

Taking the Way of Enjoying Christ as the Tree of Life for the Accomplishing of God's Economy**INTRODUCTION:****TAKING THE WAY OF ENJOYING CHRIST AS THE TREE OF LIFE****Crucial Fellowship from Brother Lee**

“The tree of life typifies Christ who imparts life to man and who pleases and satisfies man”—*Life-study of Genesis*, p. 141.

“The one thing we need is to enjoy the Lord as the tree of life”—*The Tree of Life*, p. 23.

“In May of 1943...I had contracted a serious case of tuberculosis...I saw the tree of life during the two and a half years of my illness. During those two and a half years I saw that in the Lord's recovery and in His work we lacked life. Every kind of problem, regardless of what it may be, is the result of a shortage of life. When I saw this, I was extremely remorseful, I confessed much and had a thorough repentance before the Lord, and I also had many dealings before Him...The messages on the tree of life saved many saints and also released many of the brothers and sisters in Nanking. Because of the four years of turmoil in the church in Shanghai, the saints had been disheartened and depressed for years and were unable to do anything. These messages released their spirit and enlightened their heart...I thank the Lord that through the messages on the tree of life, the church in Shanghai was healed...The messages on the tree of life laid a foundation for the revival of the church in Shanghai”—*The History and Revelation of the Lord's Recovery*, vol. 1, pp. 130, 133, 135, 138.

“Eating the tree of life, that is, enjoying Christ as our life supply, should be the primary matter in the church life”—Rev. 2:7, footnote 6, para. 4.

“The evil condition of the wicked is that they do not come to the Lord to eat and enjoy the Lord...They do many things, but they do not come to contact the Lord, to take Him, to receive Him, to taste Him, and to enjoy Him. In the sight of God, nothing is more evil than this”—Isa. 57:20, footnote 1.

God's intention for man was to give Himself as the tree of life to man for man to enjoy. “To see that God wants us to enjoy Him and that He does not want us to do anything for Him is to see that the Christian life is a

matter of enjoyment...If our concept is changed so that we see these two points, it will be easy for us to live a life of enjoying God”—*The Vision of the Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil*, p. 60.

“If we want to take the way of enjoying God, we must have a change of concept...If we want to enter into the reality of the enjoyment of God, we must see a controlling vision...It was not until I was forty years of age that the Lord revealed to me the way of enjoying Him. I was disappointed that for twenty years most of my time and energy had been wasted. Most of my prayers were of no value, and the time that I had spent reading the Bible and other spiritual books was also of no value. This is when I realized that our way of working was wrong and that our way of spiritual pursuit was also wrong...Because I suffered a great loss from taking the wrong way, I do not want others to repeat the same mistake. I hope that others can take the way of enjoying God. I implore the saints to no longer take the wrong way. We should consider our former way of pursuit. We must have a drastic change of concept. We need to have a controlling vision”—*The Vision of the Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil*, p. 51.

Monday 9/19**Related Verses****Gen. 2:8-9**

8 And Jehovah God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there He put the man whom He had formed.

9 And out of the ground Jehovah God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, as well as the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Deut. 30:19

19 I call heaven and earth to witness against you today: I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse; therefore choose life that you and your seed may live,

John 1:4

4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

John 10:10b

10 I have come that they may have life and may have it abundantly.

John 6:35, 57, 63

35 Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me shall by no means hunger, and he who believes into Me shall by no means ever thirst.

57 As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.

63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

Rev. 22:14

14 Blessed are those who wash their robes that they may have right to the tree of life and may enter by the gates into the city.

Related Reading

God's way of accomplishing His purpose was first to create man as a vessel to contain Himself as life and then to place him in a garden before the tree of life, indicating that God's intention was for man to partake of the fruit of this tree. However, along with the tree of life, Genesis 2:9 and 17 mention the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Therefore, we need to consider very carefully the significance of these two trees.

Although God wanted man to eat of the tree of life, He did not force him to do it. Neither did God put the tree of life into him. Instead, God gave man free will.

God created man with freedom of choice. Why did God do this? God is great. He is not small. Only a small man forces people to accept his opinion...If you are a great man, you will never force people to accept you. (*Life-study of Genesis*, p. 159)

If God had not given man a choice, He would have forced him to take the tree of life. God is too great to do such a thing. God is honorable and attractive. In order to display His greatness and prove His attractiveness, He needs the second tree.

