

## CASTING DOWN WRONG THOUGHTS

### You Will Be Pulled

- I. **There is a real spiritual pull on us from the enemy to think on the wrong stuff-Gn3:1-The serpent was more subtle (cunning, skillful, deceitful, crafty, sly, shrewd)-AM-Skilled in deceit-CEV-Sneaky-GW-Clever) than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. He said unto the woman Yea, has God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? <sup>2</sup> And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of 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 hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. <sup>4</sup> And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> And when the woman saw (considered) 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**
- A. This is the first interaction the devil ever had with a man-We can learn from this because he has no new tricks
- B. The enemy is subtle-Hard to notice, not obvious, indirect, not showing your real purpose
1. We see this about him throughout scripture-Pr7:10-Subtle of heart; 2Co11:4-Angel of light; Mt7:15-Sheep's clothing; Mt4:4-If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones: 6 Cast yourself down for it is written
  2. His subtlety is a big reason why we have to be on the watch-It's foolish pride to act like you can't be duped and not be on the watch; If you're not in the Word, walking closely with The Lord and on the watch, you will be-**1Pt5:5,8**
- C. The enemy needs to get her to consider this tree. to focus on this tree. to think about this tree-He needs her to rebel against God and yield to him so that he can have access – But he has to get her thinking about the tree first
1. He moves subtly to get her to focus on the tree-Didn't mention the tree, but asked a question to get her to bring it up
  2. His question is so subtle-Indirectly it's what God said, but it's not what God said-**Gn3:1; Gn2:16-Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shalt not eat of it**
  3. There is a subtle pull on her to focus on this tree-All he wants, at first, is to get her thinking about the tree, then think about eating it and the good it'll bring if you eat it, but it all began with just thinking about the tree
  4. There's a pull on her to focus on the wrong thing that she's not aware of-She's not recognizing it
- D. He targeted her mind. he was after her focus. desperately wanted her to consider the tree-He hasn't changed
1. He corrupted her thoughts through his subtly-2Co11:3-I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled (deceive) Eve through his subtilty (skill, deceptive reasoning, craftiness), so your minds should be corrupted (defile) from the simplicity (singleness, honesty) that is in Christ; DAR-I fear lest by any means, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craft, so your thoughts should be corrupted from the simplicity as to the Christ; ESV-Thoughts will be led astray; CJ-Minds may be seduced; WE-Minds will be drawn away
  2. His words introduced thoughts to her that she never had before-You won't die, your eyes will be opened, you'll be as gods, you'll know good and evil, she's never had these thoughts; The only thought she had is eat it and die
  3. He will try to do this to us-TP-I'm afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's clever lies, your thoughts may be corrupted
- E. She considered the enemy's thoughts-She considered it being good for food, pleasant to the eyes, it'd make her wise
1. She was thinking, when she should've been speaking-Contrast what she did, with what Jesus did in Matthew 4:4
  2. This gave the enemy place-He got into her mind, into her heart and got her to operate in a way that gave him access
- II. **We will experience a very real pull to consider or think on what we shouldn't**-(Ex: Irritating people, Politics, The well-being of your kids, the problems in the nation)
- A. In the face of it that pull you have to say. "I'm not considering that."
- B. God told us to fix our minds on these things because He knew we'd be pulled the other way-Ph4:8-Whatsoever things are true (truth), whatsoever things are honest (honorable, seemly, decent), whatsoever things are just (right, holy), whatsoever things are pure (clean) whatsoever things are lovely (acceptable, pleasing), whatsoever things are of good report (good saying, good omen); if there be any virtue (virtuous course of thought, moral excellence), and if there be any praise (commendable), think on these things

### III. Our resolution is the enemy's greatest frustration

- A. The devil comes repeatedly-RR-Devil-Repetitiously throw something striking repeatedly until the object is penetrated-He wants to fire thoughts until he gains access-**Pr7:21**-With her much fair speech (**CSB**-persistent pleading) she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him **Jd14:17**-She (wife) wept before him the seven days, while their feast lasted: and it came to pass on the seventh day, that he told her, because she lay sore (compress, pressing, pressured him so much) upon him; **Jd16:16**-It came to pass, when she pressed (compress, pressing) him daily with her words, and urged (to press) him, so that his soul was vexed (curtailed, cut down, short, diminish, discourage) unto death; <sup>17</sup> That he told her all his heart; **Mt4:1-11**-He came three times to Jesus
1. This is why we are told to resist steadfast-**1Pt5:8**-Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion walks about seeking whom he may devour **9** Whom resist steadfast (resolute, constant) in the faith
- B. It's a war of attrition with him-He's banking on you eventually wearing down and not answering that thought
1. You got to have the mentality that there is no end and that you will out last him-Nobody is coming to do anything about the devil in your life, nobody is coming to rescue you from these thoughts
- C. His greatest frustration is our resolution-You cast down wrong thoughts once or twice and it doesn't affect him much; He leaves confident you'll give in eventually; When you're resolute there comes a moment when he realizes you're not changing and this is his greatest frustration because he was certain eventually, you'd lay down, but you won't
1. You can take the enemy's heart-Ex: In Rocky 1 Rock took Apollo's heart; David took Goliath's heart-That moment when the devil in Goliath the faith in David