

Acknowledging God's Blessings

I recently came across a different way of looking at a familiar bible story. The story dates back to early in the history of mankind, in the book of Genesis (chapter 3). A young lady named Eve was in the Garden of Eden, surrounded by delicious fruit. I love fruit – cherries, pineapple, apricot, watermelon, grapes, peaches, pears – the list goes on and on. I could picture what it was like, to stand in a Farmer's Market, having a choice of ripe fruit all around me. Fruits are sweet and refreshing to taste and are healthy for us. What could be better than this?



We all know the story. God instructed Eve that she could eat anything she wanted *except* for the fruit of the tree in the center of the garden. Like a little kid in the candy store, when told she couldn't have one specific item, that is the one she focused on. Amid the abundance of a lush garden around her, she wanted what she wasn't supposed to have. Her decision spoiled the perfect world and put mankind on a path of seeking its own way, not God's.

Now, for the new perspective. Instead of being thankful for the abundance around her, Eve wasn't satisfied with what she had. She wanted what was forbidden and was tempted. All it took was some sneaky encouragement from the serpent (the devil disguised as a serpent) to put her over the edge and take the first bite.

While the disobedience of mankind and seeking to be in charge of our own lives are the central themes of this story, the lack of thankfulness is essential as well. Look at your life. Does an abundance of blessings surround you from God, yet you still want more? Has God given you all you really need? *And my God will supply your every need according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19)*. All we have comes from God, and God has blessed us richly. Eve initiated mankind's fall, and the devil is waiting to tempt you, too. The devil convinces us to want more than we need by putting doubt or excuses in our minds why we think we need or deserve it. That yearning for more is what caused the original sin. "Lead us not into temptation, and deliver us from evil."

We may consciously do our best to follow God's guidance in our lives, but human nature leads us astray. Our overall direction may be with good intentions, but we sin daily. Thankfully, we can ask God's forgiveness when we fail. Let us also be thankful for all that God has given us. But there are times when we fail. These will be times when we make bad choices. God gives us what we need. Let us be obedient to the God who knows our needs. Appreciate the many blessings God gives us.

The Bible Says: *For everything comes from him and exists by his power and is intended for his glory. All glory to him forever! Amen. (Romans 11:36).*

This devotion is based on a reading from [Jesus Calling](#), by Sarah Young.