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# FOLKS Like Us

EVE

“The Slippery Slope of Ingratitude”

Timeless truths from our ancient past,  
for a journey with God in the modern era.

**Fran Sciacca**

## “Folks Like Us” — an introduction

Over the years I’ve written and published a number of Bible studies that collectively have sold well over a half-million copies. They were forged, most of them, in the furnaces of pain, doubt, and loneliness. Maybe that’s why they were well-used, they touched people where they hurt most.

Recently, my publisher decided that they no longer wanted to handle the books that contained these 60 or so individual studies. So, I’ve decided to make them available to any who might benefit from them. At no cost.

I have always believed that because God thought it best to become human in the Incarnation, that perhaps “incarnational truth” was His preferred method of revealing Himself and His purposes to us. I suppose that’s where the basic genre of these studies originated. I wanted to provide believers with Bible studies rooted in our ancestral past. The lives of men and women, who it turns out, are “folks just like us” in so many ways.

So, please take your time and work slowly through as many of these studies as you care to do... there’s a lot of them! And may God use the combination of the struggles and insights of your *ancient* brothers and sisters, combined with those of mine, your modern brother, to help you in your spiritual journey. That is the goal of this project.

Warmly in The Lamb,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fran Sciacca". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fran Sciacca  
Birmingham, AL

# EVE

## “*The Slippery Slope of Resentment*”

**A**BIDING PRINCIPLE – Life becomes increasingly dissatisfying when we fail to maintain a heart of gratitude toward God. And, when we are ungrateful to Him, we are vulnerable to Satan.

*“The beginning of man's rebellion against God was, and is, the lack of a thankful heart.”*  
–Francis Schaeffer

**F**or someone whose name appears only four times in the entire Bible, Eve's life stands as an eternal testimony of the enormous consequences of our choices. The story of this woman, an unnamed serpent, and a forbidden fruit is almost as well known as the stories surrounding its remedy—the birth, death, and resurrection of Yeshua, the Son of God.

Perhaps what is *not* as well known and understood about Eve is the actual starting place of her disastrous choice to disobey God, and the sobering implications for those of us living this side of that fateful garden. Often Satan's most effective work is done *before* we actually choose to sin, when our gaze is led away from what we have to what we don't have.

**KEY SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 3

### STUDY QUESTIONS...

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1. God's description of Satan as "crafty" (NIV) and "subtle" (KJV) in Genesis 3:1 (*other words that could be used are shrewd, cunning, and smooth*) is followed immediately by Satan's first question to Eve. Using this description of Satan as your basis, what most likely is also true about Satan's "agenda" behind his opening question?
  
2. What if Eve's most dangerous temptation was *not* in 3:4-6, as most people think? Let's assume that the *real* temptation to sin was in 3:1-2, to provide possible answers to the following questions:
  - a. How many "categories" of fruit trees did God say there were in the garden, and what were the "rules" associated with each? (see Genesis 2:9,16-17).
  
  - b. How many "categories" did Satan imply there were just by the way he posed his question to Eve? How was his craftiness demonstrated in this question? (see Genesis 3:1).

- c. What does Eve shift her focus *from* and what does she shift her focus *to* in her response? (see Genesis 3:2-3).
  
- d. Now, look back at your answer in 2a. What had Satan successfully achieved in Eve's mind through this one crafty question?
  
3. The only other person to mention Eve in the Bible is the apostle Paul. In 2 Corinthians 11:3 he refers to her as one who was "deceived". Based on what you have discovered so far about what happened to her, would you say Paul was accurate? If so, how? If not, why not? *(Note: The Greek word that the NIV renders "led astray" in 2 Corinthians 11:3 is actually a much, much stronger word. In fact, the NIV renders it "destroy" twice in 1 Corinthians 3:17. The notion of ruin and devastation is here, not just a sense of being slightly off course. What Satan did to Eve is what he desires to do to all believers: steal, kill, and destroy.)*
  
4. In Romans 1:21-32, Paul paints a very graphic description of mankind sliding down a slippery slope away from God. The first steps in that slide are mentioned in verse 21. What are they, and what do you think is involved in each?
  
5. Using everything you've studied so far, answer the following questions as thoroughly and thoughtfully as you can:
  - a. What is ingratitude?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. What major effect can ingratitude have on your life?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. Why is ingratitude so useful to Satan?

d. In what sense did ingratitude factor into the sinful decision Eve made in response to Satan's temptation?

6. Paul talked about "giving thanks" in one way or another nearly *fifty* times in his writings! In almost every case, he is referring to a *verbal* expression of gratitude. What effect do you think actually *speaking* words of thanksgiving will have on our focus? (*Note: Nearly half of Paul's statements about "giving thanks" are in his Corinthian letters, where he was writing to the very people he was cautioning not to follow Eve's example!*)

7. In Philippians 4:11-13, Paul writes of a "secret" he had learned over time. What *was* that secret, and do you see any relationship to having a focus of gratitude?

8. Rate your general attitude on a scale of 1 to 10 in this area of gratitude (1 would be extremely *ungrateful* and 10 would be extremely grateful) and also in the area of contentment (1 would be extremely *discontent* and 10 would be extremely content). Then write out a brief explanation for why you graded yourself the way you did.

a. Gratitude score:

b. Contentment score:

c. Explanation:

9. Take some time right now to reflect on your own life. Under the heading "Forbidden Fruit" below, list the things you *don't have* that often draw your focus away from what you do have. And under the heading "The Rest of the Garden," list several things that you *have* for which you are (or should be) grateful. These can be people or things, spiritual or physical.

"Forbidden Fruit"	"Rest of the Garden"

10. Look over your thoughts in question 9. Pick two areas you need to be more verbally thankful for, and two that you need to turn your focus away from by talking less about them.
11. Write down the name of one person with whom you can share what you have discovered about your focus from this study. Give that person "permission" to help you keep your conversation on the grateful things and away from the ungrateful. Also, write down the time when you will share this with that person.

### SCRIPTURE MEMORY (optional)

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- The priority of gratitude –Psalm 100:4
- The constancy of gratitude – 1 Thessalonians 5:18

### OPTIONAL

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1. There is a very real connection between the act of singing and the task of cultivating a grateful heart. There are nearly 130 verses in the Psalms alone that speak of singing in the context of praise and thanksgiving. David connects these two clearly when he says, *"I will give thanks to the Lord because of his righteousness and will sing praise to the name of the Lord Most High"* (Psalm 7:17). Consider finding a hymn or a contemporary Christian chorus to move your thoughts in the direction of gratitude.
2. Satan only speaks three times in the entire Bible! One, of course, is his encounter with Eve in the passage we just studied. The other two are in his encounter with God over Job (Job 1- 2), and his temptation of Jesus in the wilderness (Matthew 4; Luke 4). Spend some time studying Satan's two other attacks upon the righteous and see if you can see similarities and differences in his "craftiness."