

LESSON FIVE

THE FALL OF MAN

A. STEPS IN THE FALL OF MAN.

Scriptural Reference:

"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, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" (Genesis 3:1).

"But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die" (Genesis 3:3).

"And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat" (Genesis 3:6).

"And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being was in the transgression" (I Timothy 2:14).

A study of the above Scriptures will show that there were some definite steps, which took place in the fall of man.

1. UNBELIEF.

The first step was that Satan was able to plan a doubt, a seed of unbelief in the heart of Eve.

2. CHANGING GOD'S WORD.

After Eve entertained doubt in her heart she was now ready to tamper with God's Word. Eve both changed and added to God's Word. God said nothing about touching the fruit and death was to be certain. Eve's words, "lest ye die" left a doubt; it raised a question whether or not death was certain.

3. DISOBEDIENCE.

After the seed of unbelief was sown and God's Word was changed, an act of disobedience was a natural result. In Genesis 3:6 the steps leading to disobedience are named: (a) saw; (b) desired; (c) took; and (d) did eat.

It is profitable to compare this with Achan's sin as recorded in Joshua 7:21: (a) saw; (b) coveted; (c) took; and (d) hid.

B. THREEFOLD TEMPTATION.

Scriptural Reference:

"For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world" (I John 2:16).

Both Eve's temptation and the temptation of Christ in the wilderness may be summed up under "all that is in the world."

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| I John 2:16 | - lust of the flesh. |
| | - lust of the eyes. |
| | - pride of life. |
| Genesis 3:6
(Eve's temptation) | - good for food. |
| | - pleasant to the eyes. |
| | - desired to make one wise. |
| Luke 4:3-10
(Christ's temptation) | - stone that it be bread. |
| | - kingdoms of this world. |
| | - cast thyself down - angels. |

In the temptation Satan said, "Ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil." He omitted the important part; that they should know good, but not be able to perform it, and that they would know evil, but not be able to avoid it.

It should be remembered that temptation itself is not sin, but yielding to temptation is sin. It was when Eve yielded that she disobeyed and sin entered the human heart. Christ was tempted but remained sinless by overcoming and not yielding.

Eve was defeated as soon as she began to tamper with the Word of God. The seed of unbelief sown in her heart by the devil caused her to change and add to God's Word. Thus she fell. On the other hand, Jesus quoted God's Word and thus won the victory. "It is written" put the devil to flight.

It should be noted that it was Eve who was deceived in the transgression. Adam deliberately chose to sin. Adam disobeyed with the full realization of what he was doing. It was a clear decision of choosing fellowship with the Lord God or with the woman. Adam chose the woman and thus fell.

C. RESULTS OF THE FALL.

1. ON NATURE.

- (a). The ground was cursed (Genesis 3:17).
- (b). The ground was to bring forth thorns and thistles (Genesis 3:18).

2. ON THE WHOLE HUMAN RACE.

- (a). All are concluded under sin (Galatians 3:22; Romans 5:19).
- (b). Man became the child of the devil (John 8:44; I John 3:8).
- (c). Man shall live by hard labor (Genesis 3:19).
- (d). Woman shall bring forth children in sorrow (Genesis 3:16).
- (e). Through the fall of man became subject to:

- (i). Physical Death: This is the separation of the soul from the body, which results in the corruption and destruction of the material frame (Genesis 3:19).
- (ii). Spiritual Death: This is the separation of the spirit from God, or alienated from the life of God. We come into this state by natural birth (Ephesians 4:18; I Timothy 5:6; Revelation 3:1).
- (iii). Eternal Death: This is the "second death," spiritual death continued after physical death. Prolonged beyond the death of the body, spiritual death becomes eternal death, or a state of eternal separation from God in conscious torment (Revelation 20:14; Revelation 21:8).

The results of the fall are all around us. The hospitals, prisons, and asylums are full. Misery, crime, and unhappiness meet us at every turn, and all these are direct results of the fall.

D. DEFINITIONS OF LIFE AND DEATH.

The student of God's Word should have a clear understanding of the meaning of life and death.

1. PHYSICAL LIFE - This is the union of the spirit of man with his body.
2. PHYSICAL DEATH - This is the separation of the spirit from the body.
3. SPIRITUAL LIFE - This is the union of the spirit of man with the Spirit of God. This brings fellowship with God and eternal life.
4. SPIRITUAL DEATH - The separation of man's spirit from God's spirit.
5. ETERNAL LIFE - This is the union of man's spirit with God's spirit eternal and never-ending.

NOTE: Eternal Life is only to be found in Jesus Christ. The Christian who has Jesus abiding in his heart has eternal life. If Jesus is not there, there can be no eternal life. Actually, eternal life refers to a quality of life as much, if not more, than a quantity of life.

LESSON FIVE

SELF HELP TEST

A. State the three steps in the fall of man:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

B. Compare the temptation of EVE with that of our Lord in the Wilderness.

C. Define clearly the following:

1. Physical life: _____
2. Physical death: _____
3. Spiritual life: _____
4. Spiritual death: _____
5. Eternal life: _____
6. Eternal death: _____