

Subtle Enemies

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Genesis 3:1-6

These types of enemies are not easy to discern. They are cunning, intelligent and sneaky. They do not come masquerading as your friend. They come **APPEARING** to be a voice of **REASON**. Their agenda is to plant the seed of doubt and caution as it pertains to your faith in God.

They say things like, *"are you sure you heard from God?"* *"Did God really tell you to do that?"* *"Did the Lord really tell you to go there?"* These enemies come to **QUESTION** your faith with reason. Their intentions are not easy to recognize because it stimulates your intellect.

Your intellect relies on reason and common sense. Subtle enemies are hoping that your intelligence is stronger than your confidence in God. People who are strong

intellectually yet **WEAK IN FAITH** will be defeated by **SUBTLE** enemies. This is what happened to Eve.

EVE

(Genesis 3:1-6)

Eve was Adam's help meet. She was not a woman who lacked common sense. **SHE LACKED CONFIDENCE IN GOD'S WORD**. The serpent approached Eve because he studied her. He knew that she had knowledge of God's Word. However, he also knew that she **DID NOT** have confidence in God's Word. There is a huge difference.

People who have knowledge of God's Word can be persuaded to lose their faith. People who have **CONFIDENCE** in God's Word **CANNOT** be persuaded to lose their faith. This is why the serpent approached Eve and not Adam.

Genesis 3:1-6 says, "*Now the snake was the most clever of all the wild animals the Lord God had made. One day the*

snake said to the woman, "Did God really say that you must not eat fruit from any tree in the garden?" The woman answered the snake, "we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden. But God told us, "you must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden. You must not even touch it, or you will die."

But the snake said to the woman, "you will not die. God knows, "you will not die. God knows that if you eat the fruit from that tree you will learn about good and evil and you will be like God!"

The woman saw that the tree was beautiful, that its fruit was good to eat, and that it would make her wise. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She also gave some of the fruit to her husband who was with her, and he ate it."

The serpent appealed to Eve's intellect and Eve's intellect challenged her faith. Subtle enemies are subtle because they do not target their attack toward your faith. They target their attack toward your **INTELLECT**, hoping that your intellect will **OVERRIDE** your faith in God. Eve fell victim to a subtle enemy.

She allowed her intellect to override her faith. The serpent convinced Eve to doubt her faith. A subtle suggestion caused massive impact. Most of the damage that has occurred in people's lives came from the influence of subtle enemies.

Subtle enemies do not have to be your friends. They do not have to be your family. **SUBTLE ENEMIES ARE A VOICE OF REASON**. Anyone or anything that strengthens your intellect **WHILE** weakening your faith is a subtle enemy.

YOU DO NOT NEED A VOICE OF REASON

Despite what the world encourages, you **DO NOT** need to surround yourself with people who are a voice of reason. You need to surround yourself with people who are a **VOICE OF FAITH**. The Holy Spirit does not speak with reason. He speaks with faith. When King Jesus spoke to the disciples He spoke with faith, not reason.

Majority of the disappointments and losses that people have experienced have come from them listening to

voices of reason rather than voices of faith. When people encourage you to lean on your education rather than adhering to wisdom that advice **STIFLES** your faith. When people encourage you to listen to your peers rather than honoring the words of the Holy Spirit that advice **STIFLES** your faith.

Voices of reason make sense. However, the content of the advice produce losses. Eve lost her prosperity, favor and the blessing of God because she listened to the serpent's voice of reason.

What have you lost listening to the voices of reason? Think about it! Voices of reason are subtle enemies that steal our favor, blessings, influence, prosperity and opportunities. Subtle enemies look to build your intellect **WHILE** starving your faith.

Do not allow these people to fill your ear with words that will stifle your faith. Their mission is to steal what you have so you will lack what you need. **APPLYING** the wisdom of

God activates the power to destroy subtle enemies. Apply what you have learned in this teaching so you can discern the subtle enemies around you.

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