGE

Deception is a formidable enemy that can cause even the most faithful of us to stumble. The Bible tells of two instances when Joshua made mistakes: one involving sin, and the other a deception. The good news is victory is promised by God. However, there are conditions to those promises. We got to know and do our part. How can we be on guard and avoid deceptions?

## CHECK IT OUT (JOSHUA 9:1-27)

In Joshua 9, Joshua set out to conquer the city of Gibeon after successful battles at Jericho and Ai. However, the Gibeonites set up a deception to avoid the Israelites' attack. Despite their suspicions, the Israelites fell for the lies and made an oath to the Gibeonites without seeking counsel from the Lord.

To avoid being deceived, we need to be on guard and check our thinking before making any decisions or commitments. In 2 Peter 3:17, we are warned to be on guard against false teachings and to not be carried away by them. In Acts 20:28, Paul tells his disciples to be on guard for themselves and for others, emphasizing the importance of guarding our own hearts and minds before we can help others. We also need to be aware that the battle is not physical but spiritual, and the key battleground is our minds. We need to take every thought captive and identify the strongholds in our minds that the enemy may use to deceive us. This requires a commitment to renewing our minds through studying the Word and seeking God's truth.

## CONSULT GOD

We must seek God and make sure that whatever we do or think is in line with His will. In George Muller's words, "We must pray with a heart that has no will of its own and be ready for whatever the Lord's will may be." To do this, we must have a complete understanding of who

God is – His nature and character. We must remember that God is sovereign, holy, good, omniscient, and loving. Whatever God does will not violate any of these characteristics, so we can fully trust in Him to do what is best for us when we follow and honor Him. However, we must also remember that God's grace is not infinite. As R.C. Sproul said, "God sets limits to His patience and forbearance." We cannot keep on sinning and expect to get away with it.

## COMMIT TO GOD'S WAYS (JOSHUA 10:1-43)

Despite their deception, the Gibeonites were accepted by the Israelites and became servants of the Lord, serving faithfully for many years. (1 Chronicles 9:2, Nehemiah 3:7). This demonstrates that God's love, forgiveness, and faithfulness extends beyond our mistakes and shortcomings. As God is faithful to fulfill His promises, we should strive to be faithful in fulfilling our promises to Him, just as Joshua and the Israelites did. Their story teaches us that we should commit our mistakes to the Lord and keep on following Him. Instead of trying to correct one mistake with another, we should trust in God's power and sovereignty to redeem our failings as we come to Him in repentance and humility. Joshua's victory in conquering the lands was possible because he followed God's ways and committed the outcome to Him. God brought five kings together and defeated all their armies, throwing them into confusion and with large hailstones (Joshua 10:8-14).

Romans 8:28 is a powerful reminder that God can work all things together for good, even in bad moments. If we respond with faith and proper theology, think and act biblically, and commit the outcome to God, we will be victorious. So let us commit to God's ways, follow His commands, and trust in His plan for our lives.

## LAST WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE

Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a lion, seeking someone to devour.

1 PETER 5:8

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Have you ever been deceived? How did it make you feel? What steps should you be doing to make sure you are on the alert against the deceptions and lies of the enemy?

As you conform to God's ways, what do you think He is commanding you to do? Will you commit to take action this week?

Download this  
Chronicle online!

[ccf.org.ph/chronicle/](http://ccf.org.ph/chronicle/)

Download this Sunday's 4Ws Small Groups  
Guide and 4Ws Go Viral Edition every Monday!

[ccf.org.ph/4ws/](http://ccf.org.ph/4ws/)

# New to CCF?

You are here for a reason!

Let's chat over coffee at the Welcome Center. See you at the 2/F lobby!

## step into the COMMUNITY!

Fellowship and learn together with believers at the same lifestage as you!

