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**INTERNATIONAL TRAINING AND EQUIPPING MINISTRIES**  
**Institute in the Foundations of Church Leadership**  
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**FAITH AFTER FAILURE**

**Eve**

Session 9

**INTRODUCTION**

She was created perfect—in form, beauty, intelligence, personality, and innocence. She was the final creation formed by God’s own hands out of living flesh and bone. She lived in a perfect world, in a perfect relationship with God and her husband. Life was really great in the Garden of Eden, but she listened to the wrong words. Her world came crashing down as she earned a life of pain, hard work, disease, and death. But through it all, she never let go of the promise God gave her. Eve was an amazing woman.

**I. THE PERFECT WOMAN**

**A. Flesh of my flesh**

1. Eve was built by God from Adam’s rib to be the perfect physical and spiritual counterpart, intellectual equal, companion, and helper for Adam. (Genesis 2:20-24)
2. The true example of the meaning of “one flesh” for marriage is found in the creation of Eve from Adam’s rib. The husband and wife are to join so closely together in a union of heart, soul, and body that they create a new family unit. (Genesis 2:23-24)
3. The first example of marriage is when God brought Eve to Adam. Marriage is between one wife and one husband only; the individuals have common feelings, purpose, and responsibility; and their relationship is to be secure. (Genesis 2:21-25; Matthew 19:4-9; 1 Timothy 3:2)

**B. Equal before God, but different roles.**

1. Men and women were created equal before God. (Genesis 1:26-27, 1 Peter 3:7, Galatians 3:26-29)
2. Men and women were created different by God. (Genesis 2:18, 4:1)
  - a. Men were created to be fathers, providers, protectors, and leaders.
  - b. Women were created to be mothers, comforters, nurturers, and helpers.
  - c. Men and women were created different physically, emotionally, and socially.
  - d. By God’s design, men are to be the leaders in marriage (Ephesians 5:22-33, Colossians 3:18-19, 1 Peter 3:1-7), and women are to be under the authority of men in the church (1 Corinthians 11:3-9).
3. Equal, but submissive.  
Christ, being equal with God, yet choosing to do what God the Father asked Him to do, is the example reflected in the relationship of men and women being equal, yet women being helpers, not leaders in the marriage role.

(See Stand Firm, II, A,1)

**C. Created perfect**

1. By day six, God finished creating the heavens, the earth, the creatures and plants, man and woman, and “God saw everything he had made and it was very good.” (Genesis 1:31)
2. All creatures were at peace with each other (Genesis 1:29-30)
3. Man and woman were at peace with each other. (Genesis 2:25)

4. Man and woman were at peace with God. (Genesis 2:7-25)

## II. FAILED

### A. The Test

1. Mankind was created innocent, but not righteous.
  - a. To be innocent means choosing to say “no” when you are tempted. “Righteousness” means to have an absolute faith in and commitment to God. (Romans 4:4-5, 1 Peter 2:24-25)
  - b. God created mankind with a free will—the ability to choose. God put the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the Garden of Eden to test whether Adam (and later Eve) would obey God or not. (Genesis 2:16-17)

### B. The Temptation

1. Casting doubt
  - a. God’s generosity questioned (Compare Genesis 2:16 to 3:1)
    - i. God gave ALL the trees for food except one.
    - ii. Satan makes God’s blessing sound like He is holding something back from us.
    - iii. When we are unhappy because we are focusing on the one thing God asks us not to do, or something God has said “no” to, we are being tempted by the devil to disobey God. When we focus on all that God has given us and choose to turn away from those negative thoughts about that one thing, we are listening to God’s voice.
  - b. God’s word denied (Compare Genesis 2:17 to 3:4)
    - i. God wants what is best for us so He tells us the truth and the consequences.
    - ii. God’s word is truth. The devil will lie to you. (John 8:43-44)
  - c. God’s statements twisted (Genesis 3:5)
    - i. The devil wants us to question God’s best for us, so he will tell us half-truths. Adam and Eve’s eyes were opened to the knowledge of good and evil, and they lost their moral innocence and gained an accusing, guilty conscious.
    - ii. They did not become like God. They became like the devil—fallen, corrupt, and condemned.
2. Pleasing to the flesh—“...the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food...”
  - a. The temptation for Eve was for physical satisfaction. The fruit was going to taste good. (Genesis 3:6)
  - b. Jesus was also tested when the devil tempted him to turn rocks into bread after a 40-day fast. (Matthew 4:1-3)
  - c. Jesus answered “no” by quoting scripture. (Matthew 4:4 [Deuteronomy 8:1-3])
3. Pleasing to the mind—“...and pleasing to the eye...”
  - a. The temptation was about mental satisfaction. The fruit was beautiful to look at. (Genesis 3:6)
  - b. Jesus was also tested when the devil misquoted scripture back to him [Psalm 91:11-12] to tempt Jesus to test God’s faithfulness. The devil left out the words “in all your ways” meaning Jesus came to do God’s will by walking in God’s ways. If Jesus had chosen to throw himself off the top of the temple, He would not have been following God’s ways. (Matthew 4:5-6)
  - c. The second part of this temptation was for Jesus to gain a large following of people by jumping off the tower and using His power to save himself.
  - d. Jesus answered “no” by quoting scripture. (Matthew 4:7 [Exodus 17:1-7, Deuteronomy 6:16])

4. Pleasing to our religious desire—“...and desirable for gaining wisdom...”
  - a. The temptation was about Eve thinking she could be powerful like God. (Genesis 3:6)
  - b. Jesus was also tested when the devil tempted him with a way to gain world dominion without going to the cross—which was Jesus purpose in coming to earth. [John 12:27, Mark 10:45]. (Matthew 4:8-9)
  - c. Jesus answered “no” by quoting scripture. (Matthew 4:10 [Deuteronomy 6:13])

**Note:** Satan has not changed his tactics. Satan still tempts us through our physical and mental desires, as well as our desire to be powerful. Jesus is our example in how to stand firm on God’s word to say “no” to each temptation and follow God’s ways.

