

# Fathom Academy – Spiritual Warfare

## Session 1 – Genesis 3

Applications and additional thoughts

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### “HOMEWORK”

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Listen/watch John Piper’s message, **The Ultimate Essence of Evil**

<https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/the-ultimate-essence-of-evil>

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### ALL THE APPLICATIONS FROM OUR GENESIS 3 STUDY

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**APPLICATION:** Recognize this attitude for what it is—insinuations of the Lizard!

Fight it with all your might! Make it your life goal to desire and find pleasure in God above all!

What is the opposite of this attitude that we should cultivate?

**APPLICATION:** Take time to reflect on possible dangerous directions your ideas, attitudes, purposes or directions are heading, and define them clearly (name them); and then fight them.

**PROVISO:** To the degree your mind/heart is saturated with God’s Word

To that degree you will be able to see and define such dangerous tendencies of your heart.

To the degree your mind/heart is saturated with the things of this World

To that degree you will be unable to see and define the dangerous tendencies of your heart.

**APPLICATION:** Listen to God, not the Lizard!

**APPLICATION:** First: RECOGNIZE the role of the 3 Laws of the Sinner in your own life.

Second: VALUE God, His Word, and His Ways above anything, no matter how beautiful, tasty or self-enhancing the other might be.

**APPLICATION:** Consider how we are often guided more by what is

profitable

helpful

useful

practical

more than by the Word of God.

## SOME CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

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In closing the study of Genesis 3, I don't want us to miss these big truths of these verses that might be lost in the detail of verse-by-verse study:

1. Adam and Eve lived in a perfect physical environment with perfect spiritual fellowship with God. Yet they sinned. This is an important element of this event. It means that fixing up the environment does not fix the problem of sin.

Yes, fixing the environment can:

Lessen the incidents of sin

Lessen the effects of sin

Lessen the extremes of sin

Lessen the cycles of sin

But it will not take away the sin problem.

Only Jesus can do that – bring them to Jesus!

2. The powers of darkness are to be mostly feared for their craftiness, not for their power.

Yes, they are powerful beings. But it is important that the only word God used to describe the nature and abilities of this tempter in this first sin is “crafty”. Note that Paul reflects the same truth in Ephesians 6:11 -- *Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes (or trickery) of the devil.*

So be careful – he's a master at getting us to do bad, thinking we've done a good thing!

3. The problem of sin is a problem of the human heart/nature; i.e. a heart/nature that:

- Distrusts the goodness of God  
Thinks that God is holding back good  
And so thinks there are better things to be gotten by making an end run around God than in or through God.
- Distrusts the warnings of God  
Thinks that “it can't be that bad”  
And so sets itself up as a better judge of what might happen than God
- So sets up its own good and bad defined by:  
What looks good  
What “tastes” good  
What enhances my “good”
- So does evil thinking it's good

This is at the heart of what it means to be a sinner. It is from this that mankind needs saving. It is this that so angers God.

4. Conversely then, what God wants of us, his people, is that we will:

- Trust his goodness: what he tells us, commands us, teaches us, advises us, forbids us, warns us, is all for our good.
- And so live by what he says no matter if: the world thinks its crazy or stupid or old fashioned or narrow or even bad.

- Trust his warnings: that even if we don't immediately "die die" that nevertheless if he says it's bad, it's bad!

He wants his people, therefore, to acknowledge that he is best and wisest and not put themselves into the presumptuous and ludicrous role of the best and wisest.

5. In light of the clever trickery of our enemies so clearly presented in this account, we should triple underline the importance of regular, daily, deep, significant and personal time with God in His Word.

How brief is this inspired account, yet how profound is each sentence, each small development in the account.

Ah, subtle mind games—he was good at it right from the start. Think how much better he is these centuries later!!

## GOOD INTRO POINTS FROM THE SERMON ON SUNDAY

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1. The word in the Bible is "demonization" NOT "demon possession"  
Christians can be afflicted, messed around with, by demons, but not possessed by them.
2. C.S. Lewis: Avoiding the two extremes
  - a. Denying, ignoring or downplaying the reality of demons
  - b. Giving them too much attention and credit
3. Secular mindset: all is psychological, genetic, chemical, situational  
No! Evil spiritual beings are a REALITY!
4. AND they prowl about like roaring lions seeking to devour
5. Satan is not after recognition, rather destruction or neutralization
6. Goal: to get us to attach ourselves to anything but Jesus!
7. It will not look like in the movies!