

Words We Speak - "Snake Talk"

Nine Biblical Truths by Dr. Bob Abramson

"Snake Talk": First Biblical Example - Eve and the Serpent

(Genesis 3:1-5 NKJV) "Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'" {2} 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.""

The serpent had a motive for engaging the woman (Eve) in a conversation. His reason for doing so was to tempt her to doubt God's Word, and disrespect His person.

"Snake talk" is defined as allowing yourself to enter into a conversation that will tempt you to do the wrong thing, or not to do the right thing.

Engaging in "snake talk" will always harm you, whether when you choose to listen or to speak. The serpent enticed Eve into an ungodly conversation. Her agreement to join the serpent in "snake talk" cancelled her blessings and repositioned her into a place of vulnerability. She was about to lose what God had given her, along with her husband Adam to tend and keep. It was the first biblical example of classic "snake talk." It set a precedent that has continued through the ages. The temptation was taken. Eve joined the snake in questioning God's authority. It could have stopped there, but Adam's refusal to act on his responsibility to stop the "snake talk" effectively sanctioned sin's entry into the world. His inaction hurt not only Eve, but also everyone who would ever be born into the human race.

Since that day, nothing much has changed. The pattern was established and now humanity faces the reality of having to live with a sin nature in an evil, corrupt world. “Snake talk” birthed disaster, destruction and death for the ages that would follow. All this occurred because the first couple agreed to “snake talk.” As you read this, you will easily recall so many examples of these destructive consequences. There are far too many to mention here, but a few would be wars, rumors of war, gossip, jealous talk and selfish actions. Then, of course, there are the complaints, and prideful demands we make for what we think we are entitled to or deserve.

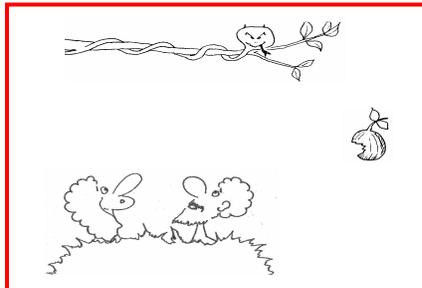
The Lie of “Snake Talk”

Paraphrase of the Serpent’s Words in Genesis 3

“Eating that delicious tasting fruit won’t really hurt you. You just know it will feel good to eat it. I doubt if you will really die from eating that delicious looking fruit. Perhaps you are putting too much value in what God requires. It will be OK if you ignore His commandment not to eat it.”

“Snake talk” - **Never** a Two-person Conversation

The devil always has his part in deceiving you and taking you away from God’s blessings and His will... **IF** you allow him to, by listening, agreeing with, and contributing to what he says.



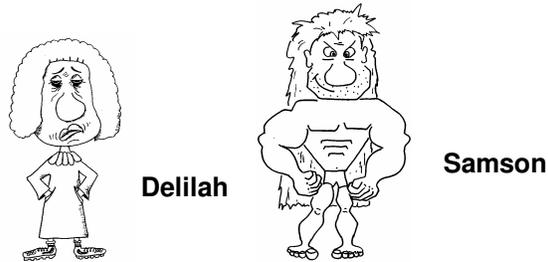
“Snake talk” is a conversation that invites you to believe a lie because it promises to make you feel good. It promises to make you feel that you are invulnerable to the consequences of accepting the temptation. It always aims to get you to disregard or discount the authority of God and His Word. What it neglects to tell you is the long-term consequences will far outweigh the short-term feelings. “Snake talk” is always a path to death.

Proverbs 4:19 NKJV) “The way of the wicked is like darkness; They do not know what makes them stumble.”

1. The temptation of “snake talk” is a killer. Kill it before it kills you!
2. The only thing that will kill temptation is the fear of the Lord.

