

# Counterfeiting the Power of God

A 3-Lesson Study by Keith Blades | Enjoy the Bible Ministries®

## Study Overview & Lesson Summaries

### About This Series

This three-lesson series examines one of the most critical and overlooked aspects of Satan's policy of evil: his systematic counterfeiting of God's power. Presented as an auxiliary study at a conference on the power of God, Keith Blades traces the counterfeiting strategy from its roots in Israel's program — where false prophets validated false doctrine with genuine signs and wonders — through to the Dispensation of Grace in which we live today. Drawing primarily from 1 Timothy 4, 2 Timothy 2–3, and 1 Corinthians 12–14, the series equips members of the Body of Christ to recognize and refuse the seducing spirits, doctrines of devils, and counterfeit sign gifts that Satan employs to pull believers away from right division and back under Israel's program.



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### Lessons at a Glance

Lesson	Core Focus
Lesson 1	Establishing the Pattern: How Satan Counterfeits God's Power in Israel's Program
Lesson 2	Counterfeiting in the Dispensation of Grace: Seducing Spirits, Doctrines of Devils, and False Tongues
Lesson 3	1 Corinthians 12–14: The Cessation of Sign Gifts and the Ongoing Counterfeit

### Lesson Summaries

L1

#### **Establishing the Pattern** *How Satan Counterfeits God's Power in Israel's Program*

- The series theme: Satan counterfeits God's power in both Israel's program and the Dispensation of Grace — with the goal of producing doctrinal confusion and leading believers away from the course God has set for them.

#### **Key Passages Introduced (1 Timothy 4 & 6)**

- Paul speaks expressly in 1 Timothy 4:1-2: in the latter times, believers will depart from the faith by giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of

devils.

- The warning is aimed at believers — people who have already trusted Christ and are susceptible to being drawn away.
- 1 Timothy 4:7 warns against “profane and old wives’ fables”; 1 Timothy 6:20 against “profane and vain babblings” — both tied to the counterfeiting theme and examined in detail throughout the series.

### The Counterfeiting Principle in Israel’s Program

- Deuteronomy 13:1-3: God instructs Israel that if a prophet arises and gives a sign or wonder — and it comes to pass — but then says “Let us go after other gods,” they must not believe him.
  - The sign or wonder is real, not a hoax — it comes to pass. The only test is the doctrine it promotes.
- Jannes and Jambres (2 Timothy 3:8) counterfeited Moses’ miracles before Pharaoh — establishing the principle that genuine spiritual phenomena can be produced by Satan to validate false messages.

### The Extent of Satan’s Counterfeiting

- Matthew 7:21-23: Workers of iniquity cast out demons and do many wonderful works in Christ’s name — God did not give them that power, but the power is real.
- Matthew 24: Signs and wonders will intensify in the final installment of Israel’s program to seduce, if possible, even the elect.
- 1 Corinthians 10: Satan has a counterfeit communion table — “the table of devils.” Matthew 12: Satan has his own kingdom, mirroring God’s.

L2

## Counterfeiting in the Dispensation of Grace *Seducing Spirits, Doctrines of Devils, and the Counterfeit Gift of Tongues*

- Satan has not abandoned his counterfeiting tactic in the Dispensation of Grace — he has redirected it. The goal is now to get members of the Body of Christ to operate as if they are back under Israel’s program.

### 1 Timothy 4:1-3 — Examined in Detail

- The order in verse 1 is deliberate: seducing spirits come first, then doctrines of devils. The phenomenon seduces (carries you away), then the false doctrine is accepted because you already believe the messenger is genuine.
  - Mark 13:21-22 confirms the principle: false Christs show signs and wonders specifically to seduce — the sign validates the false messenger before the doctrine is delivered.
- Verse 2 describes the human instruments: men who speak lies in hypocrisy with their conscience seared — they present as genuine ministers of God while advancing the adversary’s agenda.
- Verse 3: The doctrinal content pushed by these seducing spirits includes commanding to abstain from meats and forbidding to marry — practices belonging to Israel’s program, not the Body of Christ.

