



SATAN'S FOUR SPIRITUAL FLAWS

Preaching and Teaching Resources

ADRIAN ROGERS





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Satan's Four Spiritual Flaws

SERMON REFERENCE: Genesis 3:1-5

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #2153

Satan wants to bring death to our happiness, joy, and purity, and he accomplishes this through deceit, depravity, and destruction.

Satan cleverly crafts subtle lies about the biggest truths. He knows that if he can get us to believe the wrong things, it is easier for us to do the wrong things.

Genesis 3 reveals Satan's four spiritual flaws, as he confronted Eve in the Garden of Eden.

First, Satan wants us to despise God's goodness and think negatively about God.

As he convinced Eve in Genesis 3, Satan wants us to think God is straight-laced and cruel, and that our relationship with Him would be filled with "don't!" But God does not take away joy; He gives it.

Psalm 37:4 says, "Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart."

Adrian Rogers says, "When I invite you to Jesus Christ, I'm not inviting you to a funeral; I'm inviting you to a feast."

Second, Satan wants us to deny God's truthfulness and think skeptically about God.

After Satan removes the truth of God's Word from our minds, he slips in other ideas to replace them. Many other religions, spiritual practices, and New Age thoughts are simply substitutes from the enemy to divert us from the truth.

Third, Satan wants us to defy God's righteousness and think carelessly about God.

In Genesis 3:4, Satan convinced Eve to think lightly of God and His Word. We must never forget that God is holy, and He will punish sin.

Finally, Satan wants us to debase God's greatness and think suspiciously about God.

Many people think serving God cramps their style and they'd rather experiment and see what the world has to offer. But Adrian Rogers says, "You'll never reach your full potential without knowing and loving Jesus."

As Revelation 12:11 reminds us, only when we commit ourselves to the written word of God, can we overcome the devil's lies.

Life Application

The way to counteract Satan's four spiritual flaws is to remember God's spiritual laws.

1. God loves you and He has wonderful plans for your life.
2. Sin has separated us from God.
3. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died for our sins on the cross.
4. If we will receive Him as Lord and Savior, we can know and experience His love and His plans for us.



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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) The world's biggest liar is Satan himself.
 - i) John 8:44
 - (1) Satan's motive is murder.
 - (2) Satan's method is deception.
 - (3) John 10:10
 - ii) Satan wants to bring physical, spiritual and eternal death to life, love, beauty, joy and happiness.
 - iii) He wants to deceive, deprave and destroy.
- b) Genesis 3 records his first act of deception done on Earth
 - i) A secession of four lies
 - ii) These lies sound a lot like the truth, because the cleverest lies have some truth to them.
- c) Not only is Satan the master liar; he lies about the biggest subject; God
 - i) To be wrong about God makes you terribly, horribly wrong.
 - ii) Satan may not care about some lies; not every subject is important to him.
 - iii) If he can get you to believe the wrong thing, there's no difficulty for him to get you to do the wrong thing.
 - iv) Thought is the father of deed.
 - (1) You sow a thought, you reap a deed. You sow a deed, you reap a habit. You sow a habit, you reap a character. You sow a character, you reap a destiny.
 - (2) A.W. Tozer: "No religion can rise higher than its concept of God."
 - v) This is not ancient history; this is not what Satan 'has' done, this is what Satan 'is' doing today.
- d) Satan, the serpent, was the first evangelist of his own gospel: the devil's gospel.
 - i) He told Eve how to be god-like.
 - ii) He was an evangelist and Eve was his first convert.
 - iii) In order to get Eve to believe this lie and corrupt her relationship with God, he had four spiritual flaws.
- e) The devil's four spiritual flaws are the inversion of Bill Bright's Four Spiritual Laws:
 - i) God loves you and has a wonderful plan for you.
 - ii) Man is a sinner and he is separated from God, therefore he cannot know and experience God's love and plan for his life.
 - iii) Jesus Christ is God's provision for man's sin, and Jesus died on the cross to take away our sin.
 - iv) We must personally and individually receive Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Savior; then we can know and experience God's love and plan for our life.
- f) Revelation 12:9
- g) Genesis 3:1
 - i) "Subtle," means "crafty," "sly."