TRUTHS

“Snake Talk”: Second Biblical Example: Samson and Delilah



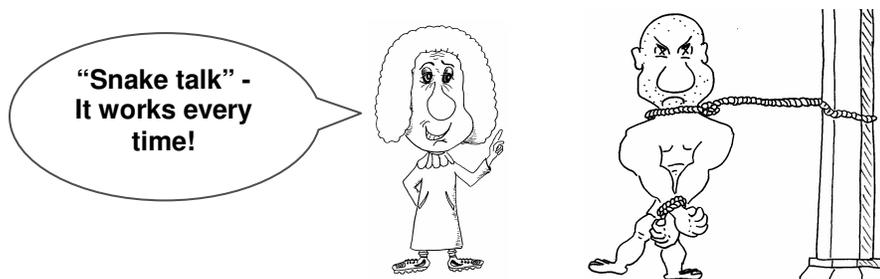
(Judges 16:4-7 NKJV) “Afterward it happened that he loved a woman in the Valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah. {5} And the lords of the Philistines came up to her and said to her, “Entice him, and find out where his great strength lies, and by what means we may overpower him, that we may bind him to afflict him; and every one of us will give you eleven hundred pieces of silver.” {6} So Delilah said to Samson, “Please tell me where your great strength lies, and with what you may be bound to afflict you.” {7} And Samson said to her, “If they bind me with seven fresh bowstrings, not yet dried, then I shall become weak, and be like any other man.””

Two characteristics of Samson and Delilah’s “snake talk” are noteworthy. First, like the serpent in the garden, Delilah used spoken words to entice Samson. Second, he entered into the conversation. Take note of the parallel between the two narratives. In the Garden of Eden and now with Samson and Delilah, the victim agreed to enter into a conversation.

As you read the Delilah narrative, it becomes obvious that the tempter will not stop her efforts to bring Samson down. It is

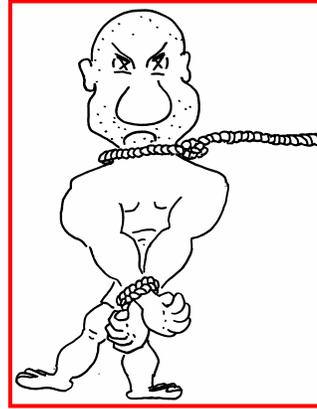
equally obvious that Samson responds without regard to God, and with a prideful arrogance and a sense of invincibility. Both are displays of his carnal nature, which replaced his humility and common sense. Consequently, Samson lost his fear of the Lord... and ultimately, his life.

(Judges 16:16-21 NKJV) “And it came to pass, when she pestered him daily with her words and pressed him, so that his soul was vexed to death, {17} that he told her all his heart, and said to her, “No razor has ever come upon my head, for I have been a Nazirite to God from my mother’s womb. If I am shaven, then my strength will leave me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man.” {18} When Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines, saying, “Come up once more, for he has told me all his heart.” So the lords of the Philistines came up to her and brought the money in their hand. {19} Then she lulled him to sleep on her knees, and called for a man and had him shave off the seven locks of his head. Then she began to torment him, and his strength left him. {20} And she said, “The Philistines are upon you, Samson!” So he awoke from his sleep, and said, “I will go out as before, at other times, and shake myself free!” But he did not know that the LORD had departed from him. {21} Then the Philistines took him and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza. They bound him with bronze fetters, and he became a grinder in the prison.”



It is clear that biblical principles do not vary. They are timeless. Samson joined Delilah in “snake talk,” and here were the results.

- He was snake-bitten with pride and arrogance.
- He was captured by the power of their “snake talk, and then blinded.” The reverse is equally true. He was blinded by the power of their “snake talk,” and then captured. The two actions work simultaneously to defeat the person who disregards the fear of the Lord.
- “Snake talk” is sneaky. Samson was blinded him to his own vulnerability. He never saw it coming.



3. Be careful that you do not get enticed to expose your heart to the heartless.
4. When you embrace sin and disregard the fear of the Lord, you can no longer depend on God’s presence or protection.

