

Satan—The Subtle Enemy

- I.** One measurement for spiritual maturity is assessing which spiritual enemies can be defeated.
1. The Flesh → Satan → The World System.
 2. One must access divine enabling to defeat an enemy.
- II.** Satan's subtleness.
1. The temptation of Eve (Gen. 3:1-7).
 - 1) Satan casts doubt on God's singular restriction.
 - 2) God's instructions to Adam (Gen. 2:15-17).
 - 3) Adam's responsibility to tell rules to his wife.
 - 4) Eve's understanding, "Don't touch."
 - 5) No unrighteousness—still not fallen.
 2. Satan's lie was *mostly* true (2 Cor. 11:3).
 - 1) Words 88% true; letters 90% true.
"A believable lie is mostly true."
 - 2) Satan disturbs the development of logic with the idea of little or no consequences; thus a faulty conclusion.
 - 3) Satan "draws out" Eve's lust and she is tempted (Jam. 1:14-15).
- Eve's **lust**—to be like God knowing good and evil.
Eve's **temptation**—eat the fruit, gain knowledge, with no negative consequences. (There is still "a way out" (1 Cor. 10:13).
Eve's **trespass**—determined to eat the fruit: *unrighteousness*. (There is still the potential to stop (Gal. 6:1).
3. Eve was not counted to have sinned (1 Tim. 2:13-14).
 - 1) Laws are transgressed; with consequences (Rom. 4:15).
 - 2) Sin is against God (Ps. 51:4⁶²³)
 4. Adam's sin was a proxy for all humans, except Jesus (Rom. 5:12, 19; Gen. 3:22-24).
- III.** Satan still wants to be like God.
1. He masquerades as an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:2-15).
 2. He accuses believers before God (Job 1:6-12; 2:1-8; Rev. 12:6).