

AUTHENTIC Part One “Counterfeit God”

Opening Story:

I had to get permission to share this from my friend Pete...

Pete thought he was experiencing a dream come true a couple of weeks ago.

He was driving down the road and saw money scattered all over the road...

He stopped, jumped out and saw \$20 bills everywhere!! So blocking traffic, putting his life on the line started picking up the money, making sure to get all of it (and making sure nobody else got any of it!!).

Pete said he thought something was fishy when he started picking it up, and when he got home and took a good look at the bills, he realized they were fake!!! (Motion Picture Purposes only)

- Ain't that just like the devil!!!
- Make you think something great is happening
- Only to find out it's counterfeit!!

That is leading us into this new Series, “AUTHENTIC”

The dictionary defines Authentic as:

- Not false or copied; genuine; real
- Having an origin supported by unquestionable evidence; authenticated; verified:
- Representing one's true nature or beliefs; true to oneself or to the person identified:

Often we pray for a move of God in churches...

Some try to “fake it till they make it” (I hate that phrase!!)

Over the past few weeks, we have been experiencing a move of God, an authentic move of God here at The Rock Worship Center!!

- No pretending
- Nothing fake
- The REAL thing!!!

Today, I want to warn you about the devil....

1 Peter 5:8

8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about **like a roaring lion**, seeking whom he may devour.

- We see the devil presenting himself as a lion...

Revelation 5:5

5 But one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. **Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah**, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.”

- But The Word says Jesus is The Lion!!!!

Do not be **deceived**...

- The devil is a liar and a thief...
- His goal is to steal, kill, and destroy!!!
- **All while doing his best to make you believe it's a good thing!!**

The devil will try to present himself to you in a way and a place in your life that he has the greatest possibility of **deceiving** you...

- He will come to you in the fashion of a **“counterfeit god”**

That's what he has always wanted, to be God...

- He tried to overthrow God in Heaven
- He was charismatic enough to gain support of 1/3 of God's angels
- He was cast down to the earth
- And he has set himself up as a god here on earth

Deception in the garden:

- God offered the best of the best...
- All the devil could do was trick them into eating rotten fruit
- (share vision God gave me about the tree of Knowledge)

James 1:16-17

16 **Do not be deceived**, my beloved brethren. 17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

- If it's good, or good for you...
- It comes from God

The devil can't offer what God gives, so he's left with deception.

Counterfeit goods...

- Some counterfeit money looks almost like the real thing
- But if you get caught trying to spend it...
- Some things the devil offers you can have the appearance of coming as a blessing from God... but be careful...

1. Anything that looks like a blessing but pulls you away from your relationship with God is a “Counterfeit blessing”
 - If it came from God, it would pull you closer...
2. Anything that looks like a blessing but keeps you from serving God is a “Counterfeit blessing”
 - God’s blessings won’t cause you to stop going to church...
 - (Motorcycle illustration...used for God)
3. The house won’t get foreclosed God’s blessings will never cause failure in your life
 -
 - The car won’t get re-possessed
 - You won’t get fired from the job
 - The devil will get you the loan, get you the job...
 - Just to stand back and watch you fail, and blame God....

How do you keep from being deceived?

How do you receive the Authentic blessings of the Authentic God?

Matthew 6:33

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

- **You have to make God #1**
- **Above all and before all**

James 4:7-8

7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

- **You have to get so close to God you know His voice**
- **That intimate relationship where you walk into a room and know He’s there**
- **You have to read His word, His actions will not contradict His Word**

You have to be close enough to God to be able to see the difference between counterfeit and Authentic...

I’m about to close up... but I started out talking about an Authentic move of God...

- **I won’t settle for less!!!**

I shared a devotion earlier this week, hinting to this series, “Authentic”

Acts 8:9-13

9 But there was a certain man called Simon, who previously practiced sorcery in the city and astonished the people of Samaria, claiming that he was someone great, 10 to whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, “This man is the great power of God.” 11 And they heeded him because he had astonished them with his sorceries for a long time. 12 But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized. 13 Then Simon himself also believed; and when he was baptized he continued with Philip, and was amazed, seeing the miracles and signs which were done.

This man Simon had all the people fooled (deceived)...

- **He was giving them a good show**
- **But had no real power of God**
- **They had been satisfied by his performance for a long time**
- **Until an Authentic Move of God was released in this city**
- **Read on down and you’ll see Simon was exposed for the counterfeit that he was...**

Don’t be satisfied with a good show....

- **Smoke, mirrors and a bunch of hype...**

Don’t be satisfied with anything less than an Authentic move of God in our church and in your life!!

Closing:

Altar/Prayer