God is the same today. He never forces anyone to accept Him. When the Lord Jesus came, He did not coerce people into following Him. He presented Himself to people, but always respected their freedom of choice.

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The Lord seemed to say, “If you like Me, you may take Me. If you don’t like Me, you may forget about Me.” Some of us may feel that we have been compelled by the Lord’s mercy to believe in Him. To a certain extent, I feel the same way. His mercy has conquered us, persuading us to receive Him.

The same principle operated in the garden of Eden when God placed Adam before the two trees, which denoted two sources. God wanted man to choose Him as the tree of life.

The tree of life was a symbol, signifying God as the proper source (cf. Ps. 36:9; John 1:4; 10:10b; 11:25; 14:6; 1 John 5:12; Col. 3:4). If we only read Genesis 2, we will be unable to understand the meaning of the tree of life. However, the Gospel of John reveals the life denoted by the tree of life in a concrete way. John 1:4 says, “In Him was life,” and John 15:5 tells us that the Lord Jesus is a vine tree. If we put these two verses together, we will realize that Christ is the tree of life. Jesus, the embodiment of God, is the tree of life. Therefore, the tree of life in Genesis 2 is a symbol of God as the source of life.

Besides this source, there is another tree, another source in the universe—death. However, this tree is not called the tree of death; it is called the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. There is such a tree in this universe. These two trees oppose one another, the tree of life denoting God as the source of life, and the tree of knowledge signifying Satan as the source of death. As God is the source of life, Satan is the source of death. Therefore, in Genesis 2 we find two sources signified by two trees. (*Life-study of Genesis*, pp. 160-162)

The thought of God being man’s life runs through the entire Bible from Genesis to Revelation...God’s creating of living things indicates that God is the God of life.

God’s action in creating man in His own image (Gen. 1:26-27) indicates that God wants man to have Himself as man’s life so that man can express Him...Man can express God only by having God as his life.

The tree of life (2:8-9) is a symbol of God as life...Therefore, when we take the tree of life, we take God into us as our life...Therefore, the tree of life can

also be called “the tree of God.” (CWWL, 1990, vol. 1, “The Triune God to Be Life to the Tripartite Man,” pp. 237-238)

Further Reading: CWWL, 1981, vol. 2, “The History and Revelation of the Lord’s Recovery,” ch. 8

Corporate Reading of “The Tree of Life” Chapter 15 – Sections: *Living Letters Of Christ By beholding And Reflecting His Glory; God’s Intention To Mingle Himself With Us*

Tuesday 9/20

Related Verses**Gen. 2:16-17**

16 And Jehovah God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden you may eat freely,

17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, of it you shall not eat; for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.

Heb. 2:14

14 Since therefore the children have shared in blood and flesh, He also Himself in like manner partook of the same, that through death He might destroy him who has the might of death, that is, the devil,

John 5:39-40

39 You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that testify concerning Me.

40 Yet you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.

2 Cor. 3:6

6 Who has also made us sufficient as ministers of a new covenant, ministers not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

Jer. 15:16

16 Your words were found and I ate them, And Your word became to me The gladness and joy of my heart, For I am called by Your name, O Jehovah, God of hosts.

Related Reading

The first of...two choices was the tree of life, which denoted God Himself as life. The content of the tree of

life is life. It is life, simply, purely, and absolutely. The nature of this tree and the result of this tree are also life. Life is the content, nature, and result. Everything is life...What is the principle of the tree of life? Its principle is dependence. We all must be dependent.

The second choice was the tree of knowledge (Gen. 2:17), which was the opposite of the tree of life. Note that this tree was called the tree of knowledge of good and evil, not simply the knowledge of evil. Both the knowledge of good and the knowledge of evil come from the same tree. It does not matter whether knowledge is the knowledge of good or of evil. As long as it is knowledge, it does not belong to the tree of life. It belongs to the tree of knowledge.