**2) TO DESPISE GOD'S GOODNESS AND TO THINK NEGATIVELY ABOUT GOD**

- a) The devil wants us to think negatively about God.
- b) Genesis 3:1
 - i) This question was an attempt to get Eve to doubt God's goodness, love and amazing grace.
 - ii) This seemingly simple question was a slander of the character of God. It was Satan's way of convincing Eve that God was not good.
 - iii) The idea that God told her she couldn't eat from every tree was a deceptive, warped take on the actual instructions God had given them.
 - (1) Genesis 2:16
 - (a) God had allowed Adam and Eve to help themselves to every tree besides this one.
- c) God has said a resounding "Yes" to your pleasure.
 - i) Don't get the idea that being a Christian is some sort of penalty that you pay in order to get to Heaven. I would be a Christian if there were no Heaven. There is. I would be a Christian if there were no Hell, just to know the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Savior.
- d) Adam and Eve were living in paradise: the Garden of Eden. God desired for them to enjoy the beauty and glory of His creation.
- e) Satan will put negative thoughts in our heart concerning the goodness of God.
 - i) Psalm 37:4
 - ii) Psalm 84:11
 - iii) 1 Timothy 6:17
- f) God is good all of the time. Anything that causes pain and suffering is the fruit of sin; it is not because of God.
- g) It is foolish to think negatively about our great God, who has given us richly all things to enjoy.
- h) "When I invite you to Jesus Christ, I'm not inviting you to a funeral; I'm inviting you to a feast."

3) TO DENY GOD'S TRUTHFULNESS AND TO THINK SKEPTICALLY ABOUT GOD

- a) Genesis 3:2-4
- b) In these verses, the devil made Eve a skeptic, causing her to doubt God's truthfulness.
 - i) Anybody who causes a question mark concerning the Word of God, or denies the truth of Scripture, is doing the work of Satan.
- c) We have many substitutes for the truth today:
 - i) Relativism: the idea that there are no absolutes; that all truth is relative.
 - ii) Subjectivism: the idea that truth is personal and based on feelings.
 - (1) "This is what I feel is truth."
 - (2) "This is what it means to me."
 - (3) "What is true for me may not be true for you, but isn't it wonderful that we all have our own truth?"
 - iii) Rationalism: the idea that all that is truth is empirical truth, scientific, manufactured in a lab by the mind of man.
 - iv) Pragmatism: the interest in results over the interest in truth.
 - v) Post-modernism: the idea that there is no truth at all.
- d) There is a famine for the Word of God today.
 - i) Our children do not know that there is a fixed standard for truth, because the devil has gotten people to think skeptically about God.
 - (1) "...because God says so."

**4) TO DEFY GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS AND TO THINK CARELESSLY ABOUT GOD**

- a) Genesis 3:4
- b) When the serpent told Eve that she would not die for eating the fruit, he was insisting she not worry about God's judgment.
 - i) God is righteous and holy.
 - (1) God will punish sin.
- c) God had forbidden them to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
 - i) Law without penalty is only advice. God wasn't giving advice.
 - ii) In the devil's gospel, God will not punish sin.
- d) If you disobey God by refusing the Gospel of Jesus, you will die and go to Hell.
 - i) Our lack of belief in Hell does not make it unreal, or minimize God's truth concerning the punishment of sin.
 - ii) Jesus Christ, our loving Savior, spoke more about Hell than any preacher in the Word of God.
- e) Satan knows that man fears death.
 - i) New Ageism tries to deal with the fear of death with the idea of reincarnation.
 - (1) Reincarnation: the idea that our souls are recycled, that we get as many chances at perfection as we need.
 - (2) There is no judgment or personal God to hold us accountable.
 - (3) Karma: if your karma is good then you move up a level, if your karma is bad you move down.
- f) Satan does not want people to believe that there is a death, or a holy, righteous God to face, so he's planted these New Age ideas in our minds to distract us from the truth.

5) TO DEBASE GOD'S GREATNESS AND TO THINK SUSPICIOUSLY ABOUT GOD

- a) Genesis 3:5
- b) Satan tries to convince Eve that God cannot be trusted.
 - i) Satan tells her that her eyes are not open to what is right and wrong.
 - ii) Today, we think that in order to find out if something is good or bad, we have to experience it.
 - iii) Today's generation is ruining their lives through experimentation.
 - iv) When it comes to sin, experience is a very poor teacher.
 - v) Those who know the least about sin are the deepest into it.
 - (1) The Bible warns us of the deceitfulness of sin.
 - (2) They cannot tell up from down, good for bad, bitter for sweet, light for darkness, good for evil.
 - (3) They try to make themselves the final decider of what is good or bad.
- c) The best lie sounds the most like the truth.
- d) Satan isn't trying to get Eve to steal, kill or fornicate.
 - i) He baits her with the idea of being God-like.
 - ii) There's a big difference between being 'as' God and being 'like' God.
 - (1) Being 'as' God means to be your own God.
 - iii) Many Eastern and New Age religions teach that we are all our own gods and have authority over what is good and evil.
 - (1) Pantheism: everything is god.



