

# Tried & Tested or (Why change a sure thing)

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There was a tree. It was located in a garden. That garden was called Eden. That tree was to be the focal point of a confrontation between Eve (mankind) & Satan (the devil, the serpent, etc.)

The fight would not be close, nor would it be pretty. On it hung the fate of mankind. The consequences will last an eternity.

The focal point of the fight would be that tree called the Tree of the knowledge of good & evil. But the real issue was what it always is when we get down to spiritual issues, the fight was over 'authority'. You see, God had told Adam to leave the tree alone, the devil comes along & questions God's authority & motives for wanting to keep man from the tree.

*"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 & evil, thou shalt not eat of it..." Gen. 2:16-17.*

*Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, **hath God said...** Gen. 3:1*

Notice that the devil does not deny that God said something. He doesn't try to convince Eve that she suffered a bad case of heart burn from a late night snack. No, he simply casts doubt on what God said. The words of God! Let's hear it for all the **new versions** of the bible that have come out over the past 20-30 years. If the publishers try hard enough & keep putting out more & more versions there is bound to be one to suit just about everybody's concept of "what God said"! Pretty convenient, eh? So, perhaps there is a 'method to this madness' of the version du jour.

But I digress. The devil came prepared. He had a plan of attack. It would consist of a 3-fold assault.

The lust of the **flesh**, the lust of the **eyes** & the **pride** of life.

*And when the woman saw that the tree was good for **food**, & pleasant to the **eyes**, & a tree to be desired to make one **wise**... Gen. 3:6*

This is the gist of the lesson. Because this is the same modus-operandi that he has used on you all your life & the same one that he will use on you in the next 15 minutes. He never changes. Because it has always worked for him. Like a charm. Except once. Want to take a wild guess who threw a monkey wrench into his well thought out plan?



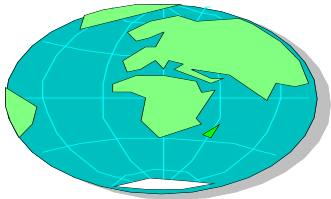
Fast some forward  
4,000 years  
from the fiasco in the garden. Zero in at a lonely, hot, dusty spot in the Judean desert & a man named Jesus. He had just gone thru a 40 day 'fast'. He was hungry. The devil approaches him & slips into 'automatic pilot' He begins where he always begins, throwing doubt on the word of God,...*If thou be the Son of God ... Mt. 4:3*

Then comes the 3-fold attack. He attacked the flesh & told Jesus to turn the stones into bread (lust of the flesh). Then, when that fails, he takes Jesus up on a high building & tells him to jump off so everyone could watch the angels catch him before he hit the ground (pride of life) & finally Satan shows Jesus all the kingdoms of the world & tells him that they are his if he will just bow down & worship him (lust of the eyes).

Well, that whole scenario fell flat on it's face! Jesus responded each time with the phrase "it is written..." & in the end Satan just turned & walked away - whipped. And how!

The devil is not your friend. He wants your eternal soul. But if you are 'born again' he knows he cannot have your soul so he will do the next best thing. He will go after your testimony, your character & your influence. He will play up your laziness & indifference to share the gospel with those around you. He wants you to focus on yourself & your problems. He doesn't want you 'doing unto others as you would have them do unto you'.

Want to take a wild guess as to how he intends to keep your focus off the Lord & onto yourself? Do you need another guess? I didn't think so! He'll use the same 3-fold plan of attack that has worked so well (with one exception) for 6,000 years. Yep. The lust of the **flesh**, the lust of the **eyes** & the **pride** of life.



There is a verse in 1 Jn. 2:15-17 that states,

*Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

*For all that is in the world, the **lust of the flesh**, & the **lust of the eyes**, & the **pride of life**, is not of the Father, but is of the world.*

*And the world passeth away, & the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.*

How about that? The same formula, the same approach, the same emphasis. Satan never changes it. Why? Shucks, that's easy, it's only failed him once in 6,000 years! Oh, admittedly he may stress one part over the other. Some folks are more susceptible to the lusts of the flesh than others & some folks get into a lot of trouble thru the 'eyes'. For those folks who pass the 'eyes & flesh' test they usually feel so good about themselves that they swell up with pride! So, he get's you coming & going.

But the good news is that the Lord Jesus DID beat him. It is possible to to defeat the devil. In fact, we are admonished to resist him!

*Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, & **he will flee from you.** Jms. 4:7*

Can we 'take him' on our own? No. We have a track record that is just as consistent & predictable as the devils. We always blow it. We sin. And in sinning we let God down, compromise our testimony or just simply stay on the 'sidelines' & watch others fight the good fight.

If you are saved & born again but weary of the fight, then, once again, rest in the One who has beaten him. The One who holds the keys of death & of hell. The One who was tempted in all points such as us & yet without sin. The One who 'tasted death' for every man. The One who is called King of Kings & Lord of Lords. The Lord Jesus Christ is His name. If you don't know Him why not ask him into your heart today?

As it is written, **There is none righteous**, no, not one. Rom. 3:10

For **all have sinned** & come short of the glory of God. Rom. 3:23

There is therefore now **no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus...** Rom. 8:1

That if thou shalt confess with they mouth the Lord Jesus, & shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, **thou shalt be saved.** Rom. 10:9

For **whosoever** shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved. Rom. 10:13

For by grace are ye saved through faith; & that **not of yourselves:** it is the **gift of God:** **Not of works,** lest any man should boast. Eph. 2:8-9

**How shall we escape,** if we neglect so great salvation... Heb. 2:3

**It is a fearful thing** to fall into the hands of the living God. Heb. 10:31.

