

WHO TOLD YOU THAT? – 1 of 4
Follow Your Heart
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Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’”

² The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³ but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”

⁴ “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. ⁵ “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

⁸ Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?”

¹⁰ He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”

¹¹ And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”

¹² The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

¹³ Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

—Genesis 3:1-13 NIV

1. QUESTION THE VOICE

- Genesis 3:1 *Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’”*
- **THE ENEMY’S FIRST STRATEGY WAS NOT REBELLION. IT WAS CONFUSION.**
- Genesis 2:16-17 *And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; ¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”*
- Isaiah 55:8-9 *“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. ⁹ “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.*
- Proverbs 30:5 *“Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.*
- Psalm 119:160a *All your words are true;*
- **EVERY LIE BEGINS WITH QUESTIONING GOD’S VOICE.**
- John 10:27 *My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.*
- 2 Corinthians 10:5 *We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.*

2. EXAMINE YOUR HEART

- Genesis 3:6 *When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.*

- James 1:14-15 *but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.*
- **EVE BEGAN EVALUATING TRUTH ACCORDING TO HER OWN PERCEPTION**
- Jeremiah 17:9 *The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?*
- Proverbs 14:12 (NKJV) *There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.*
- Mark 7:21-23 *For it is from within, out of a person's heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, ²² adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. ²³ All these evils come from inside and defile a person.”*
- Psalm 139:23-24 *Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. ²⁴ See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*
- 2 Corinthians 13:5a *Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves.*
- Lamentations 3:40 *Let us examine our ways and test them, and let us return to the Lord.*

3. **GUARD YOUR HEART**

- Genesis 3:6 *When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.*
- Matthew 12:34 *You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.*
- Proverbs 4:23 *Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.*
- Matthew 6:21 *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

4. **TRANSFORM YOUR HEART**

- Genesis 3:8 *Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden.*
- **GOD'S ANSWER TO OUR BROKENNESS IS NOT AFFIRMATION. IT'S TRANSFORMATION.**
- Exekiel 36:26 *I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.*
- Romans 12:2 *Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*
- 2 Corinthians 5:17 *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come.^[a] The old has gone, the new is here!*
- Luke 9:23 *Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.*
- Proverbs 3:5-6 *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;⁶ in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.*
- **TRANSFORMED HEARTS CONTINUALLY ALIGN WITH GOD'S DESIRES.**

5. **FILL YOUR HEART**

- **A HEART DISCONNECTED FROM GOD'S TRUTH IS VULNERABLE.**
- Psalm 119:11 *I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.*
- Joshua 1:8 *Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.*
- Deuteronomy 6:6 *These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts.*
- Colossians 3:16 (ESV) *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*
- **THE SAFEST GUIDE FOR YOUR LIFE IS NOT YOUR HEART. IT IS THE GOD WHO CREATED YOUR HEART.**