- (2) They say love is god; no, God is love.
- e) There is one God.
 - i) He is distinct and different from everything else.
 - ii) He is the only one we worship.
 - iii) Many people see their god every morning in the mirror.
 - (1) They are going to die and be eternally lost because they are the devil's converts.
 - iv) Believing that everything is god does not elevate you, it dehumanizes you.
 - v) God's plan is for us to be like Him, for He made us in His image.
 - (1) Even though we're fallen, He will redeem us and raise us in His likeness.
 - (a) Psalm 17:15

6) CONCLUSION

- a) There is good news for us who have believed the devil's lies at some point of our lives.
- b) There are two books of the Bible the devil does not like:
 - i) Genesis
 - (1) In Genesis Satan's doom is announced.
 - ii) Revelation
 - (1) In Revelation Satan's doom is carried out.
 - iii) There is no devil in the first two chapters nor the last two chapters of the Bible.
- c) Revelation 12:9-11
 - i) The old serpent is cast out and his angels were cast out with him.
 - ii) The only way to overcome the old liar is through the blood of Jesus.
 - (1) Thank God that Jesus, the last Adam, undid what the first Adam did, when He died on the cross.
 - iii) The word of their testimony:
 - (1) They were not ashamed of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - (2) Luke 9:26
 - iv) "They loved not their lives unto the death."
 - (1) This does not mean that they kept on loving Jesus until they died.
 - (2) They loved Jesus and would serve Him if they had to die for their faith.
- d) Would you die for your faith?
 - i) Until you are no longer afraid to die you are not ready to live.
- e) It's time we stop playing games and it's time we stop listening to the devil's lies.
- f) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- g) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16



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Would you be finding Genesis chapter 3. And that's easy to find because that's the first book in the Bible, just three chapters over. And when you've found it, let me tell you that the world's biggest liar is Satan himself.

Jesus pulled back the veil of darkness from the kingdom of Satan, and Jesus said in the eighth chapter of John, the forty-fourth verse that, "Satan was a liar from the beginning." Jesus said that, "Satan is a liar, and he is the father of all lies." In that same verse, Jesus said that, "Satan is a murderer." That's John 8:44. And so in that verse you have both Satan's motive, which is murder, and Satan's method, which is deception. Now his motive is murder. The devil is a killer. And the Bible says in John 10:10, "The thief comes but to steal and to kill and to destroy." Satan wants to bring death. He wants to bring physical death. He wants to bring spiritual death. He wants to bring eternal death. He wants to bring death to life, to love, to beauty, to joy, to happiness.

Satan is a malevolent murderer, and his method is the lie. He wants to deceive, to deprave, and to destroy. And what we're going to find here in the third chapter of Genesis is the first lie that was told upon planet Earth, actually, a secession of lies, four of them that we're going to talk about, that he told to Eve so long ago. Now remember what Jesus said of Satan, "He is the master liar." And so you're going to find as we look at these lies that they sound a lot like the truth, because the cleverest lies have some truth in them. Every good lie has some truth in it. Somebody has wisely said, "Even a clock that doesn't run is right twice a day." Isn't that right? But, the cleverest lies sound the most like the truth, and you're going to find these lies here in this delineation of what Satan did so long ago.

And not only is Satan the master liar, but he lies about the biggest subject. The biggest subject is God. Now, to be wrong about God makes you terribly wrong, horribly wrong. The devil may not care about some lies. They're not all that particularly important to him. But there're some areas in which Satan wants you to believe the wrong thing, because to believe the wrong thing will lead you to do the wrong thing. The devil really had rather have you believe the wrong thing than to do the wrong thing, because if he has you believing the wrong thing, there's no difficulty for him to get you to do the wrong thing, because the thought is the father of the deed. You sow a thought; you reap a deed. You sow a deed; you reap a habit. Sow a habit; you reap a character. Sow a character; you reap a destiny. And it all begins with the thought life. So Satan had rather push a lie than he had to push narcotics. Satan is a liar. He is the father of all lies. He is the master liar. He is the cleverest liar. He lies about the biggest truth, and the biggest truth, the lie about the biggest truth is a lie about God. And that is a lie that does the greatest damage.

Now, why would Satan lie about God? Well, A.W. Tozer said this, and he so wisely said it, "No religion can rise higher than its concept of God." And so you're going to find, as Satan first comes into history, as we see him here, described in the third chapter of the book of Genesis, you're going to find these master lies. And may I say that this is not just simply ancient history. This is not what Satan has done; this is what Satan is doing. You're going to find out that Satan was the first evangelist. He had his own



gospel, the devil's gospel. He came to Eve and told Eve how to be God-like. He's an evangelist, and Eve was his first convert. And, in order to get Eve to believe a lie; he had what I want to call today four spiritual flaws.

