

# Eve—The Target: The Mind

## Genesis 3:1-7

Some of you may remember the famous anti-drug campaign “This Is Your Brain on Drugs” by the Partnership for a Drug-Free America from the late 1980s.

It showed a man holding up an egg and saying, “This is your brain.”

Then he cracked it into a sizzling frying pan and said, “This is your brain on drugs. Any questions?”

That image was powerful because it showed how quickly and completely drugs can damage the mind.

But church, there’s another battle for the mind that’s just as real—spiritual warfare.

Satan knows that if he can distort your thinking, he can derail your faith.

Scripture warns us that the enemy seeks to twist, distort, and dismantle our minds.

The first person in the Bible to encounter spiritual warfare was Eve.

### [Read Genesis 3:1-7]

#### I. Satan’s target: your mind.

Warren Wiersbe asks and then answers this question: “Why would Satan want to attack your mind?”

The objective is to make you ignorant of God’s will.

Wiersbe states, “your mind is the part of the image of God where God communicates with you and reveals his will for you.”<sup>1</sup>

When Adam and Eve’s eyes were opened, they no longer saw the image of God, but nakedness and shame that reminded them of their sin.

God’s image in man was damaged by the fall: “On the day that God created man, he made him in the likeness of God...Adam was 130 years old when Adam fathered a son in his likeness, according to his image, and named him Seth.” **Genesis 5:1b, 3**

“The image of God came upon Adam by the divine inbreathing of the breath of God. That image had been lost in the fall.

The risen Lord Jesus Christ, who has just come out of death into the victory of life after accomplishing the redemption of fallen man, began His work among his disciples by breathing upon them once more.”<sup>2</sup>

“he breathed on them and said, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’” **John 20:22**

Christ renews us by transforming our minds, “so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.” **Romans 12:2b**

When your mind is God’s, it holds tremendous power.

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<sup>1</sup> Warren Wiersbe, *The Strategy of Satan: How to Detect & Defeat Him* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, INC., 1979), 4.

<sup>2</sup> Donald Grey Barnhouse, *The Invisible War: The Panorama of the Continuing Conflict Between Good & Evil* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1965), 80.

The power to demolish lies and bring every thought under Christ's authority.

"For who has known the Lord's mind, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ." **1 Corinthians 2:16**

"The verse implies that we and *all* God's people can understand spiritual truths and spiritual wisdom in a way similar to the way the Lord knows them."<sup>3</sup>

Satan knows the capability of a mind influenced by the power of the Spirit; that's why he wants to steal your mind for himself.

## **II. Satan's Weapon: lies.**

As you notice in the conversation with Eve, Satan never denies that God has spoken.

He just questions Eve to see if she really understood what God said.

He starts with a question.

"Did God really say, 'You can't eat from any tree in the Garden?'"

This question is a trap designed to create doubt, which then paves the way for the lie to be planted.

Do not forget who Satan is by his very nature.

"Satan was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he tells a lie, he speaks from his own nature, because he is a liar and the father of lies."

**John 8:44b**

"The ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the one who deceives the whole world. He was thrown to earth, and his angels with him." **Revelation 12:9**

He is the great deceiver.

Eve addresses Satan's cunning deception in verse 13, saying, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate," in response to the Lord.

"Deception is nothing less than causing someone to believe a lie. It is one of the most important weapons in Satan's arsenal."<sup>4</sup>

The first mistake Eve made was having a conversation with Satan when she had fellowship with God!

He is defined by his craftiness, and he certainly has more experience with lying, so he is no match.

The question gets Eve to focus on the restriction of the one tree in the garden rather than the blessing of all the others.

Phillip Bethancourt says, "Eve gets more focused on what God commanded than why he commanded it. Losing sight of the purpose of God can cause us to question the wisdom of God, too."<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> W. Harold Mare, 1 Corinthians, in *The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Romans through Galatians*, ed. Frank E. Gaebelein, vol. 10 (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1976), 203.

<sup>4</sup> William F. Cook, III and Chuck Lawless, *Spiritual Warfare: in the Storyline of Scripture* (Brentwood, TN: B&H Academic, 2017), 11.

