

**"YEA, HATH GOD SAID, YE SHALL NOT
EAT OF EVERY TREE OF THE
GARDEN" (GENESIS 3, 1.)**

This was Satan's crafty enquiry, and had the word of God been dwelling richly in Eve's heart, her answer might have been direct, simple and conclusive. The true way in which to meet Satan's questions and suggestions, is to treat them as his, and repel them by the word. To admit the question, "hath God said?" when I know God has spoken, is positive infidelity, and the very fact of my admitting it, proves my total incapacity to meet it. Hence in Eve's case, the form of her reply evidenced the fact that she admitted to her heart the serpent's crafty enquiry. Instead of adhering strictly to the exact words of God, she, in her reply, actually adds thereto.

Now either to add to or take from God's word proves, very clearly, that His word is not dwelling in my heart, or governing my conscience. If a man is finding his enjoyment in obedience, if it is his meat and his drink, if he is living by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of Jehovah, he will, assuredly, be acquainted with, and fully alive to, his word. He could not be indifferent to it. The Lord Jesus, in His conflict with Satan, accurately applied the word, because He lived upon it, and esteemed it more than His