

Knowing Good and Evil

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Genesis 3:1-11 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? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: 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. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not 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. 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. 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. And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden. And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?

- I. In our study of spiritual warfare we are digging out the roots and trying to expose the devil for who he is, and sin for what it is, and how he is able to get in the door of our heart and mind.
 - A. When we look at the Scriptures that describe what happened in the beginning we can see the devil's way of tempting and deceiving all people.
 - B. The devil starts by questioning moral issues.
 - C. Again, remember that all this conversation takes place in the privacy of your mind between you and the devil.
 1. You believe it is all yourself just thinking and reasoning things out, but there are actually two involved.
 - D. Since all morality has its foundation in the Word of God the devil necessarily must suggest that you question the Word of God.
 - E. At first he does not suggest that God is lying, but only that you maybe misunderstood what He said.
 1. So in order to be a reasonable person you think yourself righteous in questioning a moral command that God has laid down clearly in his Word.
 - F. All the while your eyes are fixed on the object in question and your heart attaches itself to that object and desire is introduced into your reasoning about it.
 - G. After the lust of your heart has conceived this distorted version of truth the devil will flat-out call God a liar – “Ye shall NOT surely die.”
 1. There will be no consequences or the consequences will be totally different than what you have been led to believe.
 - H. This is how we have come to “know” good and evil.
 - I. We all knew good as soon as we were born by the comfort, the nourishing, the love and tenderness with which we are handled by others.
 - J. But as we grew and matured we realized that there was another choice available for us and we took it before we knew what we were doing.

- K. As children we found that we could get away with something other than good sometimes, even with the best parents.
 - L. Then there comes a time in our life when we are faced with the ultimate choice – admit we are a sinner, turn from evil, yield to God, and be born again, or reject God and continue in sin to have our own way.
- II. If we hope to prevail against the devil for our own heart, mind, soul, and spirit, and for that of our children, and be able to help anyone else caught in his snare, we must fight this fight with this knowledge and understanding of the devil’s devices.
- A. We must realize that everyone is continually presented with choices between good and evil – even children; maybe especially children.
 - B. As soon as their ability to reason begins to develop the devil is there to influence their mind.
 - C. Since they have no real knowledge of evil they are very vulnerable to the lies he presents to their minds.
 - D. They are choosing in their little minds before we even know what is going on.
 - E.
- III. What can we do practically to deal with this matter and resist the devil?
- A. First of all, we must be awake and aware of presence of the enemy and realize he has access that we cannot completely stop, no matter how hard we try.
 - B. We cannot “sleep” or be careless and unwatchful, about our own spirit, nor the spirits of others.
 - C. We should do all we can to keep the objects that the devil uses out of our sight and the sight of our children.
 - 1. There is no black magic power or anything like that in inanimate objects, but imagery, and music, and stories that suggest things to the mind are what the devil uses to pry the doors open with.
 - D. We should be watchful about changes in behavior and attitudes.
 - 1. First in ourselves.
 - 2. In our children.
 - 3. In other people.
 - 4. Something is going on in the mind when attitudes, moods, and behavior changes and becomes troubling and disturbing.
 - E. We should be watchful about sudden interests in unusual things.
 - 1. Obsession of the mind with certain things, or people, or places, or subjects is evidence that something is going on in the mind of that person.
 - 2. They are being influenced and are yielding their mind to those things and not exercising full control of their own thoughts.
 - F. We should do all we can to teach our children from the time we realize they can think to think on the things God tells us to.

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

- 1. First, by our own example; by not allowing the children to see us worrying, fretting, fearing, doubting, etc. – but believing, trusting, and praising the good God who is in control of the universe.
- 2. Second, by teaching them good things and not bad; overcome evil with good – just teach them the good, feed their minds with good, not evil.

3. If we present evil to their mind for their consideration, just remember that the devil has access to their mind also, and he will advocate for the evil and they will make the choice for themselves without our knowledge.

IV. What do we do when we realize they have made the wrong choice and have been deceived by the devil and he already has, or is setting up a stronghold in their mind.

- A. First of all, again, we must realize what is really going on and deal with it accordingly.
 1. If we walk in the counsel of the ungodly and swallow the lies that we are just chemical reactions and brainwaves and these things have to be brought under control by drugs and pagan religion practices we will lose the battle in an epic way.
 2. If we realize it is the battle between good and evil, between God and Satan, and this soul is being contended for, then we will seek help from God.
- B. We must realize again, and again, that the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but MIGHTY to the pulling down of strongholds. (2 Corinthians 10:4)

2 Corinthians 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

- C. The devil has lied and he must be countered with the truth.
 1. Someone has believed a lie, so someone must believe the truth.
- D. Beseech Jesus the Son of God to cast the devil out like the Syrophenician woman in Mark 7.
- E. Get them to Jesus somehow, some way.

Mark 9:17-19 And one of the multitude answered and said, Master, I have brought unto thee my son, which hath a dumb spirit; And wheresoever he taketh him, he teareth him: and he foameth, and gnasheth with his teeth, and pineth away: and I spake to thy disciples that they should cast him out; and they could not. He answereth him, and saith, O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? **bring him unto me.**

Mark 9:23 Jesus said unto him, **If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.**

- F. Believing that Jesus can deliver them and getting them to Jesus is the key.

Mark 9:29 And he said unto them, **This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.**

1. It is not the act of fasting and praying, but the fact that fasting and praying brings you closer to God and fellowship with Christ.
2. They had just come down off the mountain and the glory.
3. Before we can hope to see a devil vacate the place we must be full of God and his Spirit ourselves.