

# **Crossland Community Bible Church**

*April 29, 2007*

# Ephesians 6:12-13

- “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against...the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God...”

# **Polishing up Our Armor**

“Patching the holes in our shield of faith”

# “The Eden Journal”

## Chapter 1

1. God said, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”
2. Then God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you.”

# The Eden Journal (cont.)

## Chapter 2

1. And the Lord commanded the man saying, “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely;
2. but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die.”

# The Eden Journal (cont.)

## Chapter 2

(3. God said to the man, “I’m going to give men 4,000 years to learn about women before I command y’all to live with them in an understanding manner. But, because of your unique situation and because I am a just God, I’m going to start you off with one hint... women can strike up conversations with total strangers as easily as you could throw a rock and hit that snake in that tree over there. Well, actually, that’s two hints.”)

# God's Plan

- God desired to give them...
  - Abundant life
  - Overflowing blessing
  - Unending provision
  - The highest of honor
  - Incredible authority
- What could God possibly want in return?...
  - Not a whole lot

# The Enemy's Plan

- Seeks to defeat the divine plan of grace
- Ultimately, Satan wants all that is God's
  - Wants to take God's throne for himself
  - Wants to receive the worship due to God
  - Wants to have God's power
  - Wants God's creation for himself
  - Wants God's children for himself

# The “Father of Lies” (John 8:44)

- Gen 3:1-5

- Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field... And he said to the woman, “Indeed, has God said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree of the garden’?”
- And the woman said, “From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat from it or touch it, lest you die.’”

# The “Father of Lies”

- Gen 3:1-5 (cont.)

- And the serpent said, “You surely shall not die!”
- “For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good from evil.”
- When the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise...

# Ephesians 6:16

- “... in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.”

# Patching the Holes in our Shield of Faith

- Pray
  - For God to overcome your unbelief
  - To see the enemy's flaming arrows coming
  - For each other
- Meditate on God's promises in Scripture
- "Oneness": "Plural" faith vs. "singular" faith
  - Added protection from others' shields
  - Encouragement
- "Hebrew" mindset

## Isaiah 58:13-14 (NLT)

- “If you keep the Sabbath day holy... enjoy the Sabbath... honor the Sabbath, *then*...
  - the Lord will be your delight...
  - I will give you great honor (NAS- I will make you ride on the heights of the earth)...
  - and I will satisfy you with the inheritance I promised your ancestor Jacob. I, the Lord, have spoken!”
  - (and from Ps. 37:4- The desires of your heart.)

# Romans 12:1-2

(NAS and NLT)

- “... present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God. This is truly the way to worship Him. Do not copy the behavior or customs of this world but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then...
  - You will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.”