

# Five Ways to Keep the Glory in Your Garden

## Genesis 3:1–24 | Bridge Fellowship Church

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Before we open Genesis chapter 3, I want to take you somewhere.

Before the shame. Before the hiding. Before the blame-shifting and the broken relationship and the exile from the garden.

I want to take you to the moment just before all of that.

Because Genesis 3 doesn't open in chaos. It opens in perfection.

And if you don't feel the weight of what was lost — you won't feel the weight of what's at stake.

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God had just finished building the world. Six days of creative work — and everything He made was good. The heavens. The earth. The seas. The living creatures. All of it — good.

On Day 6, He made man. Not just another creature. Man was made in His image. Made to rule. Made to steward. Man reflected the glory of God in the earth. And had the very breath of God's life in him.

God looked at everything He had made — and said it was *very* good.

Then He rested. Not because He was tired. But because He was finished.

Then we zoom in. God plants a garden in Eden. A private hamlet. And He places the man there.

Not just any garden. The most carefully curated environment in all of creation. Trees that were beautiful to look at. Trees that produced food. A river that watered the whole land. Gold. Precious stones. Everything a man could need — it was already there.

God didn't just give Adam a job. He gave Adam a home.

Then He gave him something even better.

He brought him a wife. Eve — his corresponding one. Bone of his bone. Flesh of his flesh. Someone to stand beside him. Someone to work alongside him. A partner in every sense of the word.

And they stood before each other naked and unashamed.

No hiding. No insecurity. No distance. No walls.

Just transparency and acceptance for who they were.

But that's still not the best part. The best part isn't the garden.

The best part is who was in the garden with them.

**God.**

Their Creator walked with them. Talked with them. He was present with them.

They didn't just have provision. They didn't just have purpose. They didn't just have each other.

They had the presence of God.

Heaven on earth. That was their reality.

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And then — **Genesis 3, verse 1.**

*"Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the wild animals that the LORD God had made."*

Something has arrived that doesn't belong here.

The garden is still perfect. The provision is still there. The presence of God hasn't left.

But there is now something in this garden working against everything God built.

And what happens next will change everything — not just for Adam and Eve, but for every human being who has ever lived.

This is not just their story.

**This is your story.**

Because just like Adam and Eve had a garden — you have a garden too.

And just like something showed up in theirs — something is always trying to get into yours.

Here are five ways to keep the glory in your garden.

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## 1. Treasure It Above All Else

*Genesis 2:8–9, 15–17, 25*

Before the serpent showed up — before any of this went sideways — Adam and Eve had everything.

And they didn't know it.

That's the tragedy hiding inside the tragedy.

It wasn't just that they sinned. It's that they sinned against a life that was already more than enough.

That's a very human problem. Because we do the same thing.

There are three things that will make you forget how good your garden actually is.

**The first is familiarity.** When you wake up in the same garden long enough, you stop seeing it as a garden. What God gave you starts to feel routine. You stop treating it like a gift and start treating it like it's just the norm.

**The second is comparison.** You take your eyes off your garden and start eyeing somebody else's. Their marriage looks easier. Their career is moving faster. Their church is growing bigger. And before you know it,

the garden God assigned to your hands starts looking insufficient. Not because it changed — because your desire did.

**The third is entitlement.** The quiet shift from *"God, thank You for this"* to *"I deserve better than this."* When entitlement sets in, you stop stewarding God's grace and start acting like it owes you something.

Familiarity makes you blind. Comparison makes you bitter. Entitlement makes you nonchalant.

Where you are right now — that's your garden. It may not be everything you want yet. It may not look the way you thought it would. But it's yours. God gave it to you.

So rejoice in it. Appreciate it. **Treasure it.**

Because the moment you stop treasuring what God gave you — you become vulnerable to every voice that tells you it's not enough.

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## 2. Be Careful Who You Let Speak Into Your Life

*Genesis 3:1–5*

God gave Adam and Eve everything — with one restriction. Just one.

