

FEAR IS A LIAR

In the beginning God created man and a garden in which He made every tree that was pleasant to look at and also was good for food along with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Gen 2:7-9 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. 8¶ The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. 9 And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Man was placed into that garden with strict instructions from which tree he may eat along with the warning of what would happen if he did not follow God's instructions.

Gen 2:15-17 Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 "but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

Next Eve is created from Adam's rib. Both were in the garden when the serpent (Satan) comes on the scene to adroitly twist the truth by devising a scenario most advantageous, most desirable to Eve. He makes her question God's statement that if they but touched or ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil they would SURELY die. Satan further distorts the issue by telling her that God did not want them to eat of that tree because it would make them as wise as God. They then came to covet the real possibility of being able to possess such wisdom; an allure so captivating that they believed Satan's lie instead of fearing the consequences of disobeying God's truth. Thus it remains true that Satan is always trying to twist the truth, diminish God's influence, to make falsehood look more desirable than reality.

Gen 3:1-5 Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'" 2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; 3 "but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'" 4 Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 "For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

*In Nu 14:1-9 God had already produced many miracles in the sight of Israel: God protected them on the night of Passover as they were freed from bondage in Egypt; they journeyed into the wilderness and God opened the Red Sea for them to pass through; He gave them manna and quail to eat in the desert etc. But when they were to go into the land of Canaan, the people **feared**. Satan had already planted doubt into the hearts of the people. They questioned why God brought us to this land to die. They lost their trust in God even after Joshua and Caleb spied out the land flowing with milk and honey and told the people that this was a good land that God purposed to give to them. They were told not to fear God but to have faith. They refused to*

trust in God or rely on His power to give them the land therefore they feared the lie that Satan created by twisting the truth.

Nu 14:1-9 So all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night. [2](#) And all the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, "If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness! [3](#) Why has the Lord brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?" [4](#) So they said to one another, "Let us select a leader and return to Egypt." [5](#) Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the children of Israel. [6](#) But Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes; [7](#) and they spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying: "The land we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land. [8](#) If the Lord delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, 'a land which flows with milk and honey.' protection has departed from them, and the Lord is with us. Do not fear them."

Prov 29:25 The fear of man brings a snare, But whoever trusts in the Lord shall be safe.

Another example that depicts how Satan's lying tactics work to overcome a believer is the story about Ananias and Sapphira who are classic examples of hypocrisy among believers that fake their spirituality to impress others. Their sin did not lie in holding back part of the sum received from a recent property sale, but in denying a pledge made to the church to give all the proceeds from that sale back to the church instead denying that pledge by holding back a portion of the sale for themselves. It shows that Satan filled Ananias' heart to hold back a portion thereby lying to the Holy Spirit who knew the truth.

Acts 5:1-11 But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. [2](#) And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles' feet. [3](#) But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? [4](#) While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God." [5](#) Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last. So great fear came upon all those who heard these things. [6](#) And the young men arose and wrapped him up, carried him out, and buried him. [7](#) Now it was about three hours later when his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. [8](#) And Peter answered her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much?" She said, "Yes, for so much." [9](#) Then Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." [10](#) Then immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. And the young men came in and found her dead, and carrying her out, buried her by her husband. [11](#) So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things.

The Greek name for God's archenemy is the devil or the "accuser." Satan tries to lead every believer away from the truth of God so that he can destroy our relationship with our Father. Deception is Satan's trap. He is a liar who is a clever schemer always trying to snare believers.

John 8:44 You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

Satan is a malicious enemy who constantly is looking to deceive anyone he can. He and his evil forces are always active to overwhelm believers through temptations, persecution and discouragement. He will do whatever he can to draw us away from God.

1 Pet 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

Just as the prince of darkness (Satan) masquerades as an angel of light which is being deceptively disguised as a messenger of truth or in other words is a liar, it is no wonder that his false apostles do the same.

2 Cor 11:13-15 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. [14](#) And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. [15](#) Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

*In the Bible when fear is mentioned in regard to God, it becomes a mixture of love and hope with reverence while also imbuing a healthy knowledge of what He is capable of accomplishing. Spiritually “fear” does not connote being physically afraid of someone or something that will likely be dangerous, painful or threatening. We are told over and over in Scripture not to fear those that do not have control over our **spiritual future** but only fear God who does have that control. Fear involves a self-inflicted torment or punishment that can only be overcome through faith and trust in Christ. People can only destroy the physical body and Satan can only go as far as God allows, but God who created us has the power to destroy our future spiritual life with Him.*

Mt 10:28 And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Ps 33:8-9 Let all the earth fear the Lord; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. [9](#) For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.

Ps 34:8-10 Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him! [9](#) Oh, fear the Lord, you His saints! There is no want to those who fear Him. [10](#) The young lions lack and suffer hunger; But those who seek the Lord shall not lack any good thing.

Throughout the book of Ecclesiastes, Solomon writes of all the many pleasures and relationships concerning life under the sun that he had throughout his reign as king, but in the end of his life, he realized that the only matter in living life that was paramount was to focus on improving our relationship with God.

Eccl 12:13-14 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all. [14](#) For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.

The spirit of fear that Satan draws upon can be translated as "timidity" which denotes a cowardly, shameful fear which is caused by a weak and selfish character. God gives a believer the spiritual resources needed to face our trials and threats. A sound mind is disciplined and self-controlled. This is the opposite of fear that causes disorder and confusion.

2 Tim 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

The Bible tells us that there is no fear in love and God is love. Mature love is marked by confidence in the face of judgment. Love that builds confidence also banishes fear. Fear involves torment or punishment which we can overcome through Christ!

1 John 4:7-8 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. [8](#) He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

1 John 4:16-19 And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him. [17](#) Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. [18](#) There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. [19](#) We love Him because He first loved us.

So as we have seen, God is all truth. If we follow in His ways and trust in Him in all things, we will not have to fear any lie that Satan or his cohorts can put before us. With that said, do not let your heart be troubled as it tells us in John 14:27 because He does give us the armour to fight against Satan.

Eph 6:10-18 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. [11](#) Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. [12](#) For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. [13](#) Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. [14](#) Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, [15](#) and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; [16](#) above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. [17](#) And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; [18](#) praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints. . .

.All Scripture from NKJV unless noted

Proverb to ponder:

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