

## **Not all things that glitter are gold**

### *A Look at the Scriptures*

It's easy to be impressed by appearances. In a world where social media promotes seemingly perfect lives and quick successes, the popular saying "Not all things that glitter are gold" reminds us of an essential truth: appearances can be deceiving. When we examine this maxim in light of Scripture, we find profound principles that warn us about the pitfalls of false appearances and call us to discern what is truly valuable.

### **The Deception of Shiny Appearances**

In II Corinthians 11:14, the apostle Paul writes, "*And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.*" This verse warns us that not everything that appears good and right comes from God. Satan, the father of lies, is a master at masking his evil intentions with an appearance of goodness. He lures us with what is superficially desirable but ultimately leads to destruction.

This strategy of deception is widely visible today. Products, ideologies, and even relationships can be presented as the solution to our problems or the path to happiness. However, without the discernment given by the Holy Spirit, we run the risk of deceiving ourselves and following the wrong path.

### **Lying as a Tool of the Enemy**

In John 8:44, Jesus describes Satan as the "*father of lies.*" He states that the enemy is incapable of telling the truth and uses lies to deceive and destroy. Many of us have been deceived by promises that seemed true but turned out to be empty.

For example, the world often convinces us that financial success or fame are the greatest goals in life. But when we pursue these goals without considering God's principles, we often feel even more empty. It is like a false shine: beautiful on the outside, but without substance on the inside.

Jesus calls us to live a life based on truth. He declared, "*I am the way, the truth, and the life*" (John 14:6). By aligning ourselves with Him, we have access to an authentic and fulfilling life, far removed from the illusions offered by the world.

### **The Purpose of an Abundant Life**

In contrast to the enemy's deception, Jesus offers something far superior. In John 10:10, He says, "*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come*

*that they may have life and have it abundantly.*” Here, Jesus exposes the devil's evil intent and presents His own mission: to give us an abundant and meaningful life.

We must understand that this abundance is not just about material things. It is about inner peace, a relationship with God, and the satisfaction that comes from living according to the Creator’s purposes. When we discern between the superficial glitter of the world and the true light of Christ, we find a treasure far more valuable than any gold.

### **Developing Discernment**

How, then, can we avoid falling into the trap of false appearances? The answer lies in cultivating a deep relationship with God.

**1. Meditation on God’s Word:** The psalmist declares, “*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path*” (Psalm 119:105). God’s Word is the filter that helps us distinguish between what is true and what is false.

**2. Prayer and Dependence on the Holy Spirit:** In our prayers, we should ask God to give us discernment to recognize the enemy’s strategies.

**3. Church:** Being surrounded by other believers helps us see what we might not perceive on our own. Wise and loving counsel is a gift from God for our growth.

### **Conclusion**

The popular wisdom that states “Not all things that glitter are gold” finds a deep echo in Scripture. In a world full of deception, we are called to look beyond appearances and seek the truth that comes from God. May we live with discernment, rejecting the enemy’s traps and embracing the abundant life that Christ offers us. After all, the true treasure is in knowing and walking with our Savior.