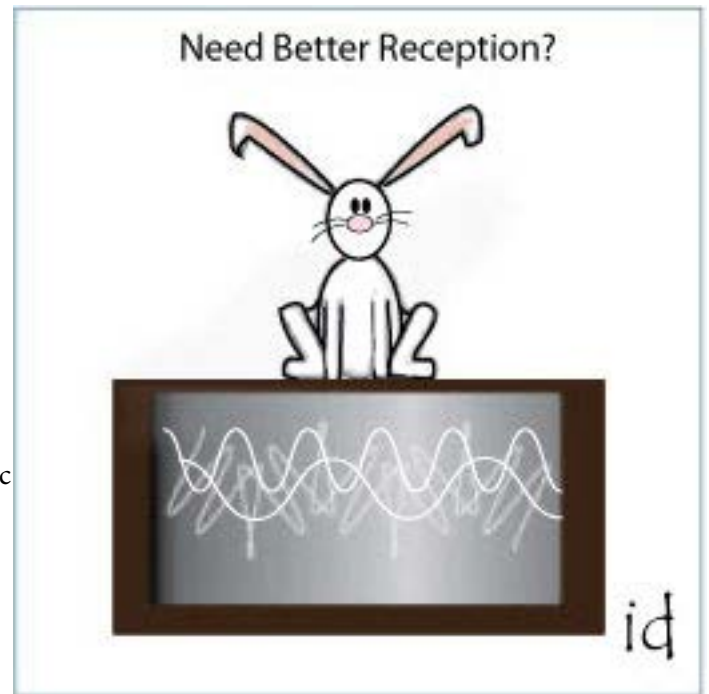


Spiritual Depression

“sometimes due to interference and poor reception”



Sometimes you just need a good night's sleep. Sometimes you have a chemical imbalance or are coming off a "sugar high" and feel a little down. Sometimes depression is spiritual. Spiritual depression is caused by a bad reception, and by demonic influence. It is a spiritual eclipse and an unnatural disposition of the sun. This disposition results not only in a gloomy shadow being cast over the soul, but a drop in spiritual barometric pressure that feels like an indescribable heaviness. This is different than demonic possession. This is demonic position not possession, and more about the heart's disposition than anything else (possession, on the other hand, is an awful occupation which is impossible for a born again believer to suffer). Demonic influence is an interference with the effulgence, radiance, and glory of God. Like a poor TV reception years ago, the picture rolls, or is just snow, or gray. Tinfoil on rabbit ears won't help. "To as many as receive Him, to them gave He the power to become the sons of God, even to those who believe on His name." All the joy, peace, sense or relief, and forgiveness that comes with Salvation, began with a simple "reception" when a person first received Christ. When anything comes between God and man the effect is anything but good.

If happiness and new life come by a "reception," sin, sorrow, suffering, and sadness are the result of a great "deception." Satan deceived Eve in the garden. The Flesh is the selfish sin-receptor part of man that believed the lie, "ye shall be as gods." Eve's feelings trumped her faith and she fell. As Satan appealed to Eve (with catastrophic results), he still appeals to the Flesh and engages it in animated conversations that attempt to inflate the Flesh (self-centeredness, and feeling centered old nature) with the air of self-importance, until the light of God is eclipsed, His word questioned, and His motives suspect. Satan will not occupy the believer, but if he can get the believer occupied with "self," the result can be as awful. First he flatters, tells you how great you are –to win you over. If that does not work he insults you, ridicules and mocks you (bullies you),tells you that you are a loser and it is all God's fault. He wounds your "self" (the Flesh part) and wounds your spirit. The Flesh is one of the three enemies (the World, the Flesh, the Devil).

Flesh inflated or Flesh wounded creates such poor or bad reception, that we might wonder if we ever "received" Christ at all. We cannot hear Him, see or find Him, touch or take Him, nor taste and see that God is good. Satan's imps whisper "You should have gotten that promotion, not her." Or, "Don't they know how special you are?" "Why don't you just go ahead and take the fruit, you deserve it." When the flesh is so flattered, joy, peace, and contentment are scattered into the four winds, and it is dark.

In times like this, when depression or doubt descends, remember "it is not about us." It is about God in us and "with us." It is not about our greatness but about our gratitude for God's grace. It's not about what we do, or did (although life is something we do) it is about what we do with Jesus and what we are willing to allow Him to do with us. It is not about fortune. It's about faith and faithfulness. Then we see again the Christ we received and remember what He did for us and that we are (according to 1Thes. 5:5) Children of God and Children of the Light." *Ingimar DeRidder*