

Father Knows Best

“Then the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground. He breathed the breath of life into the man's nostrils, and the man became a living person. Then the Lord God planted a garden in Eden in the east, and there he placed the man he had made. The Lord God made all sorts of trees grow up from the ground—trees that were beautiful and that produced delicious fruit. In the middle of the garden he placed the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. . . . The Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it. But the Lord God warned him, ‘You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden--except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die.’” Genesis 2:7-9, 15-17 (NLT)

When God withholds something how should we respond?

1. Humanity is often tempted with a question and tested with a choice

“The serpent was the craftiest of all the creatures the Lord God had made. So the serpent came to the woman. ‘Really?’ he asked. ‘None of the fruit in the garden? God says you mustn't eat any of it?’ ‘Of course we may eat it,’ the woman told him. ‘It's only the fruit from the tree at the center of the garden that we are not to eat. God says we mustn't eat it or even touch it, or we will die.’ ‘That's a lie!’ the serpent hissed. ‘You'll not die! God knows very well that the instant you eat it you will become like him, for your eyes will be opened-you will be able to distinguish good from evil!’” Genesis 3:1-5 (TLB)

We have Community Groups throughout the Denver Metro Area. You can find a listing of these groups online at www.fbc.org/smallgroups. For more information or questions, please contact Ceely Ann Lonergan at 303.424.2121, ext. 92407 or ceelyann.lonergan@fbc.org.

**Please feel free to come down to the front
for prayer after service.
“...pray for one another...” James 5:16**

A well-executed game plan exists to defeat you

2. There are three great sources for sin in humanity: the world, the flesh, and the devil; the issue is that of control

*“Dear friends, I warn you as ‘temporary residents and foreigners’ to keep away from **worldly** desires that wage war against your very souls. Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he judges the world.”*

1 Peter 2:11-12 (NLT)

- There is warfare in the will of God
- Flattery will get you somewhere
- The root of most sin we commit outwardly is the false belief we embrace inwardly

*“When we were **controlled** by our old nature, sinful desires were at work within us, and the law aroused these evil desires that produced a harvest of sinful deeds, resulting in death. But now we have been released from the law, for we died to it and are no longer captive to its power. Now we can serve God, not in the old way of obeying the letter of the law, but in the new way of living in the Spirit.”*

Romans 7:5-6 (NLT)

3. God places situations in our lives so we will chose accountability and make commitments to the will of God

“Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, ‘If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.’ Jesus answered, ‘It is written: “Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.”’ Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ‘If you are the Son of God,’ he said, ‘throw yourself down. For it is written: “He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.”’ Jesus answered him, ‘It is also written: “Do not put the Lord your God to the test.”’ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ‘All this I will give you,’ he said, ‘if you will bow down and worship me.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Away from me, Satan! For it is written: “Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.”’”

Matthew 4:1-10 (NIV)

In what areas of your life are you not accountable?

4. God has assigned responsibility without removing temptation

Are you overcoming the temptations in your life?

What is the tree in your life that you must avoid?
