

## Satan's Tactics

*Read Genesis 3:1-13*

As you read how Satan tempted us that first time in the Garden of Eden, some of his tactics should sound very familiar.

- **He muddies the waters about God's commands:** *"Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'"* (Genesis 3:1b, NIV). He casts doubt on what God says and what He means. He distracts from God's clear, loving commands. He slanders God, implying that His commands are harsh and unreasonable. How many of God's teachings does the world consider too stern, rigid, and unrealistic!
- **He denies that God will judge us:** *"You will not certainly die"* (Genesis 3:4, NIV). Satan is glad to provide a softer, more appealing interpretation of God's Word.
- **He denies God's goodness:** *"For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil"* (Genesis 3:5, NIV). This is central to nearly every temptation. Satan wants you to believe that God is not really good. He is not giving you the very best. There's a better option open to you. You can enjoy pleasures that He is forbidding.
- **He denies God's sovereignty:** *"You will be like God"* (Genesis 3:5, NIV). He wants you to believe that all knowledge and all power are open to you, there for the taking, if you're bold enough. You can be your own God!

Also notice that once Eve had yielded, Adam apparently put up no struggle at all. *"She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it"* (Genesis 3:6b). We are social creatures. Sin is a far easier sell when "everyone is doing it."

Don't fall for Satan's lies. God's commands are clear. He will do exactly what He says. He is always good, and His ways are always, always, always best. He alone is almighty, all-wise, all-loving God.

*Evil will gradually draw us into its depths, or  
God will draw us up into Himself.  
Each way begins with a small and simple step.*