### **WOMEN2WOMEN** ALL WOMEN

#### The Power of Prayer to Transform Hearts with Earl Beja-Paolo

March 9, Thursday  
10:00 AM, Multi-Purpose Hall

ALSO STREAMED ONLINE

 ccfwomen2women  
 CCFWomen2WomenMinistry

### **B1G MINISTRY** SINGLES

#### B1G Event

March 31, Friday  
7:30 PM, Multi-Purpose Hall

ALSO STREAMED ONLINE

 B1GMinistry  
 beonewithgod

### **ELEVATE**

#### Trusting Love... Again

March 11, Saturday  
3:00 PM, Multi-Purpose Hall

ALSO STREAMED ONLINE

 ElevateMain  
 ElevateMainTV

### **NXTGEN** KIDS FROM 4-12 YEARS OLD

#### Kids' Church: Victorious: Series on the Book of Joshua

Sundays, 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM  
G/F North Wing, CCF Center

ALSO STREAMED LIVE ONLINE

 ccfnxtgen for ages 4-12  
 zoom for ages 7-12

## LEARN MORE about the faith!

Grow deeper in your spiritual walk and join Bible study classes by GLC.

### Join GLC's new training cycle this 2023!

#### GLC Level 1 — Face-to-Face, Session 2

March 5, Sunday, 1:00 PM  
• Book 1: One by One, Room 2A  
• Book 2: Spiritual Disciplines, Room 3A

#### GLC Level 1 — Zoom Cycle 1

March 8, Wednesday, 7:30 PM  
• Book 1: One by One  
• Book 2: Spiritual Disciplines

#### GLC Level 2 — Zoom Cycle

Book 7: Family Life  
Session 5: Roles of Parents  
March 9, Thursday, 7:30 PM

#### GLC Level 3 Lead — Zoom Cycle

Module 1: Reliability of the Bible  
March 9, Thursday, 7:30 PM

Go to [bit.ly/GLCTraining2023](https://bit.ly/GLCTraining2023) to register

## join a RETREAT

Be refreshed spiritually by spending time away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life.

### A Beautiful Exchange

OPEN TO ALL WOMEN 21 Y/O AND UP  
April 29 - May 1

Mt. Makiling Re-Creation Center

RETREAT FEE: PHP4,900

Go to [bit.ly/ABERetreat2023](https://bit.ly/ABERetreat2023) to register



LOOKING FOR ANSWERS? THINK YOUR VISIT IS A COINCIDENCE? YOUR BEING HERE TODAY IS NO ACCIDENT!

## God brought you here for His purpose.

### 1 God loves you.

He desires for you to have a meaningful life with Him in the present and gain eternal life with Him in the future.

*Know therefore that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God, who **keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness** to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments —Deuteronomy 7:9*

### 2 God is holy.

We are sinful, and our sin separates us from Him.

*Everyone has sinned and is far away from God's saving presence. — Romans 3:23*

### 3 God is merciful.

In His love, He made the only way for us to be reconciled to Him: through His son, Jesus Christ. Jesus had to die on the cross for our sins and be raised to life for eternity.

*But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. — Romans 5:8*

*I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. — John 14:6*

### 4 God is gracious.

By placing our faith in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven of our sins and saved from eternal death.

*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. — John 3:16*

*For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. — Ephesians 2:8-9*

### 5 God keeps His promises.

You can be sure that you have eternal life when you trust in Jesus.

*And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life. 1 John 5:11-13*



## join us on Sundays

AT CCF CENTER  
10:00 AM (English),  
3:00 PM (Filipino)

ONLINE  
10:00 AM, 12:00 NN, 3:00 PM, 6:00 PM  
 [ccf.org.ph](https://ccf.org.ph)  [ccfmain](https://ccfmain)  [ccfmainTV](https://ccfmainTV)

## join us on TV and radio

Visit [ccf.org.ph/live/broadcast-channels/](https://ccf.org.ph/live/broadcast-channels/) for the list of broadcast TV channels and radio stations.