*"But you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for on the day you eat from it, you will certainly die."* — Genesis 2:17

Don't eat — and live with Me forever. Eat — and you will surely die.

How could anyone misunderstand that?

Eve started listening to something she had no business listening to — a talking animal. A. Talking. Animal. That alone should have been enough to make her turn around and walk away. But instead of walking away, she gave it an audience.

Unbeknownst to her, she's in conversation with Satan himself. A fallen angel, bent on destroying humanity and dethroning God.

And what does he do? He doesn't tell her to reject God. He gets her to **question** God. He gets her to doubt just how good she had it. He convinces her that her life would be even better — if only she could be like God.

That's the hidden desire Satan uses against her. Because if he can get her to eat, Eden comes crashing down, and mankind — God's crowning achievement — will be at war with their Creator.

Here's what you need to see.

Satan had no business getting that close to Eve's ear. But she gave him permission. She engaged the conversation.

And here's why — she was so focused on what she didn't have that she couldn't see that everything she already had was everything she needed.

**That's how the wrong voice works. It never sounds wrong — until the consequences show up.**

Some of you are in that position right now. It could be a friend. A social media influencer. A boss or coworker. A relative. A podcast that sounds spiritual but slowly pulls you away from Scripture. A belief system that tells you God wants you happy more than He wants you holy.

You think it's helping you — but it's really harming you.

Be on guard for anything or anyone that makes you think your garden isn't complete. That your life could be so much better if only you had that one thing that's lacking.

That voice is not from God.

And it has no business in your garden.

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### 3. Protect What God Has Given You and Leave Forbidden Things Alone

*Genesis 3:6*

God commanded them not to eat. Satan enticed them to eat. And despite knowing God's Word — and only ever experiencing Him as their gracious provider — they obeyed a smooth-talking, forked-tongue devil instead of the God who made them.

Eve ate. Adam ate. Both of them — equally guilty.

All they had to do was keep their hands off what wasn't theirs to have in the first place.

But once Satan got in their ear, the forbidden fruit became more tantalizing than everything else. He convinced Eve she could obtain wisdom that wasn't hers to possess — wisdom that belonged to God alone.

And here's what made it possible — he chatted her up first. He got her talking. He found out what she wanted. And then he used her own desire against her.

Which means this — **not everybody needs to know your business.**

When you confide in the wrong person, you hand Satan a weapon he will absolutely use against you.

Think of your relationships as concentric circles. Not everyone gets the same level of access to you — and they shouldn't.

**Circle 1 — You and God.** Full access. No exceptions. Your thoughts, your fears, your failures, your desires — all of it, open before God. Every other circle flows from this one. If this circle is broken, every circle outside of it will be compromised.

**Circle 2 — Your Spouse.** Spiritual access. Emotional access. Financial access. Romantic access. Mental access. What's off limits to everyone else is open to them. And what happens in this circle is not content for friends, family, social media, or your small group.

**Circle 3 — Parents and Family.** They can speak into your character and your growth. But they do not get access to the inner workings of your marriage. They don't need the details of your arguments or your love life. Love them. Honor them. But your marriage is not their jurisdiction. God said it clearly — *"For this reason a man leaves his father and mother, bonds with his wife, and they become one flesh."* One indivisible whole.

**Circle 4 — Close Friends and Accountability Partners.** Fellow believers who can ask you hard questions and challenge you when you're drifting. But they do not get access to the intimate details of your marriage or your spouse's private struggles. A good friend knows where the line is — and honors it.

**Circle 5 — Your Church Family.** They should know enough about your life to pray for you and walk with you. But church is community — not confessional. Not everyone in the pew needs to know what's happening in your living room.

**Circle 6 — Everyone Else.** Coworkers. Acquaintances. The public. They see your witness and your character. Proximity is not intimacy. Just because someone sits next to you five days a week doesn't mean they've earned the right to speak into your life.

Every problem Eve had in Genesis 3 was an access problem.