### C. The Realization

1. Their eyes were opened. (Genesis 3:7)
  - a. Before Adam and Eve chose to disobey God, they had no knowledge of evil. They were innocent.
  - b. After they disobeyed, they knew evil. For the first time in their life, they felt shame, fear, and dread.
  - c. Adam and Eve died spiritually when they chose to disobey. Death means separation. They were separated from God. (John 11:25, Ephesians 2:1-5)
2. Created coverings (Genesis 3:7)
  - a. Just as Adam and Eve tried to cover their nakedness (shame) instead of confessing their sin to God, people today try to cover up their sin (lie, blame someone else, etc) instead of confessing their sins to God.
  - b. Other ways we try to cover our sin is by following religious exercises, rituals, and practices that do not follow God’s ways. Religion is something that you do on the outside. It does not take care of the sin problem on the inside. (Matthew 23:27-28)
  - c. Christianity is not a religion. Christianity is Jesus Christ. God starts working inside people first by changing their heart, then things on the outside change.
3. Hiding from God (Genesis 3:8)
  - a. When Adam and Eve realized they had disobeyed God (sinned), they tried to hide from God because they felt shame and guilt, which lead to fear and dread of seeing God again.
  - b. People today try to hide from God by denying He exists, following traditions, or following the rituals and practices of other religions.

### D. The Result

1. God comes to us (Genesis 3:8-9)
  - a. God already knew that Adam and Eve had sinned.
  - b. God already knows every sinful thing you have done, thought, and said. (Matthew 9:4, 12:25, 15:17-19)
2. God calls to us (Genesis 3:9)
  - a. God wanted to give Adam and Eve a chance to confess to what they had done.
  - b. God calls each of us today. He wants to have a relationship with us. (Romans 5:6-8, John 12:27)
3. God wants us to be truthful with him (confess) (Genesis 3:11, 13)
  - a. All Adam and Eve had to do to confess was take responsibility for their actions, and admit that they had done the one thing God asked them not to do.
  - b. All you need to do today is to come before God and take responsibility for your actions and admit that you have sinned (Romans 3:23), believe in your heart that Jesus died to

take your guilt (sin) upon himself (Romans 5:8) and was raised from the dead (Romans 10:9), and confess that Jesus is Lord (Romans 10:9-10), you will be saved.

### **III. FAITH AFTER FAILURE**

#### **A. A Glimmer of Hope**

##### **1. Cursed**

- a. All the animals came under the judgment for sin. (Genesis 3:14) They would also suffer with hardships, disease, and death.
- b. The serpent, that allowed the devil to indwell him, was cursed even more than the other animals. (Genesis 3:14)
- c. Satan was judged, and the battle between good and evil began on a human level. (Genesis 3:15)

##### **2. Hope**

- a. In the curse, God gave the knowledge that one day evil would be conquered. (Genesis 3:15, Hebrews 2:14, 1 John 3:8)
- b. “Her seed” is the first glimpse of the coming Savior, Jesus Christ.
- c. This also meant that Eve would have children and be allowed to raise a family.

#### **B. Pain and desire (Genesis 3:16)**

1. Eve would experience pain in childbirth, as well as sorrow in her relationship with her children.
2. Her relationship with her husband would also change. Instead of continuous joy and fellowship with each other, they would experience relationship troubles.

#### **C. Thorns, thistles, and sweat (Genesis 3:17-19)**

1. The judgment on Adam had consequences for Eve.
  - a. The earthly environment became harsh (thorns and thistles), warmer (sweat), and hard work (painful toil).
  - b. Although they would have food to eat, they would have to work really hard for it, and would eventually die physically.

#### **D. Garments of skin**

1. Fig leaves were not good enough to cover over sin. God had to provide an acceptable covering for sin which came from the first sacrifice. Blood had to be shed to cover (atone) for sin, and the skin(s) of the animal(s) were given to Adam and Eve to cover their nakedness.
2. Jesus became our sacrifice for sin. (Romans 3:21-26, Ephesians 5:1-2, 1 John 4:9-10)

### **CONCLUSION**

Eve had known a perfect life. By not obeying God’s words, she sinned—along with Adam—and changed their lives forever. But even through God’s judgment upon sin, He still loves us and His promises and grace shine through His judgment. God provides the way for us to come back into a right relationship with Him—Jesus Christ. Eve lived the rest of her life loving God and believing in the promise that one day one of her children would right the wrong that she and Adam had committed. The seed of the woman—Jesus Christ—did that very thing.