

Adam sinned knowingly and wilfully

Eve 'also gave it to her husband with her and he ate'. Satan used Eve to get Adam to sin. Adam was not deceived ¹. He sinned knowingly and wilfully. He deliberately followed her into a forbidden area. She went there having been deceived; he walked into the kingdom of sin with his eyes wide open. The human race did not die through Eve. It was 'in Adam', not 'in Eve' that all die ².

¹ 1 Tim. 2:14

² 1 Cor. 15:22

• A trail of consequences

Sin brings after it a trail of consequences. They can be seen in the story of what happened to Adam and Eve; and the human race has been living with the repercussions of Adam's sin ever since.

• Eve should have resisted Satan

How should Eve have resisted Satan? **She should not have stepped out of her calling and her role.** She should have passed the snake on for Adam to deal with. He was there ('her husband, who was with her', 3:6)! We fall when we try to exercise an authority we do not have. If we act outside of what God is calling us to do we become foolish and we get deceived.

• Short Answers – 'It is written'

She should have refused Satan's claims. A long discussion was not needed. The people of God give short answers to Satan. '*It is written!*' '*Get behind me*'. There is no need for long conversations, nor even long periods of 'binding Satan' – that is not found in Scripture at all! The devil is not reasonable. There is no point in trying to reason with him. If you start discussing matters with Satan or listening to his lies you will have fallen as soon as you start the discussion. Eve **trusted** what Satan said!

• We should resist Satan

How do we resist Satan? Keep in fellowship with Jesus. Temptations lose their power when Jesus is near. Trust in Jesus. Call upon Him in time of attack. He is always near. Be saturated with the truth of God. Be covered with the righteousness of Jesus. Enjoy your relationship with God.

• Trust & call on Jesus

God's promises

• Prayer

When Satan attacks be ready to trust God's promises. Expect that God will bring you through. Often one verse of Scripture keeps your mind clear. '*It is written...!*' Above all be much in prayer.

• Refuse to yield!

Then 'Stand!' Refuse to yield! And God will bring you through. If we resist Satan there is nothing he can do. He runs from us, when he sees that we are resisting him '*in the Lord and in the power of Jesus' might*' ¹.

¹ Eph. 6:10

We are to do the exact opposite of everything he wants. If Satan's purpose is to get God out of our lives, our purpose is to bring God into every department of our existence. Jesus becomes for us the source of knowledge, the supreme authority, the guide to conduct, the one who holds our destiny in His hands, our greatest joy and pleasure, the only one we worship. In the Lord Jesus Christ we resist Satan at every point. In Jesus we can do it.

Consequences

However, Adam and Eve fail in all of this. They sin and soon a trail of disaster is upon them.

1. They get what they want but they

1. First, they get what they want but they do not want it. The snake had promised that if they sinned their eyes would be

do not want it

opened, and that is what happens. 'The eyes of both of them were opened and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves, and made for themselves coverings' ^{□1}. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil was designed to bring Adam and Eve into a knowledge of sin and holiness. But this knowledge was to come to them **by resisting sin**. The best way to come to an understanding of sin is by resisting it. Jesus knew more about sin than anyone but He never sinned! His knowledge of 'good and evil' came because he resisted sin.

□1 3:7

• **It was not the wonderful thing they were expecting**

Adam and Eve came into a knowledge of sin by becoming guilty of it. The snake offered them a knowledge of good and evil, and that is what they obtained, but they obtained it in the wrong way. It brought them shame. They got what they wanted but then they found it was not something wonderful that they had received but something that brought guilt.

• **Guilt**

Often Satan can rouse in us the most intense desire for something, but then when we get it we find we do not want it. One of David's sons intensely wanted Tamar his sister, but the moment he had taken her in a forceful and wicked way he no longer wanted what he had got. The eyes of Adam and Eve were indeed opened (as the snake had said) but only in a way that produced remorse.

• **Death**

This is 'death'. God had told them it would come upon them as soon as they sinned. They had a kind of knowledge of good and evil, but they were now without God. They had wanted independence from God; now they had it. Their eyes were open in a way they had not expected. At the point when Eve was holding a friendly conversation with the snake, she was blind to the consequences of what would happen. We are all quite blind at the height of seductive temptation.

• **Better to know the greatness of wickedness by withstanding it**

Nakedness was now to them a parable of guilt. Shame and a sense of failure left them feeling exposed. Adam and Eve got what they wanted but then they did not want it. An experience of evil by being in it is terrible. It is better to know the greatness of wickedness by withstanding it.

• **Jesus clothes us with His righteousness**

Thank God for Jesus! We can be so glad that we know about Jesus bearing our sins on the cross, and coming alive to rule in our lives. He forgives our sins and clothes us with the clean clothes of His righteousness.

Continued in Part 18

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