

## STEALING

The church has walked in darkness and has not seen the power and glory it once experienced in the first century. This is due to the devil's stealing basic truths that have gone by the wayside over the centuries. That's why he is described as a thief.

John 10:10

*"The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy; I came that they might have life, and might have {it} abundantly."*

Thus, the church suffered many losses, including the truth about fivefold ministries, healing, deliverance, baptism in the Holy Spirit, spiritual gifts, and even the truth about salvation through faith. He steals the truth by replacing it with something that looks and sounds good, yet is a lie; for he is the father of lies (John 8:44). Scripture meanings are twisted (perverted), some are only half quoted, and others ignored altogether.

Hosea 4:6

*"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children."*

Isaiah 5:13-14

*"Therefore My people go into exile for their lack of knowledge; and their honorable men are famished, and their multitude is parched with thirst.*

*Therefore Sheol has enlarged its throat and opened its mouth without measure; and Jerusalem's splendor, her multitude, her din {of revelry,} and the jubilant within her, descend {into it.}"*

The most deceptive part is that he steals what we are to have before we have a chance to receive it. In other words, he deprives us of what should be rightly ours. This is due to the deceptions that have been handed down from ages past.

Mark 7:13

*"{thus} invalidating the word of God by your tradition which you have handed down; and you do many things such as that."*

Luke 12:39

*"And be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have allowed his house to be broken into."*

Proverbs 6:30-31

*"Men do not despise a thief if he steals to satisfy himself when he is hungry;  
But when he is found, he must repay sevenfold; He must give all the substance of his house."*

Proverbs 1:32

*"For the waywardness of the naive shall kill them, and the complacency of fools shall destroy them."*