

Chapter Two

The Question That Changed Everything

Every story has a turning point.

The turning point of Eden was not a piece of fruit.

It was a question.

“Did God really say...?”

At first glance, the question seems innocent.

It sounds like an invitation to think more carefully.

But hidden within those few words was the oldest temptation humanity has ever faced.

The serpent was not primarily questioning God’s command.

He was questioning God’s character.

Can the One who created you really be trusted?

Does He truly desire your flourishing?

Is His goodness as complete as it appears?

Or, is He withholding something essential from you?

That ancient conversation has never ended.

Its echoes still whisper through every generation.

Can God really be trusted?

Will He still love me if I fail?

Must I earn what He freely offers?

Will He eventually grow weary of me?

Is His grace enough?

These questions reveal that Eden is not merely behind us.

Its struggle continues within us.

Notice what happened next.

The moment trust gave way to suspicion; humanity’s eyes were opened—but not in the way they expected.

They became aware of themselves.

The first thing they saw was not God.

It was their own vulnerability.

Shame entered quietly.
Fear followed close behind.
And love, though unchanged, suddenly seemed uncertain.
Nothing in the Father's heart had shifted.
The change occurred within the hearts of His children.
The One who had always delighted in walking with them now appeared frightening.
Not because He had become less loving...
But because fear had distorted their vision.
How often have we done the same?
We imagine disappointment where there is compassion.
We expect rejection where there is welcome.
We brace ourselves for punishment when the Father's heart is already moving toward restoration.
Fear has a remarkable ability to rewrite the face of Love.
It convinces us that distance exists where communion is being offered.
It whispers that hiding is safer than honesty.
It persuades us that our coverings are more dependable than grace.
So Adam and Eve stitched together fig leaves.
Not because God demanded them.
Because shame did.
Humanity has been sewing fig leaves ever since.
We hide behind achievement.
Behind religion.
Behind knowledge.
Behind success.
Behind failure.
Behind carefully constructed identities.
Anything that keeps us from standing uncovered before Love.
Yet the Father does something astonishing.
He comes walking.

He does not wait for humanity to find its way back.

He moves toward those who are hiding.

The sound of His footsteps fills the garden.

The same footsteps that once brought delight now awaken fear.

What changed?

Not the Father.

Only the story humanity had begun telling itself about Him.

Then comes one of the most beautiful questions in all of Scripture.

“Where are you?”

The Creator is not asking for information.

Love never asks unnecessary questions.

He is inviting awareness.

He is calling His children out of hiding.

He is saying, in effect,

“My beloved, where has fear taken you?

Where has shame convinced you to live?

Come out...

You no longer need to hide from Me.”

Perhaps every page of Scripture after Eden is another expression of that same invitation.

Prophets.

Priests.

Kings.

Poets.

Wisdom.

The Tabernacle.

The Temple.

The Incarnation.

The Cross.

The empty tomb.

Pentecost.

Each speaks with one voice.

“Come out.

Come home.

I am still here.”

The tragedy of Eden was never that the Father stopped drawing near.

The tragedy was that humanity believed He had.

The Gospel begins where that lie finally ends.

I AM still here...

[<<< PREVIOUS](#) --- [NEXT >>>](#)