Now you know our friend Bill Bright has written a little Gospel tract that I suppose all of us have seen, and most of us who have been soul winners have used it one time or another, called "The Four Spiritual Laws." What are they? God loves you and He has a wonderful plan for your life. That's law number one. Number two: man is a sinner and he's separated from God, and thus he cannot know and experience God's love and plan for his life. Number three: Jesus Christ is God's provision for man's sin, and Jesus died on the cross to take away our sin. That's law number three. Law number four: we must personally and individually receive Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Savior. Then we can know and experience God's love and plan for our life. It's a wonderful Gospel tract, and we call that, "The Four Spiritual Laws."

Erwin Lutzer has said, "Yes, but there are also flaws." And I want to borrow that phrase from Erwin, "The Four Spiritual Flaws." I want you to see what the devil did to corrupt Eve. And I want you to see what the devil will do to corrupt you, and if you're not a Christian today, pay attention now, because the devil has deceived you. You say, "Well, he hasn't deceived me." Yes, he has. Revelation 12 verse 9 says, "He deceives the whole world." And all of us were deceived by the devil until we came to the Lord Jesus Christ. And remember, his motive is murder. He wants you to be his victim. His method is the lie. He would deceive you today. And if he doesn't deceive you, he'd just try to get you to tune out so that you don't hear what we're talking about.

Four things that Satan did to Eve in the Garden of Eden. Look if you will in Genesis chapter 3 and verse 1, "Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field," the word "subtle" means crafty and sly, "more subtle than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, 'Yea, hath God said, 'Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'"

Spiritual flaw number one is **to despise God's goodness and to think negatively about God**. That's what the devil wants you to do. He wants you to think negatively about God. Satan came crawling his slimy, corroding path into the pages of history and he said, "Did God say that you shall not eat of the fruit of every tree of the garden?" Now, what was that? It was an attempt to get Eve to doubt God's goodness, God's love, God's amazing grace. He wanted Eve to think negatively about God. What it was was a slander of the character of God. It was Satan's way of saying, "God is not good. God is some sort of a cosmic killjoy. God doesn't want you to have all of this good fruit."

Now of course that was a lie. God had not said that she could not eat of that fruit. As a matter of fact, just put in your margin Genesis chapter 2 verse 16, "And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, 'Of every tree of the garden,'" listen to this, "'thou mayest freely eat.'" "It's there! It's for you! Adam, Eve, I made it for you! Help yourself!" But what did Satan say? "O, hath God said ye shall not eat of the fruit of every tree of the garden?" The truth of the matter is, there was only one tree that they were forbidden to partake of.

But what Satan was trying to do was to get Eve to think negatively about God. "God is so straight-laced. God is so cruel that anytime He sees anyone having any pleasure, He just sort of moves in to break up the party. Everything good and pleasurable is a no-no." The truth of the matter is that God has said a resounding, "Yes" to your pleasure. God loves you. Don't get the idea that being a Christian is some sort



of a penalty that you pay in order to get to Heaven. I would be a Christian if there were no Heaven. There is. I would be a Christian if there were no Hell, just to know the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Savior.

Can you imagine what all God made for Adam and Eve? Can you imagine the glories, the splendor of Eden, what it must have been like? The most beautiful place you've ever seen would not even begin to compare with Eden. And God made it for Adam and Eve, and God said, "Help yourself."

They tell a little story of Cain and Abel after Adam and Eve had been put out of the garden because of their sin. Cain and Abel came to a wall, climbed up that wall and looked over and saw Eden, went back to Adam and said, "Daddy, we have just seen the most beautiful place in the world. Hey, Dad, you think we could ever live in a place like that?" Adam said, "We did once, boys, before your mother ate us out of house and home." Well it was a beautiful and a glorious place, and God made it, and God said to Adam and God said to Eve, "Help yourself."

Do you know what the devil will do to many of you? He will put negative thoughts in your heart concerning the goodness of our God. Listen to Psalm 37 and verse 4. The Bible says, "Delight yourself in the Lord; and He will give you the desire of your heart." Listen to Psalm 84 verse 11, "The Lord thy God is a sun and a shield: the Lord will give grace and glory," now listen to this, "no good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly." Isn't that great? "No good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly." Listen to First Timothy chapter 6 verse 17. The Bible says, "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches," but now listen to this, "but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy." "The living God, who has given to us richly all things to enjoy." The dirty devil wants you to think negatively about God.

