

Faithful to Truth in an Age of Tolerance

Lesson 1a: Why We Turn from Truth to Embrace Falsehood

If we would learn to be faithful to the truth of God's Word, then we must first learn why we would ever allow ourselves to turn to error in the first place. This lesson will take us into the garden in Eden to examine the first instance of a turn to error. We will then briefly survey the course of human history since the garden, littered with examples of this same turning from truth, repetitions of the Fall. In our journey, we will discover that there are two basic answers to the question, *Why do we turn from truth?*

*. . . so that we would not be outwitted by Satan;
for we are not ignorant of his designs. (2 Cor 2:11)*

Designs = schemes, devices, THOUGHTS

He was a MURDERER from the beginning, and does not stand in the TRUTH, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own CHARACTER, for he is a LIAR and the father of lies. (John 8:44)

Now the serpent was more CRAFTY than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. (Gen 3:1)

Why Do We Turn from the Truth?

Reason 1: Satan DECEIVES us.

Genesis 3:1–4 reveals *four ways*:

A. Satan QUESTIONS the WORD of God.

Did God actually say . . . ? (Gen 3:1b)

B. Satan UNDERMINES the GOODNESS of God.

Gen 2:16
*You may surely eat
of every tree
of the garden!*

Gen 3:1b
*You shall not eat
of any tree
in the garden?*

C. Satan CONTRADICTS the TRUTH of God.

Gen 2:17
You shall surely die.
[Dying, you shall die.]

Gen 3:4
You will not surely die.
[Not dying, you shall die.]

D. Satan IMPUGNS the MOTIVES of God.

*For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.
(Gen 3:5)*

Exercise. In Matt 4:1–11 we see Satan's attempt to deceive Jesus Christ himself into turning from the truth. If Satan's *designs* have not changed from Eve in the garden to Jesus in the wilderness, then we ought to be able to discern the same kind of tactics in this text as we do in Gen 3:1–5.

Read Matt 4:1–11 and answer the following questions:

1. What tricks does Satan use that are similar to Gen 3:1–5?
2. Does he use other tricks here besides those in Gen 3:1–5?
3. How does Jesus' response to Satan differ from Eve's?