

DISCERNING COUNTERFEITS WITHOUT FEAR

When the Church encounters a counterfeit, it's not a cue to retreat—it's a call to recover the original. This teaching challenges fear-based responses and equips believers to discern with courage, not suspicion. From Moses to the woman at the well, we see a pattern: the real swallows the fake. Learn to reclaim what's been distorted, recognize what the enemy mimics, and walk in true Kingdom authority. Don't avoid the counterfeit—recover the real and carry it boldly.



Recovering the Real: Discerning Counterfeits Without Fear

by John Himmelberger

Intro

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My Intention and Assumptions

I hope that your relationship with God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit is strengthened through this teaching. My assumption is that you have read or are reading all 66 books of the Bible for context. This is meant to be 'salt' and make you thirsty. You're welcome.

About the Author

John Himmelberger is a teacher, pastor, and lifelong learner. With decades of experience walking with Jesus and leading others into transformational truth, John brings a grounded yet radical perspective rooted in Scripture, personal growth, and kingdom living.

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We've been trained to fear what the enemy fakes. But what if discernment isn't about spotting what's wrong—it's about finding what's been lost? The enemy doesn't invent—he imitates. So when we see a counterfeit, it should ignite a holy fire in us to reclaim the real thing God intended.

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Theme:

When the Church encounters a counterfeit, our mandate is not fear or retreat—it's recovery. The presence of a counterfeit means the original exists. It's time we stop forfeiting ground and start reclaiming what was always ours in the Kingdom.

I. Introduction: Counterfeits Point to Originals

- **Key Principle:** You can't have a counterfeit without an original.
- **Illustration:** Fake Rolex = proof a real Rolex exists.
- **Problem in the Church:** We see something misused (e.g., healing, spiritual experiences, joy, altered states) and our response is often:
 - Fear
 - Silence
 - Retreat
- But that's not discernment—that's avoidance.

“We have mistaken suspicion for discernment, and fear for wisdom.”

II. The Biblical Pattern: Reclaiming What's Been Twisted

◆ Exodus 7:10–12 — Moses' Staff vs. the Magicians

- The magicians mimic God's work.
- Moses doesn't retreat—his staff swallows theirs.
- **Lesson:** Don't let imitation scare you from God's real authority.

◆ Mark 5:1–20 — The Demoniac

- Culture chained him. Religion avoided him. Jesus restored him.

- The counterfeit (possession) wasn't the final word—**restored identity was.**

◆ John 4:4–26 — Woman at the Well

- She drank from counterfeit relationships.
- Jesus reveals the original: **Living Water.**

III. The Real vs. the Fake: Kingdom vs. Counterfeit

| Counterfeit | Original |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Addiction | Deep spiritual hunger |
| Occult insight | Prophetic clarity |
| New Age peace | Peace from the Spirit |
| Emotional highs | True joy in Christ |
| Control and manipulation | Authority with compassion |
| Empty rituals | Intimate worship |

- **The enemy doesn't create.** He only distorts what already exists.
- **Our job is not to throw it all away—it's to ask, "What's the *real thing* this is mimicking?"**

IV. The Church's Opportunity: Move From Suspicion to Authority

- Fear forfeits territory. Authority reclaims it.
- We're called to walk in:
 - **Discernment** (not paranoia)
 - **Courage** (not avoidance)
 - **Redemptive pursuit** (not retreat)

"If the devil is faking it, it must be valuable."
 So stop running from the counterfeit—**go find the real.**

V. Activation & Questions

Reflection Questions:

1. Where have I responded to counterfeits with fear instead of pursuit?
2. What area of spiritual life have I avoided because of how others misused it?
3. What's a "Rolex" I need to go find again?

Declaration:

I will not be afraid of counterfeits. I carry the original. I walk in truth, authority, and redemption. I am not here to run—I am here to recover what was lost and redeem what was stolen. I carry the real thing.