

# The Fall vs. The Temptation

In both of these situations, the enemy is bringing into question things about God and about us as humans. The presentation may have changed, but the lies are the same.

**Genesis 3:1-6** Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’”<sup>2</sup> And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden;<sup>3</sup> but of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’ ”<sup>4</sup> Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die.<sup>5</sup> For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”<sup>6</sup> So when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make *one* wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.<sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

## Jesus’ First Temptation

**Matthew 4:1-4** Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.<sup>2</sup> And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry.<sup>3</sup> Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.”<sup>4</sup> But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’ ”

- Is it wrong to eat bread? No! Jesus ate bread and called Himself the Bread of Life.
- So why is this wrong. Why was this a temptation for evil to Jesus?

- Satan is asking Jesus to look at the physical. But Jesus is looking at both the physical and the spiritual. Jesus knew He was hungry, but there was more at play:
  - **John 5:19** Then Jesus answered and said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.
  - **Galatians 5:16** I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.
- Jesus was setting His eyes on things above, not things of the earth. Why?
- Jesus knew who He was. He is spirit. Just because He lives in a physical body did not negate the fact the He is a spirit.

### **We are spirit beings also!**

#### **But in the fall, the enemy won with this temptation:**

**Genesis 3:3-4** but of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’ ” <sup>4</sup> Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die.

- God said they would die, Satan said they would not die. What is going on here?
- Did they die? Yes
- Their physical bodies did not die. They were spirit. And when the spirit died (separation from God), they were dead. Just because they were in physical bodies did not negate that they are spiritual beings.

This was an identity attack. The answer to this attack is to know your identity in Christ. To truly view yourself as a spirit that has a soul that lives in a body.

- Satan never addresses us as spirit. He wants our attention solely focused on nothing but our soul and body, because he refuses to acknowledge our spirit.
- God relates to us as spirit because that’s what He made us.
- When you read Scripture in light of that fact, suddenly some of the things that seemed so condemning before take on a whole different meaning.

- Example: **1 John 3:9** Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.
- Flesh and soul interpret that as “I must not be saved because I still sin.” This is where we “get saved” many times because it just doesn’t seem to take.
- BORN OF GOD = brand new spirit. You [addressing you as spirit] can no longer sin because you’ve been born into God’s family and you have Christ’s genetic code [His seed remains in him], which is incapable of sin.
- LIE: YOU ARE NOT SPIRIT = YOU ARE WORTHLESS TO GOD.
- Our worth—not just as humans as a whole, but also individually—comes from our Creator.
- When we believe this lie we are cut off from our worth and are left with a driving need to find it somewhere.

### Jesus’ Second Temptation

**Matthew 4:5-7** Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup>and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: ‘He shall give His angels charge over you,’ and, ‘In *their* hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.’ ”  
<sup>7</sup>Jesus said to him, “It is written again, ‘You shall not tempt the Lord your God.’ ”

- Was it a sin to do a miracle of self-preservation? No!
  - **Luke 4:28-30** So all those in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath, <sup>29</sup>and rose up and thrust Him out of the city; and they led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city was built, that they might throw Him down over the cliff. <sup>30</sup>Then passing through the midst of them, He went His way.
- So what is Satan tempting Jesus with that is wrong?
- To doubt His place as God’s Son and to test the Father’s love for Him
- Satan wanted Jesus to doubt God as protector, and ultimately as Father. That Jesus would need proof of love from the Father in the form of a miracle, rather than trusting His word.

### **In the fall, Satan got the people to doubt God's love and protection for them**

- Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"
- He was effectively saying "you can't trust what God says." "He is not looking out for your best interests." Test Him and see.

This is an attack on trusting God's word over what we see in front of us. The answer to this is to trust God completely. How is trust formed? Time with Him getting to truly know Him.

### **Jesus' Third Temptation**

**Matthew 4:8-10** Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. <sup>9</sup> And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.' "

- Obviously worshiping Satan is wrong. So what was the temptation here?
- A shortcut to what would be a small part of Jesus' endgame. And a shortcut that avoided the cross
- But Jesus knew that there are no shortcuts. And that the part of ruling everything was not the actual purpose of God.
- Even though Jesus would become the King of Kings and rule every kingdom (Revelation 11:15), His actual purpose of the cross was to become the firstborn of many brethren (Romans 8:29).
- Satan did not understand that God wanted a family, not servants. Satan wanted servants.

### **In the fall, Satan deceives Adam and Eve with the idea that this will make them like God**

- For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

- Adam and Eve wanted to be like God. But they were already spirit, like God, and were made in His image, and were in His family.
- By introducing sin, they died and became separated from God. They also took on a sin nature and now needed a Redeemer to become children of God again.
- We have the life of Christ in us. We are more like God than we realize. We have the mind of Christ. His life in us empowering us. His spirit guiding us.

This is an attack on our worth, and our potential, and the ultimate purpose of our lives. The answer to this is to walk in the spirit. To know the life of Christ in us. And to understand the work of the cross:

**Romans 8:14-17** For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. <sup>15</sup> For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” <sup>16</sup> The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him*, that we may also be glorified together.