

## WEEK 8: God's Word

1. Last week we saw the practices that help us live more in the new and walk in the Spirit. One of these practices is devotion to God's word. Today we'll contrast how Adam and Eve handled God's word and Jesus' approach.
2. **Genesis 2:15-17** <sup>15</sup> *The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. <sup>16</sup> And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, <sup>17</sup> but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."*

### What permission and limit did God give Adam?

Eat from every tree of the garden, except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

### What is the purpose of God's limit?

To protect Adam (and Eve who is introduced in 2:18) from death: "in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die"

NOTE re the tree of the knowledge of good and evil: It offers the experience of good/evil . The test/trial: Will you trust and obey God's word (don't eat and enjoy life and the other trees) or experience good and evil by eating what God forbids and dying (= not trusting and not obeying God).

### CIRCLE how God's word is undermined:

**Genesis 3:1-14** <sup>1</sup> *Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" <sup>2</sup> And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" <sup>4</sup> But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. <sup>5</sup> For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."*

God's word is questioned: "Did God actually say..."

God's word is distorted: "neither shall you touch it"

God's word is contradicted: "You will not surely die...you will be like God"

### Observe why Adam and Eve ate some of the fruit:

<sup>6</sup> *So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.*

Eve trusted the words of the serpent/Satan, and did what seemed best in her own eyes (depended on her own analysis) even though the action went against God's command/word/warning.

Adam went along with his wife instead of refusing, or trying to get his wife to stop, or telling the serpent to shut up, or calling on God for help.

**Did they die like God said they would?**

**What are some lessons for us here?**

### **3. Now observe how Jesus responds to temptation:**

**Matthew 4:1-12** <sup>1</sup> Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup> And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

<sup>3</sup> And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." <sup>4</sup> But he answered, "It is written, "'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple <sup>6</sup> and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, "'He will command his angels concerning you,' and "'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'"<sup>7</sup> Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. <sup>9</sup> And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.'"<sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

**What are some lessons for us here?**

Trust God's word above all.

v.3-4 Obey God's word (here "fast")

v.5-7 Use it as it was intended (the devil quotes but misapplies God's word)

By trusting and obeying God's word, Jesus stays on mission and is not deceived.

### **4. How can you apply these lessons in your daily life this week?**