

## PURE AND SIMPLE DEVOTION

2 Corinthians 11:3 But I fear that somehow you will be led away from your pure and simple devotion to Christ, just as Eve was deceived by the serpent.

### Led Away By Disdain

Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was the shrewdest of all the creatures the LORD God had made. "Really?" he asked the woman. "Did God really say you must not eat any of the fruit in the garden?"

2 "Of course we may eat it," the woman told him.

3 "It's only the fruit from the tree at the center of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God says we must not eat it or even touch it, or we will die."

4 "You won't die!" the serpent hissed.

5 "God knows that your eyes will be opened when you eat it. You will become just like God, knowing everything, both good and evil."

Isaiah 14:12 "How you are fallen from heaven, O shining star, son of the morning! You have been thrown down to the earth, you who destroyed the nations of the world.

13 For you said to yourself, 'I will ascend to heaven and set my throne above God's stars. I will preside on the mountain of the gods far away in the north.

14 I will climb to the highest heavens and be like the Most High.'

15 But instead, you will be brought down to the place of the dead, down to its lowest depths.

### Why Are We Deceived

I Want My Independence

I Want To Influence Everything

I Want To Indulge Myself

I Want My Own Identity

I Want To Pursue My Interest

I Want The Intelligence Of God

### What We Must Do To Stay Devoted

Be Honest About Our Sin

Ephesians 2:1 Once you were dead, doomed forever because of your many sins.

2 You used to live just like the rest of the world, full of sin, obeying Satan, the mighty prince of the power of the air. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God.

3 All of us used to live that way, following the passions and desires of our evil nature. We were born with an evil nature, and we were under God's anger just like everyone else.

4 But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so very much,

5 that even while we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's special favor that you have been saved!)

6 For he raised us from the dead along with Christ, and we are seated with him in the heavenly realms - all because we are one with Christ Jesus.

7 And so God can always point to us as examples of the incredible wealth of his favor and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us through Christ Jesus.

8 God saved you by his special favor when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God.

9 Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

Proverbs 16:18 Pride goes before destruction, and haughtiness before a fall.

Mark 8:34 Then he called his disciples and the crowds to come over and listen. "If any of you wants to be my follower," he told them, "you must put aside your selfish ambition, shoulder your cross, and follow me.

35 If you try to keep your life for yourself, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will find true life.

### Be Willing To Submit To God

Psalms 18:27 You rescue those who are humble, but you humiliate the proud.

Matthew 23:11 The greatest among you must be a servant.

12 But those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

Philippians 2:3 Don't be selfish; don't live to make a good impression on others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself.

James 4:6 He gives us more and more strength to stand against such evil desires. As the Scriptures say, "God sets himself against the proud, but he shows favor to the humble."

7 So humble yourselves before God. Resist the Devil, and he will flee from you.

### Work At Being A Servant

Matthew 4:8 Next the Devil took him to the peak of a very high mountain and showed him the nations of the world and all their glory.

9 "I will give it all to you," he said, "if you will only kneel down and worship me."

10 "Get out of here, Satan," Jesus told him. "For the Scriptures say, 'You must worship the Lord your God; serve only him.' "

Galatians 5:13 For you have been called to live in freedom - not freedom to satisfy your sinful nature, but freedom to serve one another in love.

James 3:13 If you are wise and understand God's ways, live a life of steady goodness so that only good deeds will pour forth. And if you don't brag about the good you do, then you will be truly wise!

14 But if you are bitterly jealous and there is selfish ambition in your hearts, don't brag about being wise. That is the worst kind of lie.

15 For jealousy and selfishness are not God's kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and motivated by the Devil.

16 For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and every kind of evil.

17 But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and good deeds. It shows no partiality and is always sincere.

18 And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of goodness.

### Don't Be Impatient In Times Of Suffering

1 Peter 5:8 Be careful! Watch out for attacks from the Devil, your great enemy. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for some victim to devour.

9 Take a firm stand against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your Christian brothers and sisters all over the world are going through the same kind of suffering you are.

10 In his kindness God called you to his eternal glory by means of Jesus Christ. After you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation.

## Stay Faithful And Simply Devoted To Christ

Philippians 2:3 Don't be selfish; don't live to make a good impression on others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself.

4 Don't think only about your own affairs, but be interested in others, too, and what they are doing.

5 Your attitude should be the same that Christ Jesus had.

6 Though he was God, he did not demand and cling to his rights as God.

7 He made himself nothing; he took the humble position of a slave and appeared in human form.

8 And in human form he obediently humbled himself even further by dying a criminal's death on a cross.

9 Because of this, God raised him up to the heights of heaven and gave him a name that is above every other name,

10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

11 and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

12 Dearest friends, you were always so careful to follow my instructions when I was with you. And now that I am away you must be even more careful to put into action God's saving work in your lives, obeying God with deep reverence and fear.

13 For God is working in you, giving you the desire to obey him and the power to do what pleases him.

1 Kings 8:60 May people all over the earth know that the LORD is God and that there is no other god.

61 And may you, his people, always be faithful to the LORD our God. May you always obey his laws and commands, just as you are doing today."