

## How Satan Did it. Genesis 3:1-6

A page ago we looked at the fact that God gave Adam and Eve only one rule. Many are puzzled as to why, if they had no knowledge of sin, they disobeyed. When you consider what God gave them it can be frustrating to consider the choice they made. The garden was full of food. The food grew by God's command, they didn't have to do anything to get it. Since the fall hadn't happened yet, there was no disease to affect their harvest or the crops themselves.

We are no different. God gives us the perfect way to live. He teaches us patiently what the right thing to do and say is through The Bible. We are given the Holy Spirit to convict and help us. We have everything we need in Christ, yet still find ourselves checking the "wrong refrigerator" for something different. We have the same problem and that problem is temptation.

The Devil came with an effective approach. One that not only shares a mindset he already had (rebellion and self worship) but one he dropped one third of the angels with too. Between the garden and today Satan has had thousands of years to practice it on us. Let's look at his game plan.

1. He has you question what God says. Bible study among modern Christians is a joke. I am thoroughly convinced that the bulk majority of people who claim to be Christians have not read the Bible to completion. I also think that those who do regularly read and study scripture make up a super thin minority of us. **THIS IS A REPROACH AND SHOULD NOT BE THE WAY IT IS.** It's easy to question what God says when you have no idea whether He said it or not. We need to read, study and show up to be taught and preached the Bible. Without firm roots in scripture we will be tossed around by any teaching out there (Ephesians 4:14). Regular study makes light work of doubt and ignorance.
2. He offers a counter idea. His grand argument here is that whatever God said, isn't true. Simple isn't it? God says you will die? No you won't!. Still we fall for it every day. By offering us an alternative point of view, that includes us having something we want, he knows we'll go with it. Poor self discipline and a carnal mind will fall for this trap every time. When we are prone to give ourselves whatever our flesh desires we are more prone to compromise even if the argument made is illogical.
3. He toys with your pride. His attack on your pride will come in atleast three stages. First, he told Eve that God was lying. Second, that God was trying to deny them something worthwhile and finally that your life would be better with the thing God denied you. God is not a cosmic kill joy. He is a loving Father who wants what's best for you and won't tolerate your sin. You damage yourself and your relationship with Him when you reject Him.

Conclusion: I've known a lot of people who either stepped away from church (lost) or walked away from God (backslidden) because the devil made the world look so good and God look too strict. You'll notice when God addresses the issue here, He never asks the snake a thing, but He held Adam and Eve responsible for their actions. The same thing will apply to us. Be smart about what God says. Trust that what He has for you is better than the random temptations the Devil has strewn through the Earth. Be so strong in the Word and your faith that no desire can move you from it. Put on the armor described to us in Ephesians 6 and never take it off.