

word, is not far from the atheism that denies His existence. Eve never would have stood by to hear God contradicted, if she had not previously fallen into looseness and indifference as to His word. She too had her "Phases of Faith," or to speak more correctly, her phases of infidelity; she suffered God to be contradicted by a creature simply because His word had lost its proper authority over her heart, and her understanding.

But it is important to observe the mode in which the serpent sought to shake Eve's confidence in God's truth, and thus bring her under the power of infidel "reason." It was by shaking her confidence in God's love. He sought to shake her confidence in what God had said by showing that the testimony was not founded in love. "For," said he, "God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, that your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods knowing good and evil." In other words, "There is positive advantage connected with eating of that fruit of which God is seeking to deprive you, why, therefore, should you believe God's testimony? You cannot place confidence in one, who, manifestly, does not love you, for, if He loved you, why should He prohibit your enjoying a positive privilege?" Eve's security against the influence of all this reasoning would have been simple repose in the infinite goodness of God. She should