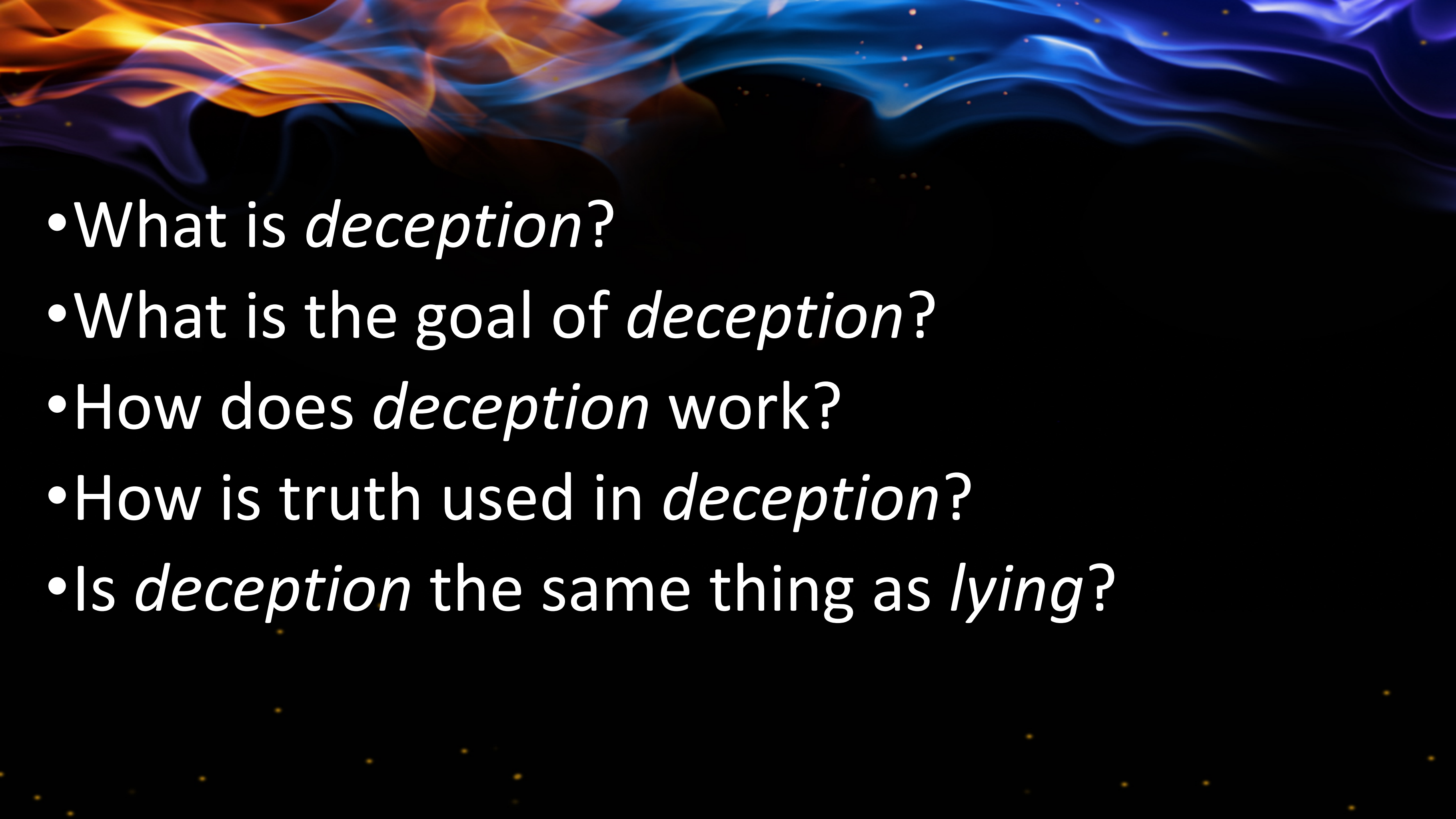


LET'S MAKE
A DEAL

- 
- What is *deception*?
 - What is the goal of *deception*?
 - How does *deception* work?
 - How is truth used in *deception*?
 - Is *deception* the same thing as *lying*?

The background features a dark, starry night sky with numerous small, bright yellow and white stars. Overlaid on this are large, flowing, ethereal waves of light. On the left side, there are vibrant orange and yellow waves, resembling fire or a sunset. On the right side, there are deep blue and purple waves, resembling a night sky or a nebula. The waves flow horizontally across the frame, creating a sense of movement and depth.

