

LIVING BY FAITH



BEGINNING YOUR WALK
AS A NEW BELIEVER

KIMBERLY MCRAE

The following sample is from the print version of Living by Faith.

Let's take a look at these verses a little more closely to understand what God is saying in the book of Genesis.

And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 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. – Genesis 2: 16 - 17

Can you imagine how beautiful the garden was during the days of Adam? Have you ever been to an apple orchard and seen the apples hanging along the rows of trees? It is difficult to resist the desire to grab a large apple and eat the fruit right there in the orchard. You can just imagine the sweet wonderful taste. Maybe you think of making an apple pie or dipping the apple in caramel. With so many trees in an apple orchard, we have no need to pick fruit from them all.

Man had many trees to choose from in the garden and could have easily obeyed God's ONE commandment without question. At first in obedience, he listened to God when God said not to eat of the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

We see in the scripture reference that there was a penalty for eating of the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. God says that man will *surely die*. If God says there is a consequence, it will happen! It is not a possibility but a definite result.

Read Genesis 2: 18 -23.

God created man in His image and since God desires fellowship with us it is not surprising that He would see the need for fellowship with others in Adam. In Genesis 2:19 - 20, God created all the animals to live in the garden with Adam but God did not stop there. He saw that Adam was in need of a help meet and caused Adam to go into a deep sleep to remove one of his ribs and create woman, Eve, as seen in Genesis 2: 21 - 23.

Read Genesis 2: 25 and fill in the blanks below.

And they were both _____, the man and his wife, and were _____
ashamed

What do you think the scripture means when God's Word tells us that the man and his wife were NOT ashamed?

Adam and Eve did not feel any guilt or shame. There was no concept of sin because they were obedient to God by not eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. But Satan is cunning. He is the great deceiver. He began his deception when talking with Eve in the garden in the form of a serpent.

Read Genesis 3:1 and fill in the blanks.

Now the _____ was more subtil than _____ beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, _____
_____, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

“Hath God said” are three words that you ought to pay attention to. Those three words and the concept of questioning whether God truly means what His word says lead to compromise. Compromise can get you into trouble, friend, as we see further in the text.

Read Genesis 3: 2 - 3.

Woman replied to the serpent that God did say that they are not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. At that time woman did not question God's command. She obeyed Him completely. The serpent continued his deception.

Read Genesis 3: 4 - 5 and fill in the blanks below.

And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall _____ surely die: 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.

The serpent changed God's commandment by adding one word. The word was NOT. We see in many of the new Bible translations that claim to be easier to

read that there are words omitted, changed or added. This can change God's Word making it the word of man and could cause you to stumble in your Christian walk. Be wary of these translations.

We see from the verses to follow that compromising and disobeying God's Word can cause great sorrow, guilt and shame. Let's take a look at how woman and man responded to the serpent's deception. It is very similar to the way people fall into sin today.

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. - Genesis 3:6

Many people today will rationalize, or make excuses for sin to say that God really doesn't mean what He says in the Bible. They often will say that 'times have changed' and use that as their reasoning. We see from this verse that rationalizing disobedience began way back in the garden.

What rationalizations did woman use to convince herself that the serpent was right and it was okay to disobey God?

Why do you think woman gave man the fruit to eat when she knew she was disobeying God?

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