Now, listen to me. God is good all of the time. And anything that causes pain and suffering and moan and groan and woe and heartache and tears is the fruit of sin. It is not because of God. God made a beautiful, wonderful paradise, and He put man and woman in that paradise. And so Satan's spiritual flaw, number one, is to get you to doubt the goodness of God and to think negatively about God. And friend, it's a foolish thing if you think negatively about our great God, who has given us richly all things to enjoy. When I invite you to Jesus Christ, I'm not inviting you to a funeral; I'm inviting you to a feast, to know the Lord Jesus Christ.

Spiritual flaw number two is **to deny God's truthfulness and to think skeptically about God**. Now notice Genesis 3 verses 2 and 3, "And the woman said unto the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden,'" Eve knew better than that, "But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, 'Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.'" And the serpent said unto the woman, 'Ye shall not surely die.'" You know how I think he said it? I wasn't there, but you know how I think he said it? "Pfffffftttt! Ye shall not surely die." I mean, what he's doing here is denying God's truthfulness. "How do you know that you're going to surely die?" And what he did was to make a skeptic, to make a doubter about God's truthfulness.

You see, what he did first of all was to question God's goodness, and now he is questioning God's truthfulness. Now I want to say this: anybody who causes a question mark concerning the Word of God, or anybody who denies the veracity and the truth of the Word of God is doing the work of the devil. I don't care what university he teaches in, or what seminary he may teach in. I care not how many degrees he has after his name. If he inculcates in the hearts and minds of anybody a doubt or a denial



of the Word of God, that man is an emissary of Satan. It goes all the way back to the Garden of Eden. "Yea, hath God said ye shall not eat?" "Oh, come on. You will not surely die. Oh, no. Why, your eyes will be open."

You see, modern man today will do anything except believe the truth. We have so many **substitutes for the truth**. We have today **relativism**. Hegel, the philosopher, began relativism in our society, and so everything is relative, and our kids are going to school today being taught there are no absolutes. All truth is relative truth, and if that doesn't go, then others, and especially in some churches today have been given to **subjectivism**. Not relativism, but subjectivism. They say, "Well, this is what I feel is truth. This is what I think. This is what it means to me, and, well, what is true for me may not be true for you, but isn't it wonderful that we all have our own truth." And that's subjectivism: truth is what we experience.

And for others, the answer is not necessarily relativism or subjectivism, but **rationalism**. They somehow have the idea that all that is truth is what we call empirical truth, what they can put into the laboratory. If they can put God in a test tube then they might believe in God. Puny man thinks that he can prove God through rationalism, and so he substitutes "Thus saith the mind of man," for "Thus saith the Word of God."

And another substitute for God's truth is **pragmatism**, and this is the one that's working in America today. In America today we don't ask, "Is it true?" We want to know, "Does it work?" And so we're not all that interested in pragmatism.

But, you know, the most damning assault on truth today is a word you may not have heard much, but if you've read or been in theology, you'll hear this word, and it's **post-modernism**. What on earth is post-modernism? You say, "Pastor, I've been longing all morning to hear something about post-modernism." Post-modernism. These folks, they don't believe there is a truth. They won't argue about truth to you because it's not even an issue with them. It's just, there is no real truth, and so it's a hodge-podge of all of these other things that I have talked about: rationalism and relativism and emotionalism and all of these things. But when they finally finish, they just simply say, "Nobody knows truth. There never has been truth. Never will be truth. We make up truth as we go along." Now that kind of thinking, which is one of Satan's spiritual flaws, leaves people with no rational basis as to say what is right and what is wrong.

And, we're still thinking about the kids in the high schools these days. What has happened in America? Well one thing: there's a famine for the Word of God. There's a famine for the Word of God. If you listen to James Dobson, you heard the program that was a replay of the National Day of Prayer. And one of those speakers there in the Cannon Office Building. He talked about Pavlov, P-A-V-L-O-V, the Russian who worked with animals in what we call "conditioned response." That is, he would ring a bell and feed the dogs, and after a while the dogs would salivate just at the ringing of a bell because they associated the ringing of a bell with food.

But another thing Pavlov did was this, and I'd not heard this before. He would put a dog down and put in front of the dog a perfect circle. And when the dog would see the perfect circle, he taught the dog to jump to the right. And if the dog would see the circle and jump to the right, the dog would be rewarded. And so the dog learned: circle, jump, food. And then, after he got the dog trained this way, he put in front of the dog an oval. Not a circle, but an oval. And then, at the sign of the oval, he taught the



dog to jump to the left. Jump to the left, oval, food. Circle: jump to the right, reward. And the dog was trained this way. And the dog had it down perfectly.

And then Pavlov began to do something. He began to take the circle and morph it just a little bit so it began to look like an oval. He took the oval and began to change it a little bit so it looked like a circle. And the dog was getting confused and still trying as best he could to get the reward and to do what was right. And finally Pavlov had a figure on the ground that the dog could not tell whether it was a circle or an oval, and the dog went mad.