Eternal Life

A Study of 1 John

1 John 2:26-27

- The Doctrinal Test: *Is Jesus the Christ?*
 1. The Deception of the Antichrists
 2. The Anointing from the True Christ

1. The Deception of the Antichrists

- “These things” (26) -> vv. 18-25
 - Many have appeared
 - A sign of the times
 - *In* but not *part of* the church
 - Deny some apostolic teaching about Jesus
 - In denying the Son they deny the Father also

1. The Deception of the Antichrists

- What is their goal?
 - “those who are **trying to deceive** you”
 - *Deceive – to cause to wander -> lead astray; to form a wrong judgment (1 John 1:8; 3:7)*
 - *An agenda: intending to lead others astray from the truth*
 - *Is it always malicious? (2 Tim. 2:24-25)*

1. The Deception of the Antichrists

- What are their tactics?
 - Smooth, flattering speech (Rom. 16:18)
 - Trickery/craftiness (Eph. 4:14; 2 Cor. 11:3)
 - Disguised as servants of righteousness (2 Cor. 11:13-15; cf. *sheep's clothing* - Matt. 7:15)
 - Appeal to fleshly desires (2 Peter 2; Jude)
 - Distort God's word (2 Pet. 3:14-18)

1. The Deception of the Antichrists

- Who do they target?
 - All true believers – “you” (1 John 2:26)
 - *The unsuspecting* (Rom. 16:18)
 - Spiritually weak weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses (2 Tim. 3:6)
 - Those who will not endure sound doctrine (2 Tim. 4:1-4)

1. The Deception of the Antichrists

- How should we respond?
 - “Make sure no one deceives you” (1 John 3:7)
 - “See to it that no one misleads you” (Matt. 24:4)
 - “be on your guard” (2 Pet. 3:17)
 - “Let no one deceive you with empty words” (Eph. 5:6)

1. The Deception of the Antichrists

- How do we keep from being deceived?
 - “Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances **contrary to the teaching which you learned,** and turn away from them.” (Rom. 16:17)
 - “building yourselves up on your most holy faith” (Jude 20)

1. The Deception of the Antichrists

- How do we keep from being deceived?
 - “So then, brethren, **stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught**, whether by word of mouth or by letter from us.” (2 Thess. 2:15)
 - “continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of” (2 Tim. 3:13-17)

1. The Deception of the Antichrists

- How do we keep from being deceived?
 - “you should **remember the words spoken beforehand** by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken by your apostles” (2 Pet. 3:1)
 - “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Pet. 3:14-18)

2. The Anointing from the True Christ

- What is the *anointing*?
 - Referred to as a thing, not a Person
 - “*it* has taught you”
 - *Received from Him, not done to you*
 - Linked with *knowing* and *teaching*
 - The Holy Spirit (or at least the testimony of the Holy Spirit – see 5:6)

2. The Anointing from the True Christ

- What does the anointing do for us?
 - “you have no need for anyone to **teach** you”
 - *Teaching* is a gift from the Holy Spirit (Rom. 12:7; 1 Cor. 12:28-29; Eph. 4:11)
 - Expected! (1 Tim. 4:11, 13; 6:2)
 - Of elders (1 Tim. 5:17; Titus 1:9)
 - Of all believers (Col. 3:16)

2. The Anointing from the True Christ

- What does the anointing do for us?
 - Context! Vv. 20-21, 24
 - *You don't need to be taught new truth because you already know the truth because you heard it in the beginning (cf. 2 John 9)*
 - Especially when it distorts or contradicts what you heard before! (Rom. 16:17)

2. The Anointing from the True Christ

- What does the anointing do for us?
 - “His anointing teaches you **about** all things”
 - Not *omniscience* or *new revelation*
 - *Peri* – *concerning* -> the truth (21, 24)
 - Apply the ‘old’ truth to new situations
 - “it is true and is not a lie” -> it will not lead you away from the truth you already heard

2. The Anointing from the True Christ

- “and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him”
- Context: “If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.” (24b)
 - You cannot *leave* and still *remain*
- The anointing taught them how to abide in Him, i.e. - *walk as He walked* (2:6) -> 2:28-29

So What?

- We must be on guard against error & deception
 - Read the Bible
 - Instead of Christian books, try reading God's word directly, for yourself
 - Instead of *Bible studies*, why not *study the Bible*?

So What?

- God is *Light*, and in Him there is no darkness at all (1:5)
- If we want to walk in God's *Light* we must know and practice the truth (cf. 1:3, 6)
- Jesus said that God's word is truth (John 17:17) and that the truth will make us free (8:32)
- Deception, error, and lies only blind us and make us stumble in the darkness (cf. 2:11)