TRUTHS

The Manifestation of a Fool

Engaging in “snake talk” is the manifestation of a fool. It is designed to tempt you to do what you know you should not do... and not do what you know you should do. Everyone is vulnerable. Do not think anyone, no matter how powerful, anointed or wise, is above or immune to it. **Why did this happen?**

 **HE HAD LOST HIS FEAR OF THE LORD.**

“Snake Talk”: Third Biblical Example: Potiphar’s Wife

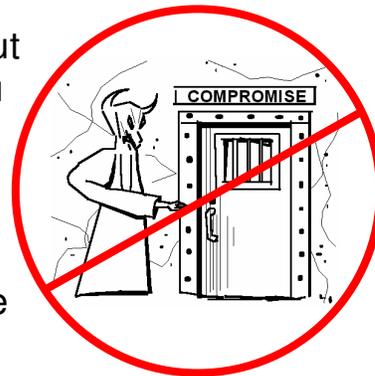
A prime biblical example of the proper way to stomp on “snake talk” is Joseph’s words and actions as he responds to the temptation offered by Potiphar’s wife. This example is found in Genesis 39:

*(Genesis 39:7-12 NKJV) “And it came to pass after these things that his master’s wife cast longing eyes on Joseph, and **she***

said, "Lie with me." {8} But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Look, my master does not know what is with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my hand. {9} There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. **How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?** {10} So it was, as she spoke to Joseph day by day, that he did not heed her, to lie with her or to be with her. {11} But it happened about this time, when Joseph went into the house to do his work, and none of the men of the house was inside, {12} that she caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me." **But he left his garment in her hand, and fled and ran outside."**

Joseph's immediate reaction to the woman's advances was to put distance between himself and the temptation. He activated his fear of the Lord. Even though this righteous action led him to prison, God honored Joseph's reverence, respect and fear of Him.

As you read Joseph's story throughout the remaining chapters of Genesis, you find that his refusal to compromise his character led to Joseph's promotion among men, and ultimately, to his family's rescue. The fear of the Lord always leads to God's will, which is to be healthy and prosperous (3 John 2)



"Snake talk" always tries to void God's will, as it compromises our character and traps us into stumbling into the devil's will. Jude wrote about this trap for New Testament saints.

(Jude 1:10-13 NKJV) "But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves. {11} Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah. {12} These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves. They are clouds without

water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots;

{13} raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever."

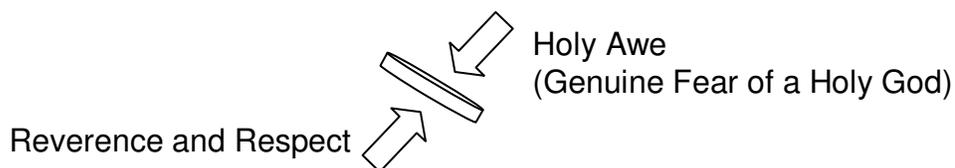
5. We often try to convince ourselves that we can be selective in our obedience to God and get away with it. This invites "snake talk." It is a lie from hell.
6. If you do not stop listening to the snake, you will begin acting like one.
7. Make a choice not to slither in your sins, or slip into "snake talk." When you slither and slip, you are liable to be stepped on.
8. The fear of the Lord is a powerful snake stomper. Put the devil under your feet. Speak words of life and live what you speak.
9. The only way you can overcome "snake talk" is with the "the fear of the Lord." It is the only way!

TRUTHS

No Problem!



That snake, the devil, has no problem with some people's understanding of the fear of the Lord. Let me explain. For some, the fear of the Lord is a one-sided religious, feel-good concept. It is limited to love, reverence and respect the Lord. The truth is, there is more to the fear of the Lord. The fear of the Lord is a two-sided coin, each inseparable from the other. Too many of us try to convince ourselves that no matter how many times we flip it, it will always come up tails. Let me clarify what I am saying:



“Tails” is to revere and worship the God of love. (That’s good.) Too often, we neglect “heads,” which is genuinely to fear God. He is awesome and worthy to be feared. Do not fail to do so!

The Lie: It is enough to revere and worship him.

We revere God in our churches, devotions, fellowship groups, and in our daily lives. We love God and just know He loves us. That is certainly true. It certainly defines our lives and we feel good about it... but that is not all we need! If we settle for this, we have built ourselves a coin with two tails. This, my friends, is a great lie.

