The Evil Brilliance of Sin: Intelligent deception in the human heart

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***But continually encourage one another every day, as long as it is called “Today” [and there is an opportunity], so that none of you will be hardened [into settled rebellion] by the deceitfulness of sin [its cleverness, delusive glamour, and sophistication]. (Hebrews 13:3, Amplified Version).***

***But the serpent said to the woman, “You certainly will not die! 5For God knows that on the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened [that is, you will have greater awareness], and you will be like God, knowing [the difference between] good and evil.” 6And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was delightful to look at, and a tree to be desired in order to make one wise and insightful, she took some of its fruit and ate it; and she also gave some to her husband [***[***c***](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+3&version=AMP#fen-AMP-62c)***]with her, and he ate. (Genesis 3:4-6, Amplified).***

Having been so governed, so controlled by carnality, we have become intoxicated by its drug-like effect. We have been lulled into its quarters made comfortable for our long-term dwelling. Like addicts smoking opium in the dens in London, we have no desire to leave the environment which offers us peace, pleasure, and a power which we have never known—the power of contentment suited for the fleshly desires. Satan stands at the door beckoning the wearied travelers in for a rest before continuing their journey. It is not the face of the devil they see but rather the face of a sincere host whose demeanor shows no evil intent at all. The devil is a genius in the field of cunning and deception. By the time we realize what is happening, we are caught in his net; the harder we struggle, the more entangled we become. It is said of an unfortunate person who has been caught in the coils of a large python that when he takes a breath, the snake senses it and squeezes more tightly. The result? The human now cannot breathe because of the pressure exerted on the lungs due to the constriction from the snake’s coils. The human dies because of suffocation. Sin suffocates sanity and evil evicts peace and harmony. Transgression tramples the spirit and triumphs over the soul. It will get to the point where what we do is condoned by us and we offer no apology for it. Is this where we want to find ourselves? Shall we so pamper the flesh that we will deny it nothing?

We cannot