

## The Fall

### III. THE FALL

**The Tempter effected his purpose by a Question, a Negation, and a Bribe.**

I. *Question.*—He raises in Eve's mind doubts as to the word and goodness of God.

The subtlety of the question is aimed at destroying the blessed fellowship between Eve and her Maker—between God and man.

This is the first step to all sin, when we cast doubts upon the word and goodwill of God.

*"Hath God said?"* was the momentous question asked by the Tempter, and on which hung the tremendous issues of life and death.

And by that one question "the greatest of all revolutions was effected, by which man, made in the image of God, was seduced from his allegiance—a question that has carried with it consequences of which no man can foresee the end."

Eve, instead of resisting, parleys with the Tempter, and so falls within his toils.

Instead of repudiating the temptation with the whole force of her will, she dallies with it, and is lost.

(Sermons with Analysis: For Extemporaneous Preaching... by Harold Ford, London: Elliot Stock, 1910, 20-21, Text Modified)