### The Counterfeiting of the Gift of Tongues (1 Corinthians 12:1-3)

- Paul opens 1 Corinthians 12 with a warning: the Corinthians had previously been carried away by dumb idols through genuine spiritual phenomena produced by the adversary.
  - The idols didn’t actually speak — but a spirit communicated through the priest or priestess, convincing the Gentiles the idol did. The same phenomenon was now

operating in the Corinthian assembly.

- The counterfeit tongues were delivering the message “Jesus is accursed” — targeting unbelieving Jews, the very audience the real gift of tongues was designed for as a sign.
  - The Corinthians were being carried away by the phenomenon and not discerning the message — the same pattern as idol worship. Paul says: no man speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed.
- The adversary’s master objective: use counterfeit tongues to confirm to unbelieving Jews that Paul’s Jesus is not their Messiah — undermining the gospel at its point of contact with Israel.

L3

## 1 Corinthians 12–14: Cessation and Counterfeit *Why God Recorded Sign Gift Doctrine After the Gifts Ceased*

- The three chapters of 1 Corinthians 12–14 are bracketed by declarations that the confusion in Corinth is satanically authored — everything Paul addresses about sign gifts is written from the perspective of ongoing counterfeiting.

### God Is Not the Author of Confusion (1 Corinthians 14:33)

- As Paul closes his instruction on tongues and prophecy in the assembly, he declares: “God is not the author of confusion but of peace in all the churches of the saints.” Someone else is producing the chaos.
  - James 3:15-16 confirms: Satan is the author of confusion in Israel’s assemblies as well — the same adversary, different program.

### The Cessation of Sign Gifts (1 Corinthians 13)

- 1 Corinthians 13 declares that tongues, prophecy, and knowledge — the sign gifts — shall cease. God stopped doing the real ones.
- The reason God recorded this doctrine even though the gifts were temporary: because the policy of evil would continue to counterfeit them throughout the entire dispensation. Without the doctrine, there is no way to identify the counterfeits.
  - The charismatic claim — “If the gifts were only temporary, why would God mention them?” — misses the point entirely. The answer is: so you can recognize the ongoing counterfeits.

### The Original Charismatics: Hymenaeus and Philetus (2 Timothy 2:16-18)

- Paul identifies these two men by name as the originators of the profane vain babblings he warned about — their word spreads like gangrene because a spiritual phenomenon validates them.
- Their doctrinal error: “The resurrection is past already.” By placing the resurrection in the past, they effectively push believers back into Israel’s program — the master stroke of Satan’s strategy.

### Modern Counterfeits Identified

- Holy laughter and holy roaring are examined: both are supported by passages from Israel’s program (Psalm 2; Isaiah 42), confirming that their goal is to send believers back under Israel’s dispensational framework.
- The test remains the same as in Deuteronomy 13: not what the phenomenon appears to be, but what doctrine it produces and what program it directs you toward.

## Key Doctrinal Distinctions

### Satan's Counterfeits Are Genuine Phenomena, Not Tricks

A foundational point of the series is that the signs and wonders produced by Satan's policy of evil are not illusions or mass hysteria — they are real spiritual phenomena. Deuteronomy 13 makes this explicit: the sign or wonder "comes to pass." Jannes and Jambres genuinely replicated Moses' miracles. Matthew 7:21-23 describes workers of iniquity performing real miracles in Christ's name. The only reliable test is never what you see, but what doctrine the phenomenon is used to validate.

### The Dispensational Goal: Pulling the Body Back Into Israel's Program

Satan's counterfeiting in the Dispensation of Grace is not random deception — it has a specific dispensational objective. By using seducing spirits and counterfeit sign gifts, the adversary seeks to persuade members of the Body of Christ that they should be operating under Israel's program — either the past program (the Kingdom offer, the sign gifts of Acts) or the future program (the Tribulation, the Millennial Kingdom). Both 1 Timothy 4 and 1 Corinthians 12–14 are understood through this lens.

