

### 3. **Step 3 – Do What the Devil Says** –

- a. Eve is now ready to disobey the LORD God who loved her, made her, and told her what is best – The woman went from →doubting the Word →to not believing the Word →to believing the devil →to seeing *good reasons* for doing what the devil said:  
<sup>6</sup> **When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was [1] good for food and [2] pleasing to the eye, and also [3] desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it.** *The Bible lays out these steps in the book of James: “...each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. <sup>15</sup> Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.” (James 1:14-15 NAS) God said: “...you WILL surely die.” (Gen. 2:17 NIV) Then, when the woman ate, she died spiritually and would eventually die physically!*
- b. Sin spreads rapidly – As soon as she ate, **“She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate...”** *Now, sin has ruined all people of all time! That is why God sent Jesus: †He is God’s Son, †He was tempted but He did not fall, †He defeated the devil, and †He is the only Savior for everyone!*

**Conclusion:** Paul wrote: *“I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.” (2 Cor. 11:3 NIV) That is also my concern for you, so STAY in the WORD so that GOD CAN KEEP YOU IN CHRIST! Amen!*

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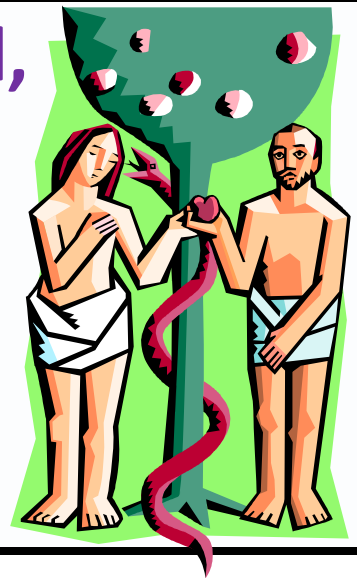
## Eve was Tempted, And She Fell!

Based on Genesis 3:1-7

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent – 2010

February 28 → 9:00

**Special Service Time, Today Only**



**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ, today we continue with our focus on the topic of **temptation**:

- Last week we saw Jesus – *the second Adam* – being tempted by the devil. He was tempted ✦ according to His felt needs, ✦ to take the easy way out, and ✦ to believe a wrong interpretation of Scripture. In every case, Jesus prevailed – *He did not fall* – by using the pure truth of Holy Scripture to defend Himself! ***I hope and pray that you are memorizing key Bible passages!***
- Today we come to another temptation by the devil – *the first temptation, which took place in the Garden of Eden*. Even though the woman was without sin & using *100% of her brain*, she was tempted – *and she fell!*

Today, let us ✓ rejoice in Jesus our **SINLESS** Savior, ✓ learn the devil’s tactics, and ✓ flee from all temptation. **Why?** Because ✦ the devil, ✦ the world, and ✦ our sinful natures want this progression: *From temptation → to sin → to death → to hell!*

1. **Step 1 – Doubt God’s Word** – Jesus trusted the Word *and effectively used it*; let’s see what the woman did:
  - a. The serpent – *At this point in time* Lucifer – *a.k.a. the devil, the serpent, Beelzebub* – had become a fallen angel. However, people and animals (serpents) had not yet fallen. The Bible tells us that <sup>1</sup> **“the serpent was more crafty than any of the animals the LORD God had made.”** Crafty means **“wise,” “intelligent,” “sensible.”** ***That is why the devil chose to use the serpent!*** Since serpents were known to be the wisest, most intelligent, most sensible of all the animals, the devil hoped that Eve just might believe a serpent over the LORD. *How is the devil at work today?* To get people to BELIEVE THE TEACHINGS OF MEN – *even clergymen* – OVER GOD’S HOLY WORD!
  - b. The doubt – The devil is wise and subtle, *so he didn’t immediately CONTRADICT the LORD God*; instead, he simply QUESTIONED His words: **“Did God REALLY say...”** Even today the forces of evil are using the same tactics to lure us to DOUBT God’s Word! For example, the Bible clearly teaches: **Sex outside of marriage – without repentance – severs such people from Christ** (*look it up*<sup>1</sup>) – But the devil says: **“Did God REALLY say...”** Let us pray in this manner: Lord, “I do believe; help my unbelief!” (Mark 9:24)
2. **Step 2 – Believe the Devil** – Doubt leads → *to not believing the truth* → *to believing a lie* → *to living a lie!*
  - a. Handle the Word CARELESSLY – *That happens BEFORE a person believes the devil.* <sup>2</sup> **The woman**

said to the serpent, <sup>3</sup> **“...God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, AND YOU MUST NOT TOUCH IT, or you will die.’”** The woman handled the Word CARELESSLY by adding to it. It might seem trivial to add: **“you must not touch it...”** but the Bible says this (*especially about the prophecies in the book of Revelation*): **“If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book.”** <sup>19</sup> And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city...” (Rev. 22:18-19 NIV) **Let us always be PRECISE and ACCURATE with God’s Holy Word of Truth!**

- b. Believe the devil – At this point the woman has been softened up; the WISE serpent has gotten her to DOUBT the Word and ADD TO the Word. *NOW he will try to get her to BELIEVE HIM OVER THE WORD.* So he said to her: <sup>4</sup> **“You will not surely die ...”** <sup>5</sup> **For God knows that when you eat [from the tree] your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”** *What did the devil do?*
  - ✦ *He wiped out the negative:* **“You will not surely die...”** AND ✦ *he stated a positive:* **“...your eyes will be opened...”** *It’s a win, win situation!* But who spoke to Eve? **The father of...** (John 8:44) *And how does the devil entice people to have sex outside of marriage?* He says to them: **“You will not surely die...”** AND he also works on their LOGIC by saying: **“It’s a great way to TRY OUT THE RELATIONSHIP before you get married!”** *That makes sense, but the divorce rate is actually MUCH HIGHER for those who live together prior to marriage! God’s ways are best!*

<sup>1</sup> 1 Cor. 6:9-10; Col. 3:5-6; Eph. 5:5-7; 1 Thess. 4:3-8; Rev. 21:8; Heb. 10:26-27