

Excerpts from Chapter Two, *The Crime: Doubt, Deception, Diversion, and Defeat*

...we will reveal four components of the crime which led to the fall of man. They are: (1) *doubt*, (2) *deception*, (3) *diversion*, and (4) *defeat*.

Women of God, if we re-examine some of the poor choices, unwise decisions, and impulsive actions we have made, we will find these four elements existed in most instances. We need to understand that our choices, decisions, and actions lead to victory or defeat. Often, we are blinded by our emotions, wants, needs, and desires, which cause us to make poor impulsive decisions without taking time to fast, pray, hear the Spirit, or seek the Word of God. When we submit to our desires and self-will, we impede God's will being performed in or through us. We also fail to consider the possible long term effect that our decision has on our destiny as well as the destiny of those around us. In this study, we will unveil some of the enemy's tricks, which he uses in his attempt to hinder our path to purpose. We will discover how feeble and defeated he really is and become victorious in more of life's situations.

Doubt

Let's examine the first component – doubt. Notice in Genesis 3, the first thing the serpent did was to question Eve concerning God's instructions.

This was his attempt to communicate with Eve – to establish a relationship and build rapport with her. Genesis 3:1 begins by revealing that the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field that God had made. Merriam-Webster defines *subtle* as *delicate, restrained, elusive, crafty* and *the opposite of obvious*. This is not quite like the depictions many of us remember from a children's book of Bible bedtime stories, of a snake dangling from a tree having a chat with Eve. The word subtle indicates he was laid back, suave, and mysterious; his appearance was probably much different than that depicted by man. We can imagine that in his original state, he probably stood upright since one of God's curses was for him to roam around on his belly for the duration of his existence. Additionally, it was this curse, found in Genesis 3:14, which led to our associating the serpent with the appearance of a snake. I imagine him to have been an attractive, intriguing creature that could obviously speak. The serpent observed that Eve might be won by conversation and attention. This was his opportunity of a lifetime, literally.

Women of God, we must be aware that the enemy is checking us out and he is waiting for the opportunity to set the stage for our defeat. The serpent knew Eve was no dummy. He knew he had to be subtle and crafty. What better way than to appeal to her perceived needs. Like many of us, she may not

have received the attention from Adam that she desired and the serpent's conversation apparently satisfied a need – consequently creating a greater desire.

We must spend the time communicating with God and worshipping Him so that there will be no room for the subtle tricks of the enemy to work against us. Many of our poor choices are made simply because we do not have two-way communication with God. We do all the talking and fail to take the time to hear what He is saying. We miss the blessing of being intimate with God. We let our needs, desires, and thoughts open the door for the enemy to infuse our mind with doubt. Let's further explore the crime.

Many women, today, are doing exactly what Eve did. Not only did she answer the serpent's question (*which could have been a simple "yes" or "no"*), she repeated exactly God said to her concerning the garden and the Tree of Life, and did so giving an overview of the dialogue! Revealing more information to the serpent than he needed opened the door for his attack on her. This same error is apparent in the biblical account of Joseph found in Genesis 37. Joseph shared his dreams and vision with his brothers. Out of jealousy, they attempted to take his life by throwing him into a pit. Although God had a purpose for Joseph, which prevailed in spite of the pit, it caused him to go through a very unproductive place and time (at least in the natural.) Sharing the things of God with the wrong people at the wrong time is often costly, it can take you off the path to purpose. One of the tricks of the enemy is to get you to bare all – to expose and uncover everything. The more information you give the more opportunity there is for him to probe into your emotions, desires, and carnal nature, which is what he always appeals to. Each time we share or operate outside of God's will or timing, this process follows:

1. We question, or allow someone else to question, what we know to be the truth of God.
2. This opens the door for dialogue with the enemy.
3. The enemy challenges the Word of God and makes an appeal to our flesh (*our emotions, ungodly desires, and carnal nature*)
4. Our flesh is aroused and we began to doubt and/or ignore the truth of God's Word.
5. Doubting God's Word demonstrates a lack of faith and disbelief, resulting in our making poor choices and decisions.

In the series of events that lead to the crime in the garden, doubt is the beginning of every defeat. When we doubt God's Word, or His, instructions we are actually saying to Him, we don't really believe and are not willing to exercise faith.

We also are putting our desires and needs before His will being done in our lives. Women of God, we must guard our minds and our hearts against doubt. We are to be mindful and discerning of what we

share with others, particularly when God has given us specific directives concerning an issue. As we previously learned, the enemy has no power over the purpose of God for our lives; although, he does roam around looking for an opportunity to hijack the purpose. We must build ourselves up through prayer, study of God's Word, and maintaining a godly lifestyle. As we strengthen our spirit, we will be equipped to overcome our fleshly desires when the enemy attempts to attack us in those areas.

Deception and Diversion

Let's examine the second and third components – deception and diversion. In Genesis 3:1-4, notice how the serpent (1) questions God's instructions, (2) listens to Eve's reiterate God's instructions, then (3) disputes what God told Eve, proposing it to be false. God told Eve that they would *surely* die if they ate of the fruit of the tree. Satan told her the opposite, "*you will not surely die*". As we discussed previously, this caused Eve to question and doubt the validity of God's Word. Once she entered into a verbal exchange with the serpent, he deceived her and diverted her attention from God's instructions by making an appeal to her flesh (*carnal sin nature*); more specifically, the appeal was to a desire to have something she thought she was deprived of (the benefit of all the fruit) and to attain something that she thought she should have (knowledge like God's).