Although the tree of the knowledge of good and evil signifies Satan, it does not signify him directly. It first signifies everything apart from God, and then it signifies Satan indirectly, because Satan is hidden at the back of the things that are apart from God. Satan likes to conceal himself. Thus, the tree of knowledge represents him indirectly. (*Life-study of Genesis*, pp. 162, 165-166)

God is very frank and always comes to the front. Satan, however, is subtle, always staying at the rear. If Satan wants to trouble you, he will not do it openly and frankly. He will do it subtly, acting through your wife or through a part of the world, such as a department store. Sometimes, Satan even utilizes the Bible, operating through the letters of the Scripture to harass you. Remember how the Jewish religionists, the Pharisees and the scribes, used the Bible to condemn the Lord Jesus to death (John 19:7). Because Satan is subtle, the tree of knowledge does not signify him directly. It signifies everything apart from God, including good things, scriptural things, and religious things. Regardless of whether a thing is good or evil, as long as it is not God Himself, it can be utilized by Satan.

The things apart from God fall into three categories: knowledge, good, and evil. Suppose you have the intention of doing a certain good thing. Deep in your spirit, however, you have the sense not to touch it and not to do it...Do not employ the principle of good and bad, but cooperate with the principle of life. If you do not have

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peace within, it means that the Spirit of life does not agree with what you intend to do. You need to cooperate with Him. If you do, you will receive life. Have you not had this kind of experience repeatedly in the past? Whenever you acted according to the good, you were killed. You experienced death. However, when you acted according to the inner life, you received more life.

The nature and result of the tree of life are both life because it is a tree of life. But the nature and result of the tree of knowledge of good and evil are both death because knowledge, good, and evil are all of death and bring in death...Actually, the tree of knowledge of good and evil is the tree of death; yet it is not called the tree of death, but the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Death is not only behind evil; it is also behind knowledge and good. The title of the tree of knowledge of good and evil is subtle because Satan always likes to conceal himself. Satan has the power of death (Heb. 2:14). Since the tree of knowledge of good and evil is actually the tree of death, it signifies Satan. (*Life-study of Genesis*, pp. 166-167, 169)

Further Reading: *Life-study of Job*, msg. 37; CWWL, 1969, vol. 3, pp. 411-417, 425-432

Corporate Reading of “The Tree of Life” Chapter 15 – Sections: *Living Letters Of Christ* (paragraphs 1-5)

Wednesday 9/21

Related Verses

John 15:5

5 I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.

Rev. 22:2

2 And on this side and on that side of the river was the tree of life, producing twelve fruits, yielding its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

John 6:32-35

32 Jesus therefore said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, Moses has not given you the bread out of heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread out of heaven.

33 For the bread of God is He who comes down out of heaven and gives life to the world.

34 They said therefore to Him, Lord, give us this bread always.

35 Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me shall by no means hunger, and he who believes into Me shall by no means ever thirst.

Col. 2:16-17

16 Let no one therefore judge you in eating and in drinking or in respect of a feast or of a new moon or of the Sabbath,

17 Which are a shadow of the things to come, but the body is of Christ.

Matt. 4:4

4 But He answered and said, It is written, "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out through the mouth of God."

Related Reading

Nearly everything in Genesis 1 and 2 is a seed of the divine revelation. The two trees are such seeds...These seeds grow in the following books of the Bible and are reaped as a harvest in the book of Revelation. In Revelation 20:10 and 14 we see that death is cast into the lake of fire. In Revelation 22:2 we see that life abides in the New Jerusalem. At the beginning of the Bible we find death and life, and at the end of the Bible we again see death and life. Between the two ends of the Bible two lines are set forth—the line of death and the line of life. Both lines begin in the book of Genesis and end in the book of Revelation. Death begins with the tree of knowledge of good and evil and ends with the lake of fire. Life begins with the tree of life and ends at the New Jerusalem. Before we were saved, we were on the line of death. After we were saved, we were put on the line of life. (*Life-study of Genesis*, p. 162)

The tree of life signifies God as life to man...The tree of life issues in a dependent life...If man would take the tree of life, that would issue in a dependent life in man...All the matters related to life are matters of dependence. You cannot graduate from any matter of life. Eating is a dependent matter. You cannot say that you

have eaten the best food and that you have eaten more than enough, so you do not need to eat anymore. The matters of drinking and breathing, of course, are also dependent matters from which we do not graduate.