She gave a voice from the outermost circle access to the innermost parts of her life. The serpent had no business speaking into her relationship with God. But she let him in. And once he was in — he went straight for the center.

**Guard your circles.** Not everyone who wants access has earned it. And not everyone who has access should keep it.

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Now there's something in this text that every husband needs to hear.

Where was Adam during all of this?

While Satan was talking to Eve — where was Adam? While Eve was fumbling what God had said — where was Adam? While the fruit was being considered, desired, and finally eaten — where was Adam?

**He was right there.**

That's what makes this so tragic.

Adam was present but passive. He was there — but he did not protect. He failed to lead his wife.

God gave Adam a job — exercise rule, oversight, and dominion in the garden. That responsibility included guarding what God had entrusted to him. And he failed. He let deception unfold right in front of him. And when his wife was pulled away — he followed her into sin instead of protecting her with God's truth.

Brothers — that has been our problem ever since.

It is your responsibility to protect your wife. Protect her intellectually. Protect her emotionally. Protect her spiritually. Protect her physically. In every way she needs protecting — that is your job.

Ephesians 5 makes it plain. The husband is to love his wife like Christ loved the church. You don't just live with her — you lead her. You don't just enjoy her — you nourish her. You don't just stand beside her — you protect her, even if that means protecting her from herself.

Your family needs you present *and* engaged.

Don't be Adam.

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## 4. Make No Mistake — Failure in Your Garden Always Brings Consequences

*Genesis 3:7–14, 16–24*

They ate. And the moment they did — everything changed.

Immediately, shame overwhelmed them. For the first time they saw each other differently. They saw wrong. They saw guilt. They saw what sin had done.

**And that's what sin always does.**

Sin makes you hide. Sin makes you cover. Sin makes you try to repair with human effort what only God can redeem.

And once sin gets in — nothing stays untouched.

*It touched their oneness first.* Verse 7 — they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. Shame severed what had once been whole. What was marked by openness and unity is now fractured by guilt and exposure.

*Then it damaged their relationship with God.* Verse 8 — they hid from the LORD among the trees of the garden. Instead of running to Him — they ran from Him. Sin doesn't just divide us from each other. It drives a wedge between us and God.

And yet — at this point you might expect God to drop the hammer. He's all-knowing. He knows exactly what they did. But that's not what God does. Verse 9 — He asks:

*"Where are you?"*

In His mercy, He comes asking questions. Not because He lacks information — but because He is giving them an opportunity to own their wrong.

But instead of owning it — they deflect.

Verse 12 — Adam says, *"The woman You gave to be with me — she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate."*

He points at Eve. And notice who else he points at — *"The woman You gave me."* He's blaming God.

Not too long ago, Adam, you were praising God. *"At last — bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh."* You gave her your name. Now she's the problem?

Then verse 13 — Eve says, *"The serpent deceived me, and I ate."*

And isn't that just like us? We are so quick to point the finger at somebody else instead of at ourselves. We would rather shift the blame than own it and say, *"God, it was me. I sinned against You. Forgive me."*

Sinful, self-reliant hearts always look for a way out.

So God moves to consequences.

He goes to the source first. He addresses the serpent — *"Because of what you have done — you will be cursed above every creature."* And to this day there is something in people that recoils at a snake. That curse still echoes.

Then He turns to the woman. Her labor pains would be intensified. What was meant to be life-giving would now also be marked by pain. And — *"her desire will be for your husband, yet he will rule over her."* Sin introduced tension into the marriage relationship. What was once marked by harmony would now be marked by friction — overbearing women and passive men. Both still echoing today. Both the result of the fall.

Then God turns to Adam. Because he listened to his wife instead of God — because he failed to lead and protect — the ground itself would be cursed because of him. Before sin, the garden provided in abundance. Now the earth would resist him. Thorns. Thistles. Exhaustion. We still feel that curse today.

