

In fact, it should be noted that the existence of a capability for a particular action is an essential precondition for a genuine testing of a human being's response to temptation toward that action, whether the response be positive or negative. Without the capability of a positive response to the temptation (i.e., by yielding to it), Adam and Eve's probationary test would have been no test at all.

Thus the concept of success in resisting the temptation is dependent for its meaning on the real existence of a capability of falling, as well as a capability of not falling.

f. The capability of falling remained purely a neutral power until it was exercised in the crucial character confirming or character-depraving response to the temptation.

Genesis 2:16,17 -- "And the Lord God commanded the man, saying 'From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die.'"

Genesis 3:1-13 -- "Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, 'indeed, has God said, "You shall not eat from any tree of the garden"?' And the woman said to the serpent, 'From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, "You shall not eat from it or touch it, lest you die." ' And the serpent said to the woman, 'You surely shall not die! For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings. And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. Then the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' And he said, 'I heard the sound of Thee in the garden and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself.' And He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' And the man said, 'The woman whom Thou gavest to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate.' Then the Lord God said to the woman, 'What is this you have done?' And the woman said, 'The serpent deceived me, and I ate.' "

Genesis 3:17-19 -- "Then to Adam He said, 'Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and you have eaten from the tree about which I Commanded you, saying, "You shall not eat from it;"

Cursed is the ground because of you;
In toil you shall eat of it