

necessary food. He could not misquote or mis-apply the word, neither could He be indifferent about it. Not so Eve. She added to the word of God. His command was simple enough, "Thou shalt not eat of it." To this Eve adds her own words, "Neither shall ye touch it." He had said nothing about touching, so that whether her misquotation was from ignorance or indifference, or a desire to represent God in an arbitrary light, or all three together, it is plain that she was entirely off the true ground of simple confidence in and subjection to God's Holy Word. "By the words of thy mouth I have kept me from the paths of the destroyer."

There is blessing in every act of obedience; but the moment the soul hesitates, the enemy has the advantage, and he will, assuredly, use it to thrust the soul further and further from God. Thus in the chapter before us, the question "Hath God said?" was followed by "Ye shall not surely die." That is to say, there is first the question raised, as to whether God had spoken, and then followed the open contradiction of what God had said. This solemn fact is abundantly sufficient to show how dangerous it is to admit near the heart a question as to divine revelation in its fulness and integrity. A refined rationalism is very near akin to bold infidelity; and the infidelity that dares to judge God's