As we prepare to resume Part III of our deep study on fellowship this morning, I want to ensure you clearly understand a profound biblical truth when you look through the microscope of systematic theology at Genesis, chapter 3 and examine the evidence of the text. You will discover that if it were not for Genesis, chapter 3 there would be no bible as we know it.

Why? Because after Genesis, chapter 3 the rest of the Bible is a documentation on the sad consequences of Adam's sin and is an explanation of what God has done with His marvelous grace for the human race to rescue us. Let me say that again just in case you missed it.!!

By grasping the basic truths of this important chapter, you can better understand Paul's discussion of justification in Romans 5, his teaching in I Timothy 2:8-15 about men and women in the church, and his explanation in I Corinthians 15 of the future resurrection.

When we examine the text, we discover that Adam broke-off fellowship with God because of his disobedience and brought the entire curse of sin upon the human race. Therefore, for the rest of our life the human race would be engaged in a wrestling match with Satan because he is the enemy of God!!

Now here is the sad contemporary, we already have the victory because of God's great love. He sent His son who knew no sin to become sin for us that we might have the rights and privilege of eternal life. However, eternal life comes with one requirement. The requirement to give-up control and authorship of our life and submit to the will of the Father and accept His son as Lord and Savior. If we would do this, we inherit the treasures and benefits of heaven.

Now therein lies the problem because the sinful nature of man and woman is a desire to be in charge and be the chief architect of their life!!! **Our inability to surrender to the Will of God, is the very cause of our greatest problem and is the limiting factor in our success as Christians. We desire the pleasure of life more than we do the pleasures of God!!**

**With that as a backdrop let's drop anchor and pick-up where I left off two weeks ago on this series.**

We discover prior to verse 9 of Genesis, chapter 3 that Satan enters the garden in the form of a serpent and captivates the attention of Eve. **He utilizes one of his most powerful weapons against her and he continues to utilize this weapon against us today. The weapon of deception.**

Mark Twain wrote: "We may not pay Satan reverence, for that would be indiscreet, but we can at least respect his talents."

Cover the points from the slides of two weeks ago.

Start at verse 9 with the below points

We see beginning at verse 9 "Comments from the Architect of Fellowship who is Jehovah God".

1. **God doesn't ask questions because He needs information. Being God, He knows everything, Rather, He asks questions for our good, to give us the opportunity to face facts, be honest, and confess our sins.  However, we must not think of God speaking to Adam and Eve the way a cruel master would speak to a disobedient slave or angry judge to a convicted criminal.**

**2. God is speaking like a broken-hearted father speaking in love to his wayward children in this text.**

**3. First, God called to Adam to give him the opportunity to answer and come out into the open. The fact that God called him at all was an act of *Grace* for God could have spoken the word of judgment, justly destroyed Adam and Eve.**

Another gracious wonder was that Adam could hear God's voice and respond, for his inner nature had been so polluted by sin that he didn't want to face God.

Understanding the Process

**A**. **Once Adam and Eve came out of hiding, Adam confessed their shame (they were naked) and their fear (they were guilty). Without saying it openly, Adam was admitting that they had eaten from the forbidden tree. However, when God asked him pointblank if he had eaten of the tree, Adam never said, Yes, I did!!**

**B.  Instead, he blamed both God and his wife! In essence Adam said to God the woman you gave me. Which implied if you hadn't given me this woman I wouldn't be in this predicament!! You gave her to me and she gave me the fruit. This is an implication that it is God's fault and her fault. Adam was now placing blame on others for his failures.**

**The first step in the process of recovering from failure**

**1. Admit that we are at fault instead of trying to place blame on someone else. Each of us has to own our failures instead of trying to place blame of others for our shortcomings.**

**2. When God questioned Eve, she blamed the serpent. She didn't say, "the serpent that you created," but perhaps she thought it. These were excuses but not confessions.**

**To quote Billy Sunday who said, "An excuse is the skin of a reason stuffed with a lie. Eve gave Adam the fruit because the serpent deceived her; but there was no reason Adam had to disobey God. He wasn't deceived. He just took the fruit Eve gave him and did not question her or say anything to her about God's command and requirements!!**

When people start making excuses, it's evident that they don't sense the enormity of their sins or want to confess them and repent. If sinners can find some loophole, they'll run through it as fast as they can.

**The Penalty for Broken Fellowship with God**

**We must understand that God's love for sinners in no way eliminates His holy hatred for sin, for while it's true that "God is love" (I John 4:8, 16), it's also true that "God is light (I John 1:5). A holy God must deal with sin, for the good of the sinner and for the Glory of His name!!**

**A. Comments on the Penalty**

**In verse 14-15, God pronounced sentence first on the serpent and then on the devil who had used the serpent. It seems that the creature Satan used was originally upright, because God humiliated it by putting it into the dust (Ps. 72:9; Isaiah 49:23; Micah 7:17).**

**While God did curse the serpent and the ground in Genesis 3:17, He never cursed Adam and Eve.**

**God's words to Satan (v.15) are called the protevangelium, "the first Gospel," because this is the first announcement of the coming Redeemer found in the Bible. To God's Old Covenant people, this verse was a beacon of hope (Gal. 4:1-4); to Satan, it was God's declaration of war, climaxing in his condemnation (Rom. 16:20), and to Eve, it was the assurance that she was forgiven and that God would use a woman to bring the Redeemer into the world (I Timothy. 2:13-15).**

**The offspring ("seed") of the serpent and of the woman represent Satan's family and God's family. In the Parables of the Taxes (Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43), Jesus states clearly that Satan has "children;” people who profess to be true believers but who are actually counterfeits. The parable reveals that wherever God "plants' a true child of the kingdom, Satan comes along and plants a counterfeit. The two grow together and won't be separated until the harvest at the end of age.**

**These individuals, who are pawns of Satan are people who reject Jesus Christ and confidently depend on their own religious self-righteousness to get them into heaven. The Pharisees were "children of the devil" according to John the Baptist (Matthew 3:7-10 and Jesus comments on them in Mat. 12:34; 23:15, 28, 33; John 8:44**

**Vs. 16 Comments on the Woman**

**God reinforced His word of hope to Eve by assuring her that she would bear children and therefore not immediately die. But the special privilege of woman as the child bearer (and ultimately the one who brings the Redeemer into the world) would involve multiplied pain in pregnancy as well as submission to her husband. This submission isn't identified as part of a curse or as a mandate for husbands to have sovereign power over their wives. The New Testament makes it clear that husbands and wives who love each other are filled with the Spirit, will be mutually submissive (Ephesians 5:18; I Cor. 7:1-6).**

**Vs. 17-19 Comments from the Architect of Fellowship on the Man**

**Eve would have pain in the labor of childbirth. However, Adam would have pain in his daily labor in the field. As he worked to get his food, Adam would encounter obstacles and have to toil and sweat to get a harvest; and this would remind him that his disobedience had affected creation. (Rom. 8:18-23). Even more, as he tilled the soil, he would remember that one day he would die and return to the soil from which he had come.**

**Adam the gardener became Adam the toiler!!!!!**