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What the Garden of Eden Teaches About Gosp

Permalink:

<https://publicsquaremag.org/faith/gospel-fare/garden-of-eden-shame-in-faith/>

Edit

Edit with Elementor

Auto Cache Settings

Enable:

No

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Analytify Exclude Tracking

This is a PRO feature. [Upgrade to Analytify Pro](#)

Use The Divi Builder

Publish

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Revisions: 3 [Browse](#)

Publish immediately [Edit](#)

Add Media


Visual


Text


Paragraph ▾


**B**


*I*

























Pullquote ▾ ▾








































































































































































































































































































































































































































































































































































































































































































































-  Bloom
-  Divi
-  Ajax Search Lite
-  Collapse menu

☐ History

[+ Add New Category](#)

Featured image



Click the image to edit or update

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Tags

Add

Separate tags with commas

-  agency
-  Christianity
-  Discipleship
-  Exegesis
-  Faith
-  Faith Crisis
-  Garden of Eden
-  Missionaries
-  Mormon
-  Psychology
-  Restoration
-  Scriptures
-  Shame
-  Spiritual Growth
-  Theology

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Post Attributes

Template

Default template

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When I was nineteen, I thought I understood what a mission would be like. I had seen the videos, heard the stories, and imagined the glow of faithful, fulfilling service. But a few weeks into the field, I was already disoriented. It was harder than I'd ever expected—physically, emotionally, spiritually. That uncomfortable realization—that reality wasn't what I expected—turned out to be one of the greatest gifts of my life.

I now recognize that moment as a kind of Garden of Eden experience: a step out of innocence, into awareness. Into a world where nothing was automatic anymore. And it's the kind of transition we all make—sometimes in faith, sometimes in relationships, and sometimes in the middle of a quiet Sunday School class. [perfectpullquote align="right" bordertop="false" cite="" link="" color="" class="" size=""]I now recognize that moment as a kind of Garden of Eden experience: a step out of innocence, into awareness. Into a world where nothing was automatic anymore. [/perfectpullquote]In our June/July 2025 Come, Follow Me study, there is a reference to an important area of the Church's gospel library: [Helping Others with Their Questions](#). It happens to be one of the most challenging gospel concepts for us to apply, because people who are asking gospel questions are on a developmental journey that neither we nor they might fully understand.

The Garden of Eden is a story that evokes a number of questions. In considering that story, we sometimes get hung up on particulars like the exact location of the garden; the relationship between the fall and death; God's language around male-female relationships; and more. These questions can be interesting, but they are peripheral to the intentions of the story. In the story of the Garden of Eden, believers are presented with a model for how we develop as human beings.

Age	Development	Underdevelopment
0-1	Trust	Mistrust
1-3	Autonomy	Shame/doubt
3-6	Initiative	Guilt
6-12	Industry	Inferiority
12-18	Identity	Role confusion
18-40	Intimacy	Isolation
40-60	Generativity	Stagnation
65+	Ego Integrity	Despair

Psychologists have long recognized that human development unfolds in stages. Erik Erikson, for example, mapped out a series of life phases—each with a key challenge that can lead either to growth or regression. Others, like Lawrence Kohlberg and James Fowler, explored how our moral reasoning and faith mature over time. While each model differs, they all

Authors

^v▲

Click on an author to change them. Drag to change their order. Click on Remove to remove them.

Dan Ellsworth

Search for an author

automatic;

Excerpt

^v▲

What does the Garden of Eden teach about gospel questions? It reveals a path of growth, not shame or failure.

Excerpts are optional hand-crafted summaries of your content that can be used in your theme. [Learn more about manual excerpts.](#)

Yoast SEO

^v▲

😊 SEO

☹ Readability

Schema

Social

Word count: 1909

Last edited by Pam on July 7, 2025 at 10:03 am

Focus keyphrase ?

garden of eden


Get related keyphrases

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Determine how your post should look in the search results.

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### The Garden of Eden and Shame in Faith

Jul 7, 2025 - The Garden of Eden shows how gospel questions prompt growth when shame is rejected and awareness is met with charity, faith, and daily courage.



SEO title

Use AI

Insert variable

The Garden of Eden and Shame in Faith

Slug

garden-of-eden-shame-in-faith

Meta description

Use AI

Insert variable

The Garden of Eden shows how gospel questions prompt growth when shame is rejected and awareness is met with charity, faith, and daily courage.



SEO analysis

garden of eden



Premium SEO analysis

 Premium



Add related keyphrase

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Track SEO performance



Internal linking suggestions

 Premium

Cornerstone content



Advanced



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Insights


Discussion


Slug

WPCode Page Scripts

Revisions

 Pam, 2 days ago ([July 16, 2025 @ 08:53:59](#)) [Autosave]

 Pam, 2 weeks ago ([July 7, 2025 @ 10:03:12](#))

 Pam, 2 weeks ago ([July 7, 2025 @ 09:52:24](#))

Monarch Settings

Monarch Sharing Stats

All Time Stats

Past Week

0

Total Shares

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Twitter

0 Shares

reddit

0 Shares

LinkedIn

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0 Shares

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