We must expose the root of this deception and how it occurred. The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines *deception* as *an attempt to deceive*. *Deceived* is defined as *to ensnare; a caper to take something, or to cause to accept as true or valid what is false or invalid*. The Vines Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words (Reference Library Edition) defines *deceive* as the Greek noun *apatao*, commonly used in the Old Testament, which is *to cheat or beguile; that which gives false impression*. That same source further states, "lusts are excited by deceit and although the lusts aren't deceitful in themselves, deceit is the source of their strength."

Genesis 3:5-6 reads, "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God knowing good and evil. 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." (NIV) All Eve needed was already provided for her in the garden by God; moreover, she also had Him. However, her dialogue with the serpent led her to doubt God and believe him, when he told her that she would be like God knowing good and evil. The thought of that ability appealed to Eve and she then desired the power she believed she could attain. Eve became so convinced by the serpent's lie about how the fruit could benefit her that she disregarded what God said about the death that eating the fruit would bring.

It is vital that we understand the war that rages between our flesh (*carnal sin nature*) and our Spirit (*longing after the things of God*). If we are not continually focused on God and led by the Holy Spirit, the flesh will win over our spirit every time. In Romans, Paul instructs us to not live according to

the sinful nature. Romans 8:13 reads, “If you live according to the sinful nature you will die, but if you live according to the Spirit you will put to death the deeds of the body and you will live.” (NIV)

Genesis 3:6 reads, “when the woman saw the tree was good for food, and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom...” Let us examine the areas of Eve’s vulnerability in this verse:

1. Natural sight as opposed to spiritual insight (*saw that the tree was good*) — this speaks to Eve’s inability to see in the spirit. When Eve looked at the tree, after doubt and deception set in, she no longer avoided it for fear of consequence as she previously had. Becoming separated from God, and operating in her carnality, caused her to have a distorted view of the tree. She saw it as something to attain – something good and desirable.
2. Security (*good for food*) — this reveals a woman’s natural need for security and fulfillment. The desire to know all of our needs are met. This is still a carnal desire. When deception set in, Eve’s security seemed inadequate and a desire for more was aroused. She saw this, in the natural, as another resource for them.
3. Lust and desire (*and pleasing to the eye and also desirable*) — this reveals Eve’s natural satisfaction and desires. Webster’s Dictionary defines *desire* as *a conscious impulse towards something that promises enjoyment or satisfaction in its attainment*.
4. Pursuit of wisdom and power (*desirable for gaining wisdom*) – Remember, Eve was designed by the wisdom of God. She was equipped with all that she needed. However, she was deceived into believing that she could be even wiser, knowing good and evil as God. All that Adam and Eve knew was good. It’s hard to imagine why Eve would have even wanted to know evil. Perhaps it was that evil, in and of itself, aroused her curiosity, as it was unknown to her. However, the attainment was not worth the loss.

Giving in to ungodly desires and the lusts of our flesh fuel the passions of our sinful nature. The more we yield to them, other areas of carnality are awakened. This is why we must be careful to judge all things by the Spirit. Our desires will change when we put God first in everything and spend time with Him. Imagine how it could have been if Eve had walked throughout the garden worshipping and communing with God daily. Psalms 37:4 reads, “Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart.” (KJV) When you delight yourself in the Lord, He can give you the desires of your

heart because as you spend time with Him your desires become centered on Him – they become the same as His. They are no longer the foolish things of the flesh (*carnal sin nature*) or things that have no real meaning or significance. Paul teaches us that if the Spirit of God lives in us we should not be controlled by the sinful nature, but by the Spirit, and if Christ lives within us, our flesh is dead, yet our spirit is alive. (*Romans 8: 9-11 KJV*)

Defeat

Let us examine the last and most impacting component of the crime in the garden, which was *defeat*. Defeat was the seventh step in the series of occurrences that led to the fall.

Note the following 7-D's to Defeat:

- 1.) **Detection** – when weakness is observed by the enemy
- 2.) **Dialogue** – to participate in a conversation with the enemy, or to consider his suggests
- 3.) **Doubt** – to question God's instructions
- 4.) **Deceived** – to accept a lie as the truth
- 5.) **Diversion** – to be distracted or taken off course
- 6.) **Disobedience** – to disobey God's instructions
- 7.) **Defeat** – inevitable after steps 1-6.

Genesis 2:17 records the following words of God, “you must not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.” (*NIV*) We know that God spared them from physical death; however, they suffered defeat by the enemy. They were defeated because they allowed themselves to be deceived and led astray by their own desires, directly disobeying what God commanded. In Paul's instructions to the church at Galatia, he teaches us to live by the Spirit and not to gratify the desires of the sinful nature. He teaches us that our sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are constantly in conflict with one another; therefore, we must learn that we cannot trust our feelings and cannot do all that we feel.

In order for you to see yourself in Eve, I must address an unfortunate, but real life situation that occurs in the life of many single, Christian women. Consider this scenario...