### The Order Matters: Seducing Spirits Before Doctrines of Devils

Paul's ordering in 1 Timothy 4:1 is intentional and instructive. Seducing spirits produce the phenomenon that captures attention and generates credibility; then the doctrine of the devil follows. You are carried away first (the sign convinces you the messenger is of God), and then you are led (you accept whatever doctrine he teaches). This is why doctrinal discernment must precede any evaluation of spiritual phenomena — the phenomenon is designed specifically to bypass doctrinal scrutiny.

### Sign Gifts Have Ceased; the Counterfeits Have Not

1 Corinthians 13 declares the cessation of the sign gifts — tongues, prophecy, and knowledge — that the Holy Spirit operated at the opening of the Dispensation of Grace. God stopped the real ones. However, the policy of evil has continued to counterfeit them throughout the entire dispensation, which is precisely why God preserved the doctrine of 1 Corinthians 12–14 in Scripture. The only way to identify a counterfeit sign gift as such is to know from the word of God that the real gift has ceased and that the adversary is mimicking it.

### Profane Vain Babblings: Claims of Special Revelation Outside the Written Word

Paul's warnings about profane old wives' fables (1 Timothy 4:7), profane and vain babblings (1 Timothy 6:20; 2 Timothy 2:16), and oppositions of science falsely so called all refer to the same category: claims of spiritual communication or knowledge that bypass the written word of God. Hymenaeus and Philetus are the prototype: they claimed their word came from God, but it was their word against God's. The spread of such claims is powered by spiritual phenomena that lend them credibility, and their doctrinal payload consistently redirects believers away from right division.

## Key Scripture References

<b>1 Timothy 4:1-2</b>	The Spirit's express warning: in the latter times, believers will depart from the faith through seducing spirits and doctrines of devils
<b>1 Timothy 4:7</b>	Command to refuse profane and old wives' fables — Paul's shorthand for the charismatic counterfeiting phenomena
<b>1 Timothy 6:20-21</b>	Warning against profane and vain babblings and science falsely so called; the faith-erring conclusion of those who follow them
<b>2 Timothy 2:16-18</b>	Hymenaeus and Philetus identified as originators of profane vain babblings; their error that the resurrection is past redirects believers into Israel's program
<b>2 Timothy 3:8-9</b>	Jannes and Jambres: Old Testament types of those who resist the truth through counterfeit power — they resisted Moses as false teachers resist Paul's gospel today
<b>Deuteronomy 13:1-3</b>	God's test for Israel: a prophet whose sign or wonder comes to pass but leads to other gods is to be rejected — the phenomenon is real, but the doctrine identifies the source
<b>Matthew 7:21-23</b>	"I never knew you": workers of iniquity doing miracles in Christ's name whom God never empowered — the adversary is the power behind their works
<b>Mark 13:21-22</b>	False Christs and false prophets shall show signs and wonders to seduce, if possible, even the elect — the classic seducing-spirit mechanism applied to Israel's final installment
<b>1 Corinthians 12:1-3</b>	Paul's opening warning to Corinth: they had been carried away by dumb idols through genuine spiritual phenomena; the same phenomenon is now operating in the assembly
<b>1 Corinthians 13:8-10</b>	Prophecy, tongues, and knowledge shall cease — the scriptural declaration of the cessation of the sign gifts, foundational to identifying all subsequent counterfeits
<b>1 Corinthians 14:33</b>	"God is not the author of confusion" — the conclusion to Paul's three-chapter treatment of sign gifts; Satan is identified as the author of the confusion in Corinth
<b>Psalms 2 / Isaiah 42:13</b>	Misappropriated by charismatics to support holy laughter and holy roaring — both passages belong to Israel's prophetic program, confirming the dispensational misdirection

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