Now folks, that's where our kids are today. They don't know whether it's a circle or an oval. They do not know that there is a fixed standard because that dirty devil has gotten people to think skeptically about God and cannot believe the fixed Word of God. Parents are having difficulty today raising children. Well, let me tell you how to raise them. "Child, it's wrong to steal because God says so. It's wrong to commit adultery because God says so. You're to obey your parents because God says so. We're to worship one God because God says so." "But if the foundations be destroyed, what shall the righteous do?" Psalm 11:3.

Now here's the third spiritual flaw. First of all, Satan wanted Eve to think negatively about God, to doubt the goodness of God. Secondly, he wanted Eve to think skeptically about God and to doubt the truthfulness of God. Thirdly, the third spiritual flaw was to **defy God's righteousness and to think carelessly about God**. Look in Genesis 3 verse 4 again, "And the serpent said unto the woman, 'Ye shall not surely die.'" That is, "Eve, you don't have to worry about judgment. I mean, you can be cavalier about this thing. You don't need to fear God. God is not all that righteous. Now don't worry about God's laws." Well, friend, God is righteous. God is holy. Not only is God good, but God is righteous. God will punish sin. God had forbidden them to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. And God said, "In the day that you eat thereof, you will die." That was God's holy law. And law without penalty is only advice. And God wasn't giving advice.

You see, it's the devil's gospel, the devil's gospel that God will not punish sin. But God sent me here to tell you that God is a holy God, God is a righteous God, and God will punish sin. And whatever happened to Hell? If you disobey God and refuse the Gospel of Jesus Christ, you're going to die and go to Hell. There is a Hell. You say, "Well, Pastor, today people don't believe in Hell anymore." Well that doesn't change it at all. Jesus Christ had more to say about Hell than any preacher in the Word of God. Jesus Christ, the loving Jesus, had more to say about Hell than any other preacher in the Word of God.

Abraham Lincoln, who was wise in homey ways, said to a little boy one time, said, "Son, I want to ask you a question. If a dog has four legs and you call his tail a leg, then how many legs would he have?" Little boy said, "He'd have five." And Abe said, "No, he'll only have four. No matter what you call his tail, it's still a tail. You can call his tail a leg if you want to, but he only has four legs." And no matter what people say about Hell, they do not take away God's truth concerning the punishment of sin.

Now, Satan knows that man fears death. Satan knows that. And so he says to Eve, "You'll not surely die." And by the way, you know, this is not new or old. It's up to date. It's all New Age religion. Everything that I have given you, everything, is all New Age religion. How do the New Agers deal with this idea, "You shall not surely die?" Well, it's reincarnation. What is reincarnation? Well, you just keep going around and around. You get recycled. You get as many chances at perfection as you need. And in reincarnation there's no judgment. There's no personal God.



You know who the high priestess of this New Age religion is? Her name is Shirley MacLaine, an actress of sorts. She said, listen to this, and I quote her, "We can eliminate all fear of death." And she said she had discovered that once she was a princess in Atlantis, and then she was an Inca in Peru, and then one time she was a child raised by elephants. That's in her past lives that she's had. And you know, Shirley MacLaine said, "It's like show business. You keep doing it until you get it right."

And so there're a lot of kids today who, while they cannot be taught Biblical truth, this eastern mysticism and New Ageism has come in like gangbusters into the church and they believe that. And the idea is that we have something called karma, K-A-R-M-A. And if your karma is good, next time you go through, you keep on going up and you get higher and higher and higher. But if your karma is bad, you're degraded in the next life. So you just keep going through and through. And that's the reason many of them are vegetarians, because they believe that animals and humans are all interrelated, and so when you go to McDonalds, you might be eating your grandmother. And so they believe this, that that cow has been reincarnated from something else and re-incornated, and so this is what they believe. Satan does not want people to believe that there is a death, and a holy and a righteous God, and a judgment to face, and so you come up with these silly ideas like reincarnation. People don't like the idea of judgment, and they're glad to listen to this third spiritual flaw that you can deny the righteousness of God and think carelessly about God.

Do you know one of the worst things people say about preachers today? "He's a Hell-fire preacher," Hell-fire and damnation preacher, like, "You don't want to go there to hear him." I want to say again, you would not have wanted to hear Jesus. I have an idea, I have a suspicion, it's almost a conviction, if the Supreme Court of the United States of America could vote on it, they would outlaw Hell as cruel and unusual punishment. They would say, "Well, that's certainly an un-American thing. You cannot have eternal punishment." You see, this is a lie out of Hell. The devil wants you to think negatively about God. The devil wants you to think skeptically about God. The devil wants you to think casually and lightly about God.

