

ECHOES FROM THE GARDEN

(2 Cor. 2:11 / 2 Peter 1:12-13)

I. WHISPERS FROM THE DARKNESS; SHOUTS FROM THE LIGHT!

2 Corinthians 2:11—“lest Satan should take advantage of us, for we are not ignorant of his devices (methods.)”

A. SATAN’S TACTICS, SCHEMES, & METHODS:

(All of these are seen in Genesis 3 in Satan’s interaction with Adam & Eve.)

1. _____ (Genesis 3:4-5): Satan likes to pull a veil over your eyes; he will make you believe that you are seeing clearly but h has you in a fog of lies.
2. _____ & DISCOURAGEMENT (Genesis 3:1): Satan will make you doubt what you believe about God, about yourself, and about other people around you. He will discourage your heart.
3. _____ (Genesis 3:3): The first relationship God wants to divide you from is God...to cause you not to trust Him.
4. _____ (Genesis 3:6): Satan wants to pull your focus away from the Lord to focus on worldly concerns.

B. THE TRUTH ABOUT HIM!

1. HE IS GOD ALMIGHTY! *Genesis 17:1—“...the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, ‘I am Almighty God;’”* El-Shaddai. Remember that when you call to Him in prayer!

2. HE IS RIGHTEOUS & JUST! *Psalm 89:14—“Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; mercy and truth go before Your face.”* Because He is righteous, God always does the right thing in all situations; Because He is just, He always acts rightly in all His relationships toward us as human beings.
3. GOD LOVES HIS CREATION IN SPITE OF US!
 - *Psalm 8:4-5—“What is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him? For you have made him a little lower than the angels, and You have crowned him with glory and honor.”*
 - *Romans 5:8—“But God demonstrates His own love toward us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*

C. THE TRUTH ABOUT YOU!

1. YOU ARE TRANSFORMED IN CHRIST! *2 Corinthians 5:17—“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold all things have become new.”* Your past is your past! Past sin. Past failures. You have been given a new foundation to build on!
2. YOU ARE FREE IN CHRIST! (See Galatians 5:1). *John 8:36—“Therefore if the Son make you free, you shall be free indeed.”* You have been set free from sin, guilt, shame, fear, and worry. You have not been called to live under that.
3. YOU ARE ACCEPTED AND ARE BEING CHANGED IN CHRIST!
 - *Ephesians 1:6—“...by which He made us accepted in the Beloved...”* God takes you like you are!
 - *Philippians 1:6—“being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.”* He is transforming you to be like HIM!