And yet — even in the middle of judgment — **grace shows up.**

Adam and Eve tried to cover themselves. Their covering was insufficient. So God, in mercy, covered them Himself — with garments made from animal skin.

When sin exposes us — only God can truly cover us.

Then God drives them out of the garden. And even that is mercy. He sends them out so they won't eat from the tree of life and live forever trapped in a fallen condition — sin without redemption. Even in exile, God is still protecting them from a worse fate.

Here's what you need to know: **sin comes with consequences. But you don't get to choose what they are. You only get to choose whether or not you sin.**

Once you step outside God's boundaries — the fallout is out of your hands.

This isn't God being cruel. It's God being honest. A good Father doesn't pretend disobedience doesn't matter.

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## **5. Take Heart — Your Failure Is Not Final. God Promises Restoration.**

*Genesis 3:15*

Some of you are reading this and you've already failed.

You've already let the wrong voice in. You've already stopped protecting what God gave you. You're already living in the consequences.

And the enemy wants you to believe that's the end of your story. That God is done with you.

**But He's not.**

Because even in Genesis 3 — even in the worst chapter of human history — God does not leave His people without a promise.

Look at verse 15. God turns to the serpent and says:

*"I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring."*

Satan — there will forever be war between you and humanity. You will keep trying to destroy those made in God's image. But God will preserve a people for Himself.

And then the promise narrows. God points to one specific Offspring still to come.

*"He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."*

Satan — there is One who is coming. He will crush you. You will wound Him — but you will not defeat Him. You will strike His heel — but He will crush your head. And when your head is crushed — your defeat is certain.

That Offspring is **Jesus Christ**.

Born of a woman. The only Son of God. This is what theologians call the *protoevangelium* — the first announcement of the Gospel in all of Scripture. The first promise that a Redeemer is on the way.

After all the sin. After all the blame-shifting. After all the ruin brought into God's good creation — God does not walk away. He does not say, *"I am done with you."*

Right in the middle of judgment — **He gives a promise**. As if God is saying, *"I am not finished with humanity. I still have a plan. I want you as my glory producers."*

Doesn't that tell you something about God's heart for us?

He knows our end from the beginning. He knows we will go the way of Adam and Eve again and again — and yet in His grace He sent His Son. To live the sinless life we could never live. To die the death we deserved to die. And because Christ laid down His life — and rose again in victory — everyone who repents and believes in Him receives eternal life.

Through Christ — what was lost in the garden will one day be fully restored. We will eat from the tree of life. We will dwell with our Creator in the new creation — the better garden — where sin and death and Satan will be no more.

**Our God did not leave us in our sin. He made a way to bring us home to Him.**

Jesus is our way home.

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## **Where Are You?**

God is asking you the same question He asked Adam in that garden — *"Where are you?"*

Not where you wish you were. Not where you pretend to be. Where are you actually?

If you've been ungrateful for what He's given you — tell Him. If you've been listening to voices that have no business in your garden — name them. If you've stopped protecting what He entrusted to you — own it. If you're already living in the consequences — face them.

And if you've never surrendered your life to Jesus — if you've been trying to cover your own sin with your own fig leaves, doing it your way, on your terms — today is the day to stop hiding.

The same God who came looking for Adam is looking for you right now.

He's not waiting for you to clean yourself up. He's not waiting for you to earn your way in.

He already made the way through faith in His Son, Jesus the Christ. He is King of kings, Lord of lords.

And all He's asking is — *"Where are you?"*

**Answer Him.**

He didn't walk away from Adam and Eve. He's not walking away from you. Right in the middle of their mess — He made a promise. He covered their shame. He made a way home.

That's the same God standing in front of you right now.

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*This message was preached at Bridge Fellowship Church in Raleigh, NC. To watch the full sermon, visit [bridgefellowshipchurch.com](http://bridgefellowshipchurch.com) or subscribe on YouTube. Join us Sundays at 10:00 AM — 3060 Hammond Business Place, Suite 121, Raleigh, NC 27603.*