

VISITING FAMILY IN FLORIDA ONE CHRISTMAS, my husband and I drove past endless groves of orange trees laden with bright orange fruit, and I had this urge to stop and pick one. Maybe I can just get an orange lying by a tree on the ground, I thought, though I knew it would be stealing.

The next day we drove by the orange trees again and I had an even greater desire to stop the car and pick an orange. I surprised myself. Where did this come from? That's when I finally realized what Eve was going through in the Garden of Eden when the serpent tempted her to eat fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 3). The difference—no one was tricking me to eat an orange, and I knew it was wrong. I already knew what oranges taste like. Something inside Eve would not let go, and I now understand the conflict in which she had so easily become entangled. We all deal with temptation. It's sin only if we act on it as Eve did. We can all use her as our "not to" example and understand the war that wages within us.

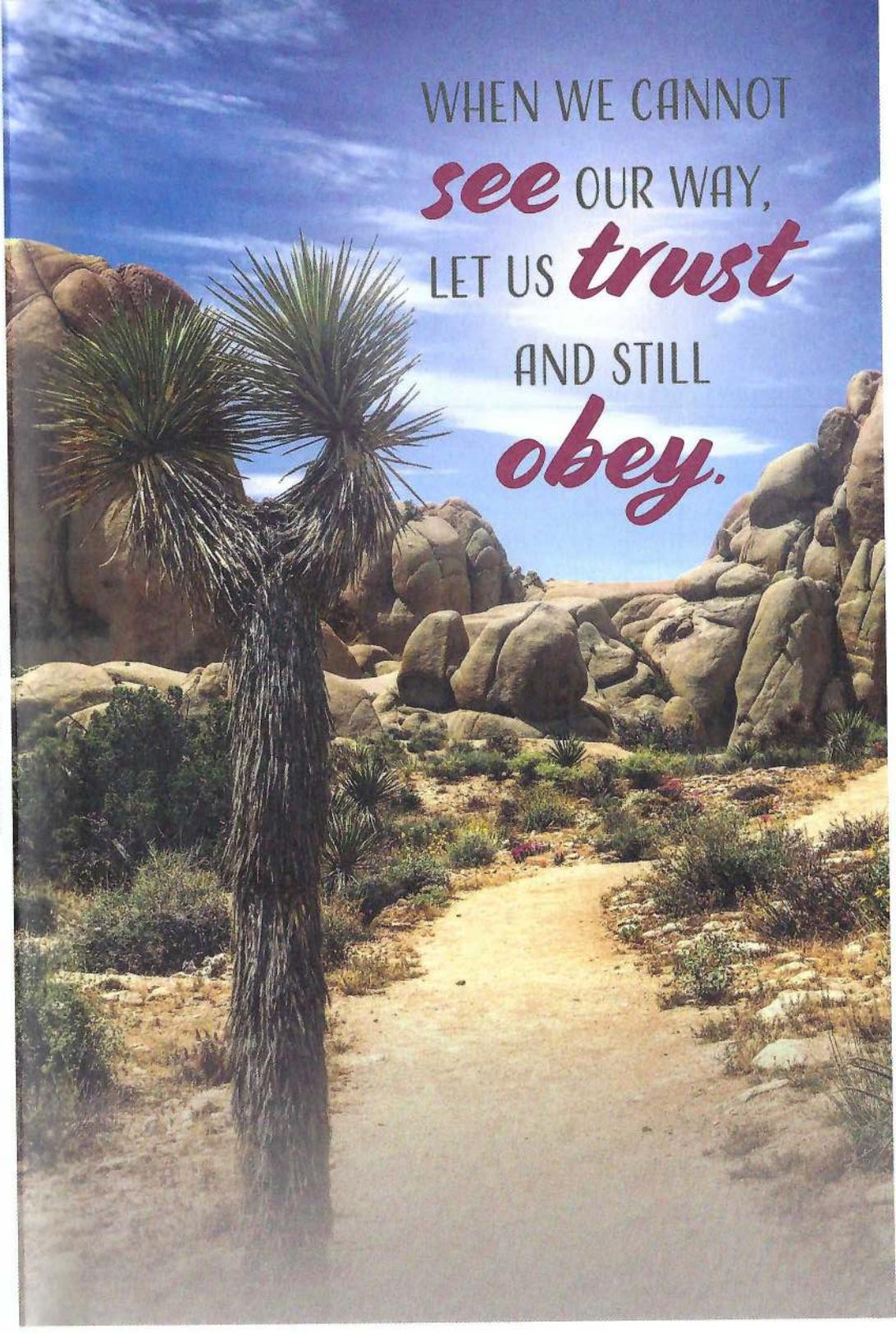
One way to prevent sin in our lives is to pray. Pray that you will recognize temptation as a potential sin and flee from it. "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8).

When Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, He pleaded with His disciples to "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak" (Matthew 26:41). Next time you eat a piece of fruit, let it remind you of Eve and pray that God will give you strength to resist temptation.

Anna Dabill

*Adapted from her blog:
dabillaroundthetable.com*

Joshua Tree National Park @Lindsay Doyle, courtesy iStock • Printed in USA



WHEN WE CANNOT
see OUR WAY,
LET US *trust*
AND STILL
obey.

Covenant Church

3115 N.W. 16th Avenue Gainesville FL 32605

February 27, 2022

Call to Worship

Sounds of Hope

Invocation

Ron Marks

Sing Unto the Lord

Hymn #575 Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

Welcome and Announcements

Ron Marks

Recognition of Guests

Mission Moment

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Worship in Song

Hymn #581 Tis so Sweet to Trust in Jesus

Offertory Prayer

Joe Morgan

Offertory

Rose Morgan

Special Music

Sermon: ""But You Have Forgotten God..." Reverend Ron Marks

Scripture: Matthew 10:28

Hymn of Benediction

Hymn #580 Through It All

Shine, Shine, Shine!

Covenant News

Covenant Ministries

Our ministry for February is the Gainesville Community Ministry.

Their mission is with God's help, seeks to provide compassionate emergency care for those persons who cannot help themselves. We further seek to provide, through education and support, the kind of assistance that will encourage those who can be helped to end a cycle of poverty and despair. They specifically offer support with food, clothing, medical care, some financial support, and education.

Let's Take Inventory

Is there anyone I need to forgive?

Is there anyone who would not be pleased to see me?

Am I regarded by others as being reliable?

Am I faithful to Bible Study and prayer?

Do I object to interruptions or do I meet them graciously?

Am I painstaking and conscientious?

Do I love to be alone with God and practice this?

How do I take unpleasant remarks about myself?

Do I have a bridled tongue?

Am I argumentative?do I insist on my own way?

Am I sympathetic?

Am I appreciative? Do I show it to my loved ones?

Am I quick to acknowledge my faults and ask for forgiveness?

Do I tend to hold grudges against people?

Do I waste time? My own or others?

Is my word my bond?