

DANGERS OF “SPOOFING”

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I can usually see them coming. They call with a number and name of a neighbor. Or they call as a company that you do business with. But they are deceivers doing what is called “spoofing.”

“Spoofing” is when a caller “deliberately falsifies the information transmitted to your caller ID display to disguise their identity. Scammers often use neighbor spoofing so it appears that an incoming call is coming from a local number, or spoof a number from a company or a government agency that you may already know and trust. If you answer, they use scam scripts to try to steal your money or valuable personal information, which can be used in fraudulent activity.”

(www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/spoofing-and-caller-id)

I almost fell for the deception a while back. The gentleman called through my Verizon voicemail number and said he was with Verizon. He told me that someone was trying to purchase \$2,100 in phones on my account. Naturally, I was startled as he asked me if I recognized this person’s name and address (which I didn’t). To stop this unauthorized purchase, I needed to give him some information that suddenly popped up on my Verizon text page. I gave it to him, but then noticed that it said that Verizon would never ask me to read this information back to them (uh oh!). He said a code would appear in the next text (and it did). I then realized that if I gave him this code it would allow him to reset my password and give him access to my account. He was not helping me stop a thief – he was the thief! I immediately ended the call, called Verizon to inform them, and then changed my password. (Whew!)

Such deception is terrible, but spiritual deception is much worse because it can cost us more than money – we can lose our souls forever. Satan is the king of “spoofers” – he “transforms himself into an angel of light” and his ministers “transform themselves into ministers of righteousness” (2 Cor. 11:14-15). They come with a pleasing manner and flattering words claiming that they are only concerned about the truth and our souls. But it is a deception – they are wolves in sheep’s clothing who lie in wait to deceive (Matt. 7:15; Eph. 4:14). Test them with the word of God and it will expose their deceitfulness.

Stay alert for Satan and his deceptions!