Our scripture this morning comes from Genesis 3:2-5. While you’re finding that, three preachers were discussing the best position for prayer, while a powerline technician worked nearby. "Kneeling is definitely best,” said the Methodist preacher. The Pentecostal shook his head, “No, I get the best results standing with my hands outstretched to Heaven.” The Baptist shook his head, “You're both wrong! The most effective prayer position is lying, flat face down before God." The three looked at the repairman. “What do you say young man?” He smiled and said, “Fella’s, the best prayin' I ever did was hangin' upside down from a power pole.”

**Genesis 3:2-5 And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; 3 but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’4 Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”**

I want to focus this morning on verses 4 and 5. This is as relevant today as it’s ever been. We’re with Eve in the garden this morning talking to the serpent. The serpent represents Satan. Listen to verse 4 – You will not surely die. God has told Adam and Eve that the curse of death will fall upon them if they eat. Satan contradicts God. This world contradicts God!

In John 14:6 we read, “Jesus said to him, I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” No lack of clarity there. Yet, the world looks at us and says – does God really say that? It works to try to convince us that there are many ways to God. As clear as God saying, “You will surely die”, God is saying, “My Son is the only way.” Yet, the world is working to place doubt in our minds.

Not long ago, I talked with someone who believed that there were many ways to God. She looked at me with what I call mooney eyes and said, “Everyone has their own truth.” She told me that she didn’t believe in Hell. She said, “I just can’t see a God of Love sending anyone to Hell.” I shared John 14:6. I shared Matthew 10:28 - And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. She attends a Christian church, but rejects Christ’s I Am statement. She believes that God is Love, but rejects the words of Jesus confirming Hell? This is Satan’s work. God gives us clear information and Satan works to cause us to doubt. She quoted self-help books and new age gurus to back up her point. She talked about how her heart just knew and I reminded her of Jeremiah 17:9 that says the heart is deceitful and desperately wicked. Proverbs 14:12 that says the way of a man seems right to him, but leads to death. Finally, she said, “The Bible can be used to justify anything.” Satan is the father of lies and a master of deceit.

We rebel against God’s teachings. Go into any bookstore, look at the rows upon rows of current books claiming to interpret God’s word in new ways. But, I am reminded of 2 Peter 1:20 that says “that knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation.” Solomon warned us thousands of years ago in Ecclesiastes 12:12 “And further my son, be admonished by these. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is wearisome to the flesh.” Much study is wearisome to the FLESH. Our flesh rebels and struggles to find a way that God’s commandments are wrong, and we become wearied in the flesh. If we remain in the Spirit, studying our Bible, meditating on the things of Jesus, our Flesh will stay strong. When we begin to look for worldly answers in worldly places, our flesh weakens and we become unplugged from our Source – the One true God.

In verse 5, we see Satan appeal to pride. He knows it’s the place that we’re all weakest. Why does God hate pride, why does He resist the proud? Because pride separates us from Him. Verse 5 - For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil. Satan knows that deep down, we’re selfish and want our way. We don’t like it when we don’t get our way. Look at a toddler when his path is blocked to keep him from pulling the Christmas tree down. Watch a teen who’s been given rules. Watch an adult who’s been told no.

Pride causes us to think we know better than God. This lady I was speaking to wanted her choices to be acceptable, her thoughts to be right even when they contradict God! Satan convinces people that what they feel is right, what the world tells them is right, what they hear in school is right, what the talk shows say is right and deceived people don’t stop and go back to the Source, the proven Truth of God’s Word.

In Amos 5:4, we’re told to seek God and live. We must not seek what the preacher says because he might be wrong. We must not seek what our educated friend says – she may be deceived. Matthew 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. We seek God through the Bible, communion with believers, and prayer and meditation. If God commanded it, it’s truth. Satan will accuse God of lying and trying to hold us down. Satan knew that, when our eyes opened, we too would rebel against God, we too would be separated – Misery LOVES company. Don’t allow yourself to become Satan’s company this year. He’s forever separated from God. Through Jesus, we can be reunited. We must not buy the devil’s deception. We must stay plugged in to the Truth this year!