

## GENESIS 3:1-6 THE DANGER OF DYNAMIC DOUBT

<sup>1</sup> Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

<sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"

<sup>4</sup> "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. <sup>5</sup> "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

<sup>6</sup> When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

Doubt is basically a lack of trust, and therefore, not always a bad thing. If you come upon an ancient bridge spanning a ravine and you are driving an 18-wheeler, the doubt that the bridge will support you will preserve your life. There are many objects, circumstances and people in this world that we should not trust. In retrospect, humankind should have started doubting with the serpent.

Another positive aspect of doubting is that it is an exercise through which we can evaluate our environment. Any relationship demands active interaction and the making of choices.

We can grow in our relationship and faith in God by honestly facing our doubts and opening them up to him. In the garden, humankind's problem was not the doubt but how they responded to the doubt. They were existing in perfect relationship with God, so the proper response to the serpent's suggestion would have been to take it to God and ask for an explanation. Instead they chose to act on the suggestion that God was not to be trusted and that they could elevate themselves.

Doubt is a powerful tool, and therein lays its danger. Like a sharp machete it can cut through the jungle, but it can also cut off your hand. The positive power of doubt is to drive you to God's word in study and God's presence in prayer. Such action will result in your growth as a disciple.

**Use my doubts, O God, to draw me closer to you and to build a better understanding of your will for my life. Please aid me in keeping my focus on you rather than on my selfish desires and ambitions. Amen.**