

**GROUNDS OF FAITH CAFÉ: “Genesis” (Subtitled: Is there a snake in your Garden too?) Further subtitled: Lessons from the Garden! Lesson 4. (3:1-13 – once more)**

**Introduction:** Last week we read Gen 3:1-13 to begin our understanding of what transpired in those verses. Today we will read them again, this time with an objective of drawing lessons from what we read.

**Explanatory overview:** The framework of chapters 2-3, as Professor Rick Marrs notes in his book, *Embracing the Call of God*, p. 44, strongly suggests reading chapters 2 & 3 together to get its integrated message. As we have seen previously, the progression reveals:

- (A) “This is the account (generations)...” (2:4)
- (B) The field is unworked – no one to till the ground (2:5-6)
- (C) Humanity is given life & installed in the Garden (2:7-17)
- (D) The man prefers human companionship over beasts (2:18-22)
- (E) The man calls his companion “woman” (2:23)
- (F) Summary – “therefore a man leaves...” (2:24)
- (G) Human couple is “naked and not ashamed” (2:25)
- (H) Serpent promises – “eyes will be opened” (3:1-5)
- (I) Transgression (3:6) [*Fulcrum or turning Point*]
- (H). The couple’s “eyes are opened” (3:7a)
- (G) The couple experiences shame (3:7b-10)
- (F) Summary – “For you are dust” (3:19b)
- (E) The man calls his companion “Eve” (life-bearer) (3:20)
- (D) The man & woman wear skins of beasts (3:21)
- (C) Humans are expelled from the Garden and denied immortality (3:22-24)
- (B) Field work begins (3:23b)
- (A) The birth of a child completes one generation (4:1)

**Read: Genesis 3:1-13 completely through.** While you read, pay particular attention to 3 thoughts: (1) Who the characters in these verses are and what roles they play, e.g., information source/provider, information receiver/actor. (2) How do the man & woman respond to conflicting words, e.g., what actions do they actually take, and what does God do? (3) What transformation (if any) occurs within the man/woman as a result of their actions, e.g., does it appear to affect their character, or more specifically, do they appear to assume character traits from their preferred information source? Given the greater Scriptural context below, what applications do you make for yourselves?

- (1) Who are the characters in 3:1-13 and what roles do they play, e.g., information source/provider, information receiver/responder? Re-read 3:1, 8, 13. What character traits are attributed to the “LORD God” and the “serpent”? Do the character traits affect what is communicated? If so, how? What lesson (s) do you draw from the interchanges, if any?
- (2) How do the man & woman respond to conflicting “words,” e.g., what actions do they actually take? Re-read 3:6. Note the words “delight” (Interestingly “Eden” in 2:8-14 means “delight”); and “desire” (read also 3:16 where God re-orient’s Eve’s “desire”). What lesson, if any, do you take for yourself regarding God’s intended “delight” and the apparent power of “desire”?
  - Now read: Gen 6:5; Deut 8:2-3; 10:11-12; 30:6; Jer 7:23-24; 31:31-34; Heb 3:8-11; Rom 10:8-10; Acts 15:8-11. Thinking still of “desire,” given the greater context from subsequent Scriptures, do you think the actions taken by Adam and Eve in Gen 3 represent simply a problem of mis-behavior (sin action), or do they go deeper – perhaps the beginning of God’s “heart problem” with man? What lesson (s) do you draw from this?
- (3) It could be argued that what you allow to go into your head gives shape to the behavior that ensues [Prov 23:7 in KJV & NASB reads: “For as he thinks within himself, so he is....”]. Another way of saying this is that when we listen to an advisor, that advice can re-mold our character to conform to the character traits of that advisor. Do you see this happening with Eve as she listens to and acts upon the advice of the serpent? Explain. What specific actions do she and Adam take that seem to represent the “deceiver” rather than the “Divine”? Read Rom 12:1-2. In light of humanity’s actions in the garden and Paul in Romans, what lessons do you draw about the character God desires for His people to have?