

This passage describes non-contenders. Non-contenders are people who are perishing because they do not love the truth. Because they don't love the truth, God Himself sends them a strong delusion that they will believe a lie and be damned.

Is that fair? Is it just for God to delude them?

Of course, it is! God is just giving them what they want. If a person loves the truth... God will make sure they get it. If a person does NOT care about truth... God will NOT force it down their throats!

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### God Wants Contenders

*"Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was **needful** for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should **EARNESTLY CONTEND FOR THE FAITH** which was once delivered unto the saints."* (Jude 1:3)

Satan has orchestrated an ongoing onslaught against the Word of God since the beginning. God has sought out people who would **CONTENT** for the **FAITH**.

In this passage from Jude, he wanted to write to his audience about their common salvation, but the Holy Spirit compelled him to strongly encourage them to fight for the faith! Jude felt he needed to write this powerful encouragement.

Today, God desires dedicated and strong men and women to rise up and be **CONTENTERS** for the true faith.

Sadly, many believers today take greater delight in being famous and wealthy than in being holy and sound doctrinally.

God wants contenders. Will you enlist?

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Contenders Must Be Bereans

*"These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and **searched the Scriptures daily**, whether those things were so."* (Acts 17:11)

Contenders are warriors who know and rely on the Word of God. Contenders are Bereans!

The Bereans listened to the Apostle Paul's teachings and searched the Scriptures daily to verify that Paul's teachings were correct.

A contender is simply a person who immovably stands upon the Word of God! Doctrinal winds do NOT blow over a contender.

Pray that God raises more contenders in these last days.

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### Conclusion:

Our choice is to be a **FIGHTER** or take a **wind-blown BEATING**.

Which will you pursue? Will you train in the Word of God and prayer to contend for God's truth? Or will you be pushed around by every ear-tickling false doctrine that comes your way?

*"And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve...**as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.**"* (Joshua 24:15)

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*"That we henceforth be **no more children, tossed to and fro**, and carried about with **every wind of doctrine**, by the **sleight of men, and cunning craftiness**, whereby they **lie in wait to deceive**;"* (Ephesians 4:14)

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### Hurricane Force Winds

Sadly, the church, not to mention the world, is inundated with hurricane-force winds of false doctrine. Not only are these winds powerful, but there are multitudes of them!

Jesus saw deception as the great danger of the end times. He told His disciples to be careful not to be deceived after they asked Him about the signs of the end of the world.

*"And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and **what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?** (4) And Jesus answered and said unto them, **Take heed that no man deceive you.**"* (Matthew 24:3-4)

If Jesus emphatically warned His disciples of the coming deception, as His followers today, we must likewise be very cautious of the winds of doctrine flooding the church today.

It is not a surprise that the ungodly are constantly deceived, but it is profoundly disheartening when God's people embrace doctrines of devils from false ministers.

# GROW UP! IT'S GETTING WINDY!

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An Angel Of Light

*“For such are **false apostles, deceitful workers**, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. (14) And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. (15) Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.” (2 Corinthians 11:13-15)*

The Word of God warns us that Satan and his servants will pretend to be godly. Satan shows himself as an angel of light, and his ministers pretend to be righteous.

WATCH OUT!

Deception is called “deception” because it is deceptive!

How can we know the real thing and expose the pretenders? By taking heed to God’s Word, the Scriptures, **believing THE BIBLE!**

We must **NEVER** compromise, change, or add to what the Bible literally says. Adding to Scripture for the purpose of deceiving others goes back to the Garden of Eden. God gave one command, and Satan added to God’s Words to deceive Eve.

We must **KNOW** and **embrace** what the Bible actually says rather than PUSH what we think it says.

Of course, this does not mean you need to KNOW EVERYTHING the Bible says. It simply means that when the Bible says something different than you thought, you must embrace what it actually says.

If you allow your beliefs to supersede or alter Scripture... you have made room to be DECEIVED!

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## Grow Up! Don't Be A Child

Now, back to the verse of Scripture that initiated this message (Ephesians 4:14 see above.)

This passage tells us that we should no longer be children blown around by strong winds. Today, we might use the phrase, “**GROW UP!**”

Little children are easily blown over in wind storms. The Word of God compares false doctrines to “every wind of doctrine,” and it is easy to see spiritual infants and toddlers being pulled this way and that. This is so sad.

Some “new” fad doctrine shows up, and the spiritual toddlers trip and fall while being caught in the gusts of the “new thing.”

It is truly disheartening that Christians are so enthralled by so-called “new doctrine,” “new revelation,” and “restored truths.”

What do they find to be inadequate with what the Bible actually says?

We must be like the Bereans. It is okay to listen to teachers and preachers, and we should. But we must constantly search the Scriptures to see if what they are teaching is in agreement with the Bible. If their doctrine does not align with Scripture...**be warned...** the Word of God is **NEVER** wrong! Either their doctrine or your understanding of what they taught is incomplete, or you misunderstood what was said.

The bottom line: **NEVER question the Bible!** You can question the teacher. You can question your understanding (or misunderstanding.) You can dig deeper into Scripture. But you must NEVER try to force the Bible to agree with what YOU WANT it to say.

Winds of doctrine pick up more strength when so-called Christians twist Scripture to agree with their opinions.

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Intentional Deception

Our opening verse tells us that these deceivers are **purposing** to mislead people. These people are **WORSE**

than the Pharisees! Jesus called them BLIND guides of the blind. These charlatans are setting out to make people blind.

“Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel.” (Matthew 23:24)

The Pharisees and religious leaders thought they were obeying God. They were blind and diligent in trying to lead others from their own blindness. Most Pharisees were probably not intentionally deceiving others. They were likely sincere... but they were sincerely WRONG.

The warning from Ephesians 4:14 is about the **WOLVES** who pretend to be SHEEP and, worse yet, **act like they are SHEPHERDS**. They twist and pervert the Word of God for their own gain. They may be pursuing wealth, prestige, power, or other self-gratifying desires.

Intentional deceivers will expose themselves when confronted with Scripture. The scenario goes something like this:

- * The deceiver preaches their false doctrine
- * They are confronted with a Bible quote with NO commentary added (just the Scripture)
- * The deceiver then says something like - “Well, it doesn’t mean that...”
- * The deceiver then continues to twist the passage to say what they WANT you to think it says

GROW UP! Don’t be as impressionable children anymore! Get into the Bible and check it out!

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## Strong Delusion

*“And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because **they received not the love of the truth**, that they might be saved. (11) And for this cause God shall send them **strong delusion**, that they should believe a lie: (12) That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.” (2 Thessalonians 2:10-12)*