<sup>5</sup> Phillip Bethancourt, *Christ-Centered Exposition: Exalting Jesus in Genesis* (Brentwood, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2024), 32.

God's command becomes a problem rather than a blessing.

Have you heard this lie before? If God really loved you...

Doubting the wisdom of God opens the door for temptation in the realm of Spiritual warfare.

The deceiver boldly charges God with being a liar: 'No! You will certainly not die.'

Then, out of his own prideful ambition, Satan lures Eve with the very temptation that led to his downfall—the desire to be like God.

### **Wiersbe points out three mistakes that led Eve into sin:**

#### **1. She took away from God's word.**

Eve omitted 'freely.' We may eat '**freely**' the fruit from the trees in the garden.  
Making the command less gracious.

#### **2. She added to God's word.**

Eve added "or touch it."  
Making the command more grievous.

#### **3. She changed God's word.**

By removing the emphatic "*certainly*", Eve made God's warning sound less absolute, more like a possibility than a certainty.

There is no punishment for sin.

Eve's version of God's command was less consequential because it weakened the force of God's judgment and distorted His Word, making His truth more vulnerable to Satan's lies.

The end result: "The woman submits to a beast. The man submits to the woman. And no one submits to God."<sup>6</sup>

### **III. Satan's Purpose: To Make You Ignorant of God's Will**

God wants you to know his will.

God wants you to understand his will.

So that you will do his will.

"Therefore, with **your minds** ready for action, **be sober-minded** and set your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the **revelation** of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires of your former ignorance. But as the one who called you is holy, you also are to be holy in all your conduct; for it is written, Be holy, because I am holy." **1 Peter 1:13-15**

Satan wants to drag your mind back into submission to your former ignorance, where our minds were unable to grasp God's truth, and enslaved to sin and deception.

The old mindset of confusion and lies; Christ has already freed us from.

Why go back?

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<sup>6</sup> Ibid., 35.

Satan can't steal your salvation, but he works to distort your thinking, keep you stuck in shame, doubt, worldly desires, or falsehoods so you don't walk fully in the freedom of the Imago Dei and the mind of Christ.

#### **IV. Your Defense: God's Word**

Wiersbe says, "Only the inspired word of God can reveal and defeat the devil's lies.

You cannot reason with Satan, nor (as Eve discovered) can you even safely converse with him."<sup>7</sup>

He emphasizes that in Jesus' temptation after forty days of fasting, our Lord did not rely on divine power but on the very weapon available to us: the Word of God.

"The temptation of Jesus doesn't start in a garden like Eden surrounded by abundance, but in a desert surrounded by nothing."<sup>8</sup>

The tempter first tries to use Jesus' hunger; he knew he was hungry.

In his response, Jesus emphasizes the utility of the weapon and the importance of remembering God's word.

Wiersbe mentions that the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to bring to mind the Word of God in your temptation, but He cannot bring forward what is not there.

Jesus quotes Deut. 8:3, and Satan must quickly switch to plan B.

The next test sought to distort Jesus' relationship with His Father by urging Him to put God to the test.

This is the only instance in Scripture where Satan is shown quoting the Word of God.

Yet he does so by ripping it from its context, twisting its meaning to serve his own agenda, the very same tactic he used with Eve.

Again, Jesus responds with the Word of God from Deut. 6:16.

In his final attempt, Satan offered Jesus an immediate Kingdom in exchange for his worship.

Take the shortcut.

Take the instant gratification.

Grab the immediate reward.

Reach for the crown without the cross.

Then Jesus told him, quoting Deut. 6:13, "Go away, Satan! For it is written: Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him." **Matthew 4:10**

"Finally, be strengthened by the Lord and by his vast strength. Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the schemes of the devil... the sword of the Spirit—which is the word of God."

**Ephesians 6:10-11, 17b**

The battlefield is the mind—and what you allow in will either feed the Spirit or fuel the enemy.

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<sup>7</sup> Wiersbe, *The Strategy of Satan*, 15.

<sup>8</sup> Bethancourt, *Christ-Centered Exposition*, 36.