

Genesis 2:16-17

And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

The story goes that there was a manager of a 20-story hotel that sat right off of the ocean. This manager would go up to the higher floors of the hotel and while standing on the balcony, looking at the ocean, he thought to himself that people, (especially guys) will see this and want to fish off of the balconies. He thought what better way to fish than from the comfort of your hotel room. He also thought how dangerous this could be if people did, after all, those sitting on the balconies below could get stuck with a hook or something. So what he did is he put signs up on the balconies that said, "*No fishing from the balcony*".

Well, soon after he did, he noticed an increase in the number of windows that were being broken. After a little investigative work, he soon discovered that people had started fishing off of the balconies, and as they cast their lines out, the weights on the lines would crash into the windows below. So to solve the problem, he removed the signs and people stopped fishing from the balconies, and windows were no longer being broken.

I don't know if this is a true story or not, but it very well could be.

Now think about today's devotional verses, where God said, ***of every tree of the garden you may freely eat***. Think about it, we sometimes think of only two trees in the garden, "the tree of life", and "the tree of the knowledge of good and evil". But there were way more than just the two trees in the garden. There were probably hundreds of thousands of trees and plants that Adam and Eve could have eaten from (***of every tree of the garden you may freely eat***) Yet only ONE tree that they could not eat from (***but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat.***) And not only one tree that they could not eat from, but also the reason why they couldn't eat from it, because ***for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die***.

You may think, "*Well that's Adam and Eve and they just messed up.*"

No, it wasn't just a one-time thing. We have all done it. We have all been told at times that we can't have something and why we can't have it. But what do we do? Right, we want it even more, even if it is bad for us.

I've met people who will outright say that if someone says they can't do or have something, then they will go out and do it or get it. Just because they were told they couldn't. A lot of times people don't think of the consequences of their disobedience to God or what they are told, even though scripture clearly tells us what the consequences are, like being unequally yoked with a non believer, yet some go out looking for a non believer to date or marry.

† **2 Corinthians 6:14** *Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with*

darkness?

The bible speaks of sex outside of marriage and adultery and even tells of the consequences.

† **Proverbs 5:3-5** *For the lips of an immoral woman drip honey, and her mouth is smoother than oil; But in the end she is bitter as wormwood, Sharp as a two-edged sword. Her feet go down to death, her steps lay hold of hell.*

It even speaks of tithing and the results of tithing:

† **Malachi 3:10** *Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this," Says the LORD of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it.*

And of not tithing:

† **Haggai 1:6** *"You have sown much, and bring in little; You eat, but do not have enough; You drink, but you are not filled with drink; You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; And he who earns wages, earns wages to put into a bag with holes."*

So, what has God been telling you “No” about lately, yet you just have to have it?

† **James 4:3** *You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.*