This shows that to take God as our life issues in a dependent life. Knowledge, on the other hand, issues in independence.

God is not knowledge to us. God is life to us. We take Him as our life, and this divine life right away issues in a kind of dependence within us. We have to depend upon Him all the time. He is the vine, and we are the branches. The branches have to abide in the vine (John 15:5). Apart from the vine, the branches become dead...All the branches depend upon the vine's life.

Before we were saved, we were altogether independent of God. But when we repented to God and believed in God, we became dependent. Whenever we have been independent, that was the time we lived by knowledge. Whenever we lived by our spirit, by life, we were altogether dependent upon God. Thus, these are two kinds of principles issuing from two kinds of lives. The divine life makes us dependent, and the satanic life makes us independent. To be independent means to be rebellious. To rebel means to be independent from God.

God wanted man to receive Him as life by the way of eating...Eating is the unique way to receive nourishment organically...What you eat becomes your organic nourishment...Eating is the unique way, and God is the unique food to man...All the physical food we eat is a shadow. God is the reality of our food [cf. Col. 2:16-17]...To receive God by eating Him is to have God assimilated into our being metabolically...His new element replaces what we are, and our old element is discharged. (CWWL, 1979, vol. 1, "Basic Lessons on Life," pp. 488, 490-491)

Eating indicates dependence. That God is our food, signified by the tree of life, means that we must depend on God continually. We must come to Him in order to feed on Him again and again...Taking the tree of knowledge makes us independent of God. In the eyes of God the greatest sin is independence. We must learn to depend on God continually. (CWWL, 1990, vol. 1, "The Triune God to Be Life to the Tripartite Man," p. 233)

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Further Reading: CWWL, 1978, vol. 2, "Life Messages, Volume 1," chs. 26-27; CWWL, 1965, vol. 3, "The Enjoyment of Christ," ch. 1

Corporate Reading of "The Tree of Life" Chapter 15 – Sections: *Living Letters Of Christ* (paragraphs 6-11)

Thursday 9/22

Related Verses**John 10:10**

10 The thief does not come except to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and may have it abundantly.

Rev. 22:1-2

1 And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street.

2 And on this side and on that side of the river was the tree of life, producing twelve fruits, yielding its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

Eph. 4:16

16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

Eph 2:21-22

21 In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord;

22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.

Col. 2:19

19 And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.

2 Cor. 2:13

13 I had no rest in my spirit, for I did not find Titus my brother; but taking leave of them, I went forth into Macedonia.

Matt. 17:5, 8

5 While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is My Son, the Beloved, in whom I have found My delight. Hear Him!

8 And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus Himself alone.

Related Reading

The principle of the tree of life and the principle of the tree of knowledge of good and evil are realized throughout the whole Bible. All the negative things in the Bible are on the line of the tree of knowledge, and all the positive things are on the line of the tree of life. I call the first line the line of knowledge and the second line, the line of life. If we follow these two lines, they carry us through the entire Scripture.

Man was induced to eat of the tree of knowledge. As a result, man fell. The descendants of fallen man did not depend upon God at all. They relied upon their knowledge...Strictly speaking, the line of life began with Adam, who was fallen and redeemed, and continued through Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and so many Israelites. On this line of life we have the tent of Noah, the tent of Abraham, the tabernacle, and the temple. The line of knowledge began with Cain and continued through all the ungodly people. On the line of knowledge we have the city of Enoch, Babel, Sodom, the treasure cities of Pharaoh, and Babylon, which captured the things on the line of life. (*Life-study of Genesis*, p. 172)

We find the same two lines in the New Testament. Although the Old Testament and the law were originally on the line of life, the Jewish religionists treated them as mere knowledge and put them on the line of knowledge...When the Lord Jesus came, the religious leaders were altogether on the line of knowledge. Only the Lord Jesus Himself was on the line of life. Then He brought His disciples to the line of life. On the day of Pentecost, His disciples put many other people on the line of life. Thus, at that time, there was the Jewish religion on the line of knowledge and the church on the line of life. However, not long afterward, the church was degraded, falling from the living Christ to dead scriptural

knowledge, and became Christianity. The church was on the line of life, but Christianity was on the line of knowledge...The overcomers among the Christians through all the centuries never have shifted from the line of life to the line of knowledge. They will remain on the line of life until the end when it ultimately issues in the New Jerusalem. The great Babylon and all things apart from God will be swept away by the stream of fire (Dan. 7:10) into the lake of fire (Rev. 20:10, 14-15; 21:8). All the positive things in the Bible throughout the ages will be carried on by the river of the water of life (Rev. 22:1) into the New Jerusalem...At the end of the book of Revelation we find the harvest of the seed of the tree of knowledge and of the tree of life.