Fourth spiritual flaw is this: that **Satan debases God's greatness and he wants you to think suspiciously about God.** Now notice how clever he was. Look in Genesis 3 verse 5, "'For God doth know that in the day that you eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.'" Now, you know what he's saying here? "Look, you can't trust God. Eve, you're a babe in the woods. Your eyes are not even open. You don't know what's right. You don't know what's wrong. You don't know what's good. You don't know what's bad. All you have is His word for it. That's all you have is His word for it. You've never experienced it. How do you know it's bad? How do you know? After all, Eve, experience is the best teacher."

Have you ever heard that? "Experience is the best teacher." So we get the idea today that in order to find out whether something is good or bad, we have to experiment with it. That's the reason why so many young people have their lives that are wrecked and ruined and are sucked down in the swirling sewers of sin because of experimentation. They say, "Well, I want to experiment a little bit with drugs. I want to experiment a little with eastern meditation. I want to experiment a little bit with premarital sex. I want to experiment a little bit with sexual perversion."

"I mean, just try it, Eve. You might like it. Hey, Eve, if it's good, then you can do it some more. If it's bad, you don't have to do it anymore. But, Eve, your eyes are not even open. Why, listen, if you'll do it, then



your eyes will be open. You'll be like He is. You will know the difference between good and bad. You see, He's got a monopoly on being God. He's trying to head you off at the pass. He doesn't want you to have fulfillment. He doesn't want you to be liberated. He wants to keep you under His thumb. Eve, experience is the best teacher, not somebody's word."

Let me tell you something folks, when it comes to sin, experience is a very poor teacher. And those who know the least about sin are those who are the deepest into it, did you know that? The Bible speaks of the deceitfulness of sin. And those who know the very least about sin are those who have been blinded and they're into sin, and they come to the place where they get a reprobate mind. They cannot tell up from down, good for bad. They put bitter for sweet, sweet for bitter, light for darkness, darkness for light, good for evil, and evil for good because they try to make themselves the sum, the substance, the total decider of what is good and bad. And folks, I'm going to tell you, the world is full of that today. These kids who are ruining their lives through experimentation.

One young lady was trying to induce another young lady to sacrifice her purity upon the altar of some man's lust and become the dirty plaything of somebody. And she was saying, "Well, everybody's doing it. Why don't you do it?" And the young girl who was being tempted was a virgin, pure, somebody who knew what God's Word says, that you're to save yourself for the one that you marry. You say, "Well, I'm not married yet. It's not adultery." Friend, the Bible calls it fornication, and the Bible forbids it, and it's adultery against the one you're going to marry. But this person was saying, "No, go ahead, go ahead, go ahead. Everybody's doing it." And this young, pure girl said to this girl who was trying to get her to experiment with sex, she said, "Let me tell you something. Anytime I want to become like you, I can be, I can; but any time you would again like to be like me, you never can, you never can." But, you see, the devil is trying to get everybody into this experimenting. "Eve, try it." The devil knows that in the day that you eat, then your eyes will be open and you'll be like God.

Now remember what I told you, that the best lie sounds the most like the truth? I mean, you think about it. Satan is not trying to get Eve to steal or to kill or to commit adultery or to use narcotics. Do you know what the bait is that he's using? He says, "Hey, I want to show you how to be like God. You'll be as God." That sounds so much like being like God, doesn't it? But there's a big difference between being as God and being like God. "You will be as God!" That is, "You will be your own God." And folks, again, that's the New Age.

Do you know what eastern religion teaches? That we're all gods. You see, they teach pantheism: everything is God. The animals are God. The plants are God. The air is God. The stars are God. The earth is God. You are God. Everything is God. Now you think that elevates you? That doesn't elevate you because you and the animals share divinity. That just brings you down to the level of an animal.

Listen, they would say that love is God. No, love is not God; God is love. You see, there's a difference. They have the idea that everything is God. No, everything is not God. There is one God. He is distinct and different from everything else. And He is the one that we worship. But here is what the devil is saying to Eve, "Eve, you can be your own little cheap, tin God!" And I'm telling you there are millions of Americans who look at their God every morning when they shave in the mirror. That is their God. They want to become independent, autonomous, do their own thing. Nobody else telling them what to do, what to think, what to believe. They are like God, knowing good and evil, and they're going to die and



be eternally lost because they're the devil's convert listening to the devil's four spiritual flaws. You think about it.

