

ALPHA COUNSELING  
20730 Bond Rd. Poulsbo WA  
alphapoulsbo.org (360)779-3624  
August 2020

Dear Friends,

### **We are living in interesting times!**

It seems that a convergence of events has created turmoil that hasn't been seen in a very long time. The word **conspiracy** pops up in all kinds of conversations during this time of confusion. I have heard people make comments that there is no Covid-19 it is a conspiracy of drug companies, or that masks can make you sick, or certain drugs will help in spite of what medical professionals tell us. It's fascinating to listen to people be so sincere in their beliefs and suspicious and unkind of anyone who doesn't agree with them.

So being curious I looked up the word **conspiracy** in Webster's Dictionary with this definition: "To join in a secret agreement to do an unlawful or wrongful act..." Conspiracies cause us to question what is true and what is false! Often we accept things as true without further research because we trust the source that gave us the information. In many ways we receive a blend of true and false information that can be deadly. If all the information were false many may recognize it as false but, if the information is partly or mostly true it can be very deceiving. This problem of mixing true and false information goes all the way back to Genesis chapter 2 and 3.

In Genesis 2:17 God informs Adam and Eve that it is not a good thing to eat from one tree. *"But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."* In chapter 3 a serpent challenges what God said in chapter 2. *"Did God actually say, You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?"* Here God's word is challenged and twisted to cause confusion about what God said. Then in verses 4&5 Satan, in the disguise of a serpent, contradicts what God has said and declares *"You will not surely die... for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."*

Now that is partly true Adam and Eve did change and know the difference between good and evil, but death still occurs as God warned. The conspiracy was placed before Eve and Adam and their choice has affected mankind ever since but there is a scary continuation of this problem. Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 11:3... *"I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be lead astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ."* So his tactics haven't changed in all this time and he is just as sneaky as before and his tactics are still at work today. We need to beware of being lead away from what is most important and that is 'being devoted to Jesus and praying for wisdom every time controversial information comes our way.

A quick note - Debi and I are doing well, we watch our 2 youngest grandsons 2 days a week along with my time here at Alpha each week. Counseling is understandable down from before but many of the people I'm seeing now have started since Covid hit. God has been gracious in providing enough finances to keep us going and we thank you for all your help and prayers.

God Bless, *Richard*

(P.S. we received a special gift the same week  
repair work was done on our well,  
GOD IS GOOD).