

FALL OF MAN - SATAN'S STRATEGY

Satan attacks the mind because it is where God communicates with us to reveal His will. Our minds are part of being in the image of God. God renews our lives by renewing our minds (**Ro.12:2**) through His truth (**Jn.17:17**, Word of God). Satan targets our minds with lies about God's Word so that we will not know the will of God. The will of God is the expression of God's love for us. We are to dwell on what is good (**Ph.4:8**). Paul feared believers could be subtly beguiled (**2Co.11:3**).

2:16 "And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die. ... 3:1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? 2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: 3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. 4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: 5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. 6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. 7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons."

— (**Ge.2:16-17; 3:1-7**)

FALL OF MAN

1 Satan Questioned God's Word

"Yea, hath God said" (**Ge.3:1**)

Satan did not challenge that God spoke. He suggests that perhaps God did not say what Eve thought God said. "Eve perhaps you misunderstood what God really said." "You owe it to yourself to rethink what He said." Satan is also challenging God's goodness. "If God really loved you He would not keep something from you."

2 Satan Denied God's Word

"Ye shall not surely die" (**Ge.3:4**)

Adam and Eve have not seen death. They had no experience with it. All they had was the Word of God to go on. This should have been all they needed. She should have had faith in God's Word.

3 Satan Fathered His Own Lie

"Ye shall be as gods" (**Ge.3:5**)

Adam and Eve were already made in the image of God (**Ge.1:26**). Satan presented a greater privilege than God has given them, namely to be like God! It is curious that this is what Lucifer, God's angelic servant, desired (**Is.14:12-14**, 5 "I will's"). This lie of being like God guides civilizations since the fall of man (**Ro.1:25**, lit. "the lie"). The original lie of Satan is the strategy he uses today (**Jn.8:44**). It promotes self pride without God.

SATAN'S STRATEGY

1 Eve Took Away From God's Word

"Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat" (**Ge.2:16**)

"We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden" (**Ge.3:2**)

Omitting "freely" makes God's Word seem less gracious. It appears Eve caught Satan's impression that God is holding out on her. When we question God's Word it become easier to disobey His will.

2 Eve Added To God's Word

"Thou shalt not eat of it: ... thereof thou shalt surely die." (**Ge.2:17**)

"Neither shall ye touch it" (**Ge.3:3**)

Adding the words, "neither shall ye touch it" makes the command seem more difficult (**1Jn.5:3**, God's "commandments are not grievous"). Satan wants us to believe God's commands are unreasonable, and that he has something better to offer.

3 Eve Changed God's Word

"For in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" (**Ge.2:17**)

"Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die" (**Ge.3:3**)

If the penalty does not seem so harsh then disobeying becomes easier. Once we are comfortable changing God's Word we are open to Satan's subtle manipulation. Satan got Eve to consider the tree apart from God's Word. "Take a good look at it [the object not God's Word] as it is good for food." He got Eve's attention off of God's will and on to the object. Satan does not start with, "this is a lie". No, he masquerades as if he speaks for God (**2Co.11:13-14**, "Satan disguises himself")

EVE'S RESPONSE