In many of the Christian books we are given ways and methods of doing things...For example, regarding the matter of being crucified with Christ we are told by the books to reckon ourselves dead. If we make this merely a way or a method, it belongs to the tree of knowledge...Knowledge or religion means to be good and to do good, to worship God or to work for God without having the living presence of God. Anything good done for God without His presence is religion. A certain thing may be both life and knowledge to us. If we experience the presence of the living God while doing it, it is life. However, if we do it without God's presence, it is simply dead knowledge. No way or method can help us. We need the living God.

Life is God Himself...The principle of life is to be dependent on God for everything. If you depend on God, everything is life. (*Life-study of Genesis*, pp. 173, 176-177)

Further Reading: CWWN, vol. 56, "Two Principles of Living," pp. 418-432; CWWL, 1950-1951, vol. 3, "The Path of Our Growth in Life," ch. 1; CWWN, vol. 8, pp. 25-35

Corporate Reading of "The Tree of Life" Chapter 15 – Sections: *Mirrors Beholding And Reflecting the Glory Of The Lord*

Taking the Way of Enjoying Christ as the Tree of Life for the Accomplishing of God's Economy**Friday 9/23****Related Verses****2 Cor. 11:2-3**

2 For I am jealous over you with a jealousy of God; for I betrothed you to one husband to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.

3 But I fear lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your thoughts would be corrupted from the simplicity and the purity toward Christ.

Psa. 119:147-148

147 I anticipated the dawn and cried out; I hoped in Your words.

148 My eyes anticipated the night watches, That I might muse upon Your word.

Mark 12:30

30 And you shall love the Lord your God from your whole heart and from your whole soul and from your whole mind and from your whole strength."

S. S. 1:3-4

3 Your anointing oils have a pleasant fragrance; Your name is like ointment poured forth; Therefore the virgins love you.

4 Draw me; we will run after you - The king has brought me into his chambers - We will be glad and rejoice in you; We will extol your love more than wine. Rightly do they love you.

Rev. 2:4-5, 7

4 But I have one thing against you, that you have left your first love.

5 Remember therefore where you have fallen from and repent and do the first works; but if not, I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place, unless you repent.

7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.

Related Reading

The Lord Jesus is not a doctrine; He is not a set of gifts or a power; He is a person who needs our love, our appreciation, and our affection. How we need the sweet affection and love toward the Lord Jesus!

We may talk about Christ being our life, but if we do not have the real love toward Him, He is only life to us in doctrine...If we would enjoy Jesus as life, we must love Him. As long as we love Him, even if we do not know the term life, we will enjoy life. We will not know a doctrine, but we will enjoy Jesus, a living person, as our very life.

We may have many teachings with all the gifts and power, and yet we would not take the personality of Christ. The Lord Jesus...needs someone like Peter to love Him, someone to tell Him, "O Lord Jesus, I love You! I follow You. I take You as my person. I take Your personality as my personality. I take Your will as my will. I take Your desire as my desire. I do not care for teachings, gifts, and power. I just care for You. I love You, and I follow You, taking You as my person." (CWWL, 1972, vol. 1, "Life and Building as Portrayed in the Song of Songs," pp. 234-236)

In John 21 the Lord asked Peter if he loved Him. Peter told the Lord, "You know that I love You." Then the Lord answered, "Feed My lambs," and "Feed My sheep" (vv. 15, 17). To speak is not only to edify or to teach but also to feed the lambs and to feed the sheep...For us to feed the Lord's sheep, we must love Him. We should tell the Lord, "Lord, I love You, so I like to speak You forