

ILLUSIONS
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What are illusions? An illusion is a false or misleading perception or belief. It's a misinterpretation of reality, where something appears to be different from what it actually is. Illusions can be sensory, like optical illusions, or more general, like false beliefs or ideas.

Let's examine how the Bible is often used to create an illusion—something appears as real, but it is a distortion of the truth. Scriptures are sometimes distorted to fit someone's beliefs. Remember, an illusion is seeing or hearing something that isn't real.

You may have heard statements like these: *All you have to do is be a good person to make it to heaven. There are many ways to heaven. Why did God let that happen? Why is God punishing me? I can work my way into heaven.*

Every one of these statements is an illusion because they want us to believe things that are not real. Satan lied to Adam and Eve in the garden, and he is still lying today. The sad thing is, people are still falling for his lies today.

Remember those statements—Why did God let that bad thing happen to me, and why is God punishing me? The book of Job in the Old Testament describes how Job was tested by Satan, trying to get Job to curse God. Job was a very wealthy man—a large amount of land, lots of animals, and a large family.

“7 Then Satan went out from the presence of the Lord and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. ⁸ And he took a potsherd to scrape himself while he was sitting among the ashes. ⁹ Then his wife said to him, “Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die!” ¹⁰ But he said to her, “You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God and not accept adversity?” In all this Job did not sin with his lips. ¹¹ Now when Job's three friends heard of all this adversity that had come upon him, they came each one from his own place, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite; and they made an appointment together to come to sympathize with him and comfort him. ¹² When they lifted up their eyes at a distance and did not recognize him, they raised their voices and wept. And each of them tore his robe and they threw dust over their heads toward the sky. ¹³ Then they sat down on the ground with him for seven days and seven nights with no one speaking a word to him, for they saw that his pain was very great.” (Job 2:7-13)

Job had good friends, didn't he? They came and sat with him for a week, and no one spoke a word. They just came to be with him. But his friends turned on him, and told him he must have done something really bad. In the last chapter of Job, God restores Job and all of his wealth, and even blesses him with more than he originally had. Job was tested, not punished by God.

In the New Testament, Satan wanted to test Peter. *“³¹Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; ³² but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.” (Luke 22:31-32)* This is another example of tests that come our way and not punishment from God.

Some say there are many ways to heaven. Listen, there is only one way to heaven, and I don't care what some TV personality, actor, YouTube contributor, or athlete says. There is only one way to heaven, and that is through Jesus. How do I know? Because Jesus said so. Please pay close attention to this verse. *“Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to*

the Father but through Me.” (John 14:6) Who is it that we all must go through to get to heaven? It’s Jesus.

Some people believe that all you have to do is work your way to heaven. I have a question? If all we have to do is work our way to heaven, then what about the cross? Who does this way put first, you or Jesus? If that’s the case, then we don’t need Jesus; we can do this on our own. But that’s not Biblical. Paul stated it like this: “⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; ⁹ not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:4-10)

Paul told the Corinthians the most important words that he received. I want you to see this clearly and think about it. “³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.” (I Corinthians 15:3-4)

The world is going to tell you that there are many ways to get to Heaven, but it’s just an illusion. They are wrong. “You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.” (John 8:44) The Creator of the Universe gave us the truth in His divine Word, the Bible. He’s the One (Jesus) you must believe for the truth. Have a blessed week and watch out for illusions from Satan.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hjf278z1atY&list=RDHjf278z1atY&start_radio=1