

Chapter 2



In The Beginning

Genesis 3:1-14

Thoughts matter to God because he didn't create you with negative thoughts. There was a beginning to the pollution of the mind. When the mind becomes polluted, tainted, spoiled, or defiled, it troubles the entire existence of man - body, soul, spirit, and mind. This brain pollution affects everything in your life. It taints the joy of a sunset, decolorizes the rainbow, pollutes the smell of flowers, and ruins the sound of waves on the seashore. When Adam and Eve fell, everything fell.

Let's look at Genesis 3:1-14

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,³ but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"⁴ "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman.⁵ "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

⁸ Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden.⁹ But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"¹⁰ He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."¹¹ And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"¹² The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

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Genesis 3 reveals to us the beginning of Stinkin' Thinkin'. You want to know where bad thoughts came from, bad thoughts, the seeds of weeds in our hearts, these bad thoughts that cause trouble and defile others. They came from the Garden of Eden. God placed two forbidden trees in the Garden of Eden.

God placed two of His people in a perfect garden and He said simply to them, "I've given you everything. Everything in this garden is yours. I've made the whole universe for you." God made it all for them to enjoy. There's only two trees they could not eat from: The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, and the Tree of life.

God set limits. He said, "I just want you to avoid eating of these trees because the day you do, you're going to die. You're going to have trouble like you've never known. I'm just giving you a warning." That's where the whole trouble with thoughts began.

Genesis chapter three and verse one, says,

"The serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field, which the Lord had made. And he said to the woman, has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the Garden'?"

You see, the seed had not yet been planted. It was just being cast on to the soil. Satan was planting a doubt in the mind of Adam and Eve, saying, *“Did God really say you must not eat from any tree in the Garden?”*

I don't know why he went to Eve. Perhaps he thought he had a better listener because women listened better than men. He found a listening ear. He cast the seed of doubt. He cast the thought that maybe God was holding back something good from them. The seed was there. She could have said, “No, go away in the name of Jehovah God. I will not disobey the Lord. His thoughts are my thoughts. I want to do everything to please Him because He is looking out for the best of me.”

But no, the seed of doubt was cast, and it found fertile soil. She listened to the doubt and said, “Well, yes! God said we could eat of everything. But then He said, ‘Don't eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.’ But that's not fair.” You see, an evil thought had already started. It was the thought, “That's not fair.” Have you ever said “It's not fair”?

Our kids got into a binge of saying, “It's not fair.” It was every day all the time. Every time somebody got a little advantage over another, someone cried, “It's not fair!” Finally, we put down the law, and we said, no more fairness in this house. We never want to hear that again. Don't you ever say “It's not fair.” It's exterminated from this home. Don't say it.” But you know what? That thought is everywhere. It's infected all of society. God is not fair.

It's infected the church. “It's not fair” is the heart of jealousy. It's the heart of what Satan did before the throne, when he was in heaven as a glorious cherub. He wanted to be like God. He said, “It's not fair.”

Now he's bringing his philosophy down to earth and planting seeds of discord. You see what happened? Even before the complete fall, there was a lot of slipping going on. She took that fruit. I imagine she looked both ways to see if God was watching. She used her reasoning powers. God made us in his image and he gave us the ability to decide between right and wrong and truth and error. She decided at that moment to believe a lie. She bit into that fruit. Her eyes were opened. She understood good and evil. She knew it was wrong.

What Did Eve Do?

She did exactly what Satan did when he fell. She took the fruit and brought it to somebody else and said, “Hey, this is good. You need to eat it.” So, the wife brought it to the husband and probably with the same routine as Satan used, “Has God said we shouldn't eat of all the trees? Didn't He also say it is all ours? He gave us this garden, but why is He holding back? He's cheating us out of what is rightfully ours. It's not fair. So, come on Adam. I ate, and it was good, and you can eat too and then we can have some fun together.”

Stupid Adam, like a sheep being led to the slaughter, just takes the fruit, and says, “Oh, whatever you say, dear.” He takes a big bite and suddenly his eyes were opened. In that moment he realized, “Oh my goodness, what have I done?” His heart was immediately changed. Up to that moment, his heart was pure. There was no sin in it. There was no root of bitterness, no seeds of doubt.

The moment Adam bit into that fruit, he knew he did something wrong and his heart was torn. Something had happened to him. That evening came, but there was no fellowship. There was no running to meet the Lord God. Instead, they hid behind trees. They used leaves and covered themselves. God walked into the garden and said, "Adam, where are you?"

As if God didn't know. God knows everything. The Psalmist said, "*He understands my thoughts afar off.*" He knows what you are thinking. He knows where you are and what you're doing. God wasn't surprised. He was testing the man to see if he would repent. "Adam, where are you?"

Finally, you hear this little squeaky voice coming out from behind a bush. "Ah, I'm here." God said, "What's the matter Adam?" Adam replied, "Well, I was ashamed because I was naked."

As far as we know, Adam never used the word naked before because he didn't understand what it meant. Now he's saying, "I'm embarrassed because I'm naked." God asked, "Who told you that you were naked?"

God knew. Nobody else talked on the earth except the serpent and the two people. "Who told you that you were naked?" Really? That was a question he was to think about for a long, long time, for the rest of his life. "Who told you? Who led you down this path? Who whispered a lie into your ear? Who put that thought in your mind? Who stopped you from being blessed?"

Where Blaming and Shaming Began

Do you know what Adam did? He did what every husband does. He didn't say, "I'm sorry." Instead he said, "The woman, the woman you gave me, she gave me the fruit, and she made me eat." That's blaming and shaming. It's accusing someone else of doing wrong so that you look better. But worst of all, Adam implied it was God's fault. "The woman you gave me. You gave me a rotten apple."

What do we have here? Talk about exaggeration! Blaming and shaming others is not God's way. Blaming and shaming never bring forth good fruit. It's like throwing rotten tomatoes so that others are as messy as you. Have you ever done that in your marriage? Have you ever passed the blame and shame on to someone else? Have you ever refused to admit you were wrong?

You locked the keys in the car. "Well, it's not my fault. If you weren't nagging at me all the time, I wouldn't have shut them in the trunk. I can't think straight when you are yapping all the time." Then you might even take it a little further and say, "Stupid woman. Why'd you let me do that?" We can't admit that we have sinned and fallen short. And when we are caught, we look for someone to blame. That's why God says under the fallen nature, your thoughts are not his thoughts.

Your ways are not his ways. They are diabolical ways, though. The ways of the weasel Satan. He's always going to weasel his way out. He's always going to find a reason to blame someone or something else. He's always going to find a reason to question God.

Our Fallen Nature

Do you know that you have a fallen nature? Do you know you inherited Adam's nature? It wasn't just his body that was naked. It was his soul and his mind that were naked and exposed to all the temptations and lies of Satan. We are cursed with Adam's fallen nature. It's part of the curse of the fall.

God said the land was going to have thorns and thistles and it was going to be tough to grow crops, but He also was referring to the whole mind of man. There are going to be thistles and thorns sprouting in your mind. You're going to blow your stack because your thoughts are not God's thoughts anymore. It's going to be a battle in your mind.