

Why is this? It is because so many people have got very exaggerated ideas as to what belief in God really means.

Let us go back to the Garden of Eden, where God walked and conversed with our first parents. Did they believe in God? I think I hear you say, "What a question! Of course they did; why, God spoke to them personally." But did they? I think not!

They believed in a God, for, as you say, He conversed with them; but did they believe what He said? Did they believe in Him?

I will suppose you to know Mr. A., who lives in your town—you have spoken to him many times. One day he said to you, "I heard you were going to give up your position—is that so?"

"Yes, that is my intention; I shall get more wages where I am going."

"Well," said Mr. A., "I would advise you not to make the change; that man is going to fail, then you will be out of work. I'd stay where you are if I were you."

Now, if you had believed Mr. A., or believed in his good-will towards you, you would have acted on his advice; but you did not. Instead, you went to another friend, who, as it happened, wanted to get the position you then held. You told him what Mr. A. had said, and he flatly contradicted it, said it was not so, and that you would be all right in making the change. His advice being according to your desires, you followed it, to your own undoing. You believed him because he advised you to follow your own inclinations.

This was very much the case with our first parents. God advised them to a certain course and told them what would happen if they deviated therefrom.

Satan came along and appealed to their desires—