



Did God Really Say?

By Kathy Nowak

In the Book of Genesis, the serpent says to Eve: "Did God really tell you not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?" (3:1b) That was the beginning of Satan's plan to cause people to doubt God's Word. Many people look for a religion or faith that fits in with how they want to live rather than how God wants them to live. They ignore passages in the Bible that don't fit in with what *they* think is right or wrong, good or bad. Or they rationalize and say that that particular part is outdated; that we have come to a clearer understanding of what God *really* meant.

At the end of the Book of Revelation St. John wrote: *I myself give witness to all who hear the prophetic words of this book. If anyone adds to these words, God will visit him with all the plagues described herein! If anyone takes from the words of this prophetic book, God will take away his share in the tree of life and the holy city described here!* Revelation 22:18-19

Of course, St. John is writing here specifically about the Book of Revelation. But theologians believe that word applies to all the books of the Bible that are in the approved Canon.

"There is not an "official" Catholic interpretation of *all* the Books of the Bible. It's not the Church's way to give definitive interpretations of every Bible verse. Instead, she defines dogma. She prefers to give her people as much freedom as possible to plumb the depths of Scripture within the boundaries of a few basic and crucial guidelines" (from Introduction to Catholic Scripture Study International). To understand those guidelines, you may want to read paragraphs 109-119 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

True happiness only comes from living the way God wants us to live, that is, according to His Word revealed to men in the Bible and Church Tradition.

Be very suspicious then, of private interpretation of God's Word, yours or someone else's. That's mainly what has caused the many, many different denominations in Christianity.



Kathy Nowak-(on the right) is a cradle Catholic who has been ministering in the Church in many areas since she received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit in 1975. Before the churches were shut down, she helped facilitate the Evening Bible Study group at the Church of Epiphany in Brick and served as a prayer group leader for JOY Prayer Group. She is also a member of Light of Life Prayer Group at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Toms River. She and her husband, Deacon Ron Nowak, are the parents of four children and are blessed with nine grandchildren. You can read more of her writing at www.pathwaypeace.blogspot.com.