



Daily Verse and Comment

[Jeremiah 17:5-7](#)

(5) Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD. (6) For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited. (7) Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is.

King James Version

If our trust, [faith](#), or confidence is in any person—and this would certainly include ourselves—[God](#) says that we are *cursed*! Such a wretched belief system cannot help but bear diseased and poisonous fruit. If we depend on human abilities—ours or someone else's—to overcome [Satan](#) and recognize and resist his devices, he will sooner or later pull one over on us.

If our trust is misplaced, the verse says our heart *departs from the LORD*, meaning we are surrendering our best and only true defense against the deceiver. Sometimes, he goes for our weaknesses, yet at other times, for our strengths. Sometimes, his ploy is in plain view, but at other times, he plays an indefinite [waiting](#) game. Who can anticipate all his methods of deception? We simply cannot foresee where he will come from—or when or how. Clearly, on our own, we are outmatched and outgunned. We need what no mortal can provide.

A couple of verses later, God gives the flipside, the only means we really have against deception: "Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, and whose hope is the LORD" ([Jeremiah 17:7](#)). Recall what God has done and is doing for us. While [the world](#) lies under the sway of the wicked one, God has freed a little flock and is actively protecting His sheep. We should not live in terror—we have not been given a spirit of fear ([II Timothy 1:6](#)). Alone, we cannot stand against Satan, but our source of strength is [Jesus Christ](#).

Walking in that relationship causes us to adopt the character image of the Father and the Son. The more we think as They do and act as They do, the less likely we are to be taken in by Satan's subtlety, cunning, or one of his long cons. Just as we are no match for Satan, so the Devil is no match for the Father and the Son. In fact, They have already defeated him and desire to make Their home with us—which They will do if we [love](#) Them and keep Their words. This protects us from deception—our growing relationship with God and submitting to the truth at every turn.

The people who will survive the deceptions of this end time are those who have the Father and the Son as their focus—in their very being—so much that the false messiahs and prophets cannot get in the door. The ones who are kept from deception have a love of the truth (see [II Thessalonians 2:9-12](#)). Their security comes not because of personal strength but as a result of the protection that God gives because they have consistently demonstrated that their heartfelt desire is to live with the Father and the Son for eternity, no matter the cost in the present. So, they will engage in frequent prayer, focused study of the Word of God, and occasional fasting to humble themselves and work on dislodging the hooks.

Those who will survive Satan's deceptions have their hope in God because they already know they can trust Him with their lives, regardless of what happens. Because their hope and trust are in the right place, they are blessed—and part of that blessing is the spiritual strength to resist and overcome the father of lies.

— David C. Grabbe

To learn more, see:

[The Truth About Deception \(Part Three\)](#)

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