The Truth

(John 8:32 NKJV) “And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

Here is the truth (and yes, it will set you free to reach your potential and gain your destiny): The fear of the Lord is a two-sided coin. “Tails” is your reverence and respect for God. “Heads” is your fear of our all-powerful, all-knowing, completely holy God. Honoring both sides of this coin guarantees the fullness of your freedom in Christ.

Fear Defined

(Webster’s 1828 English Dictionary)

1. “The fear of the LORD is the attitude that results from knowing that God is watching my every action, weighing my every motive, and aware of my every thought.”
2. “In scripture, fear is used to express a filial or a slavish passion. In good men, the fear of God is a holy awe or reverence of God and his laws, which springs from a just view and real love of the divine character, leading the subjects of it to hate and shun every thing that can offend such a holy being, and inclining them to aim at perfect obedience. This is filial fear.”
3. “...the effect or consequence of guilt; it is the painful apprehension of merited punishment. (Romans 8)”

The Only Logical Conclusion of the Matter

You can argue with many things, but you will not argue successfully with someone concerning their own personal experience in life. Here is an example: King Solomon had biblical advice that cannot be argued against successfully. All we can do is acknowledge it and receive its wisdom. It was recorded in Ecclesiastes near the end of a life in which King Solomon recognized that he had disregarded the will, presence and person of God. He did so because he had discounted and diminished the fear of the Lord until it became meaningless to him. At the end of his days, Solomon lamented that the fear of the Lord was the only thing that really mattered. Read these words with care:

*(Ecclesiastes 12:13 Amplified Bible) "All has been heard; the end of the matter is: Fear God [revere and worship Him, knowing that He is] and... **keep His commandments**, for this is the whole of man [the full, original purpose of his creation, the object of God's providence, the root of character, the foundation of all happiness, the adjustment to all inharmonious circumstances and conditions under the sun] and **the whole [duty] for every man**."*

We often choose to ignore the part that says,
"...and keep his commandments."

Solomon wrote these words, realizing too late, that he had allowed the fear of the Lord to become meaningless to him. At the end of his days, he lamented that the fear of the Lord was the only thing that really mattered and had eternal value. King Solomon's conclusion was that both sides of the coin must be honored. It was the whole duty of man. It was to be our guide through life and our highest obligation. He realized that fear can just plain mean fear... especially when it is the fear of the Lord. It will keep you in line when love just does not have the oomph! Solomon had it right. Living life without the proper reverence, respect... and genuine fear of God is **not a smart option. It is just plain foolish!**

A Consuming Fire

(Revelation 19:11-16 NKJV) “Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. {12} His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. {13} He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. {14} And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. {15} Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron...

He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. {16} And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.”

“For our God is a consuming fire.”

(Hebrews 12:29 NKJV)

A Snake-proof Path

(Proverbs 4:18 NKJV) “But the path of the just is like the shining sun, That shines ever brighter unto the perfect day.”

God provides a way for us to travel through life. It is called *“the path of the just.”* This path is characterized by the following:

- The path is prepared by God, designed to fit each of us individually.
- It is not a path you walk alone. If you walk it correctly, you will walk it with the Holy Spirit as your walking Partner.
- It is a walk covered with God’s divine umbrella of protection from snakebites... and if we allow it, will protect us from a great deal of our own carnality. This happens when we walk it in the fear of the Lord.
- It is a path that *“shines ever brighter.”* When you walk it in the fear of the Lord, you will avoid the blindness that Samson suffered, gaining more God-given wisdom with each step.

- It is the path to fruitfulness, peace and joy. Stay on *“the path of the just,”* and you will avoid the potential of being snared by the fruitlessness, turmoil and sorrow of “snake talk.” Fill your words with life by filling them with the fear of the Lord, in all its fullness. Invite the Holy Spirit be your continuous walking Partner. It will surely be a blessed walk, worthy of God’s call.

(Ephesians 4:1-3 NKJV) “I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, {2} with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, {3} endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”