Our kids today. Easter: we can't celebrate Easter in our schools anymore, but I'll tell you what we can do. We can have Earth Day. You think about it. I mean, if you believe that everything is sort of God, then the stars are God, the animals are God, man is God, the dirt is God. Then if the dirt is God, then God is dirt. And if you're God, you're dirt. You're dirt! That doesn't elevate you; that dehumanizes you. But you see, this lie sounds so much like the truth. You'll be as God. No, God's plan is for us to be like God. He made us in His image. And He is working toward that plan until one day, even though we're fallen, redeemed, we'll rise in His likeness and we'll be like Him forever. And the Bible, the psalmist says in Psalm 17:15, "I shall be satisfied when I awaken in Thy likeness."

Isn't it amazing how people today buy in to these four spiritual flaws where the devil gets them, and some are listening right here. You've been thinking negatively about God. You've been running from God. Why would you run from somebody who loves you? You've been thinking negatively about God. Then you've been thinking skeptically about God. You've been wondering, "Is this really, really true, is this really true?" And then you've been thinking lightly about God, and you say, "Oh, well, if I do wrong, He's a loving God. He's too good to punish sin." He's too good not to punish sin. He's a holy and a righteous God. And then you think, "Well, you know, if I give my heart to Him, if I truly receive Christ as my personal Savior, then that'll just head me off at the pass. I can never be all that I ought to be. I can never reach my full potential." No, friend, you'll never reach your full potential without Jesus, without knowing Him, without loving Him.

Have you listened to the devil's lies? All of us have at some time. Well, there's another passage, and I love it, over in Revelation chapter 12 verses 9 through 11. And the Bible there in verse 9 speaks of that old dragon, that old serpent. We saw him way back here in the Garden of Eden. Now he is over here in the book of the Revelation. And by the way, there are two books in the Bible the devil doesn't like. You know what they are? Genesis and Revelation, because in Genesis his doom is announced, and in Revelation it's carried out. And thank God there's no devil in the first two or the last two chapters of the Bible, Amen!

But over there it says this: that old serpent was cast out, and his angels were cast out with him. And then in Revelation 12 verse 11 listen to this, it says this, here's how to overcome him, "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, the word of their testimony, and they loved not their lives unto the death." That's the way to overcome the old liar, "the blood of the Lamb, the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanses us from all sin." There is power in the blood of Jesus. Say, "Amen." The blood of the Lamb. Thank God for Calvary. Thank God that Jesus, the last Adam, undid what the first Adam did on that cross. "They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb." And it's because Jesus died for you that you can be saved. And then, "The word of their testimony." They were not ashamed of the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus said in Mark chapter 8 verse 38, "If you're ashamed of Me and of My Word, I'll be ashamed of you when I come in the glory of the Father with the holy angels." And then it says, and here's the climactic thing. Listen to me, "And they loved not their lives unto the death." Now that doesn't mean they kept on loving Jesus until they died. That's not what that means. That may be true, but that's not what that means. It means this: that they loved Jesus Christ and would serve Him if they had to die for their faith.



Would you die for your faith? Until you're no longer afraid to die, you're not ready to live. And you may, if you're a true Christian, have to die for your faith the way things are changing. "They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, by the word of their testimony, and they loved not their lives unto the death." Folks, it's time we stopped playing games, and it's time we stopped listening to lies. The devil is a liar.

The four spiritual laws are these: God loves you and He has a wonderful plan for your life. The second is that sin has separated us from God. The third is that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died for our sins on the cross. The fourth is if we will receive Him as our personal Lord and Savior, then we can know and experience God's love and God's plan for our lives.

Would you bow your heads in prayer? Heads are bowed and eyes are closed. If you already know the Lord Jesus Christ, would you begin to pray for those who may not yet know Him? Just pray, "Lord, if that person is not saved, open their heart." Surely, somebody's praying for you right now if you're not saved. And I'm going to pray for you in just a moment.

But if you want to be saved, here's what you can do. You can pray a prayer like this, "Dear God, I'm a sinner and I'm lost and I need to be saved and I want to be saved. Jesus, You died to save me. You promised to save me if I would trust You. I do trust You, Jesus." Would you tell Him that? Tell Him. Just tell Him, "Lord, I trust You. I bring my sin, my weakness, my doubt. I bring it all, Lord, just to You and I trust You. Come into my heart. Forgive my sin. Cleanse me. Save me, Jesus." Pray it from your heart.

Did you ask Him? Then pray this, "Thank You for doing it. I don't look for a sign. I don't ask for a feeling. I stand on Your Word. You cannot lie. Thank You, Jesus, for paying for my sin with Your blood on the cross. Thank You, Jesus. And now because You died for me, I will live for You and I will not be ashamed of You. I will make it public and I will do it today. I will do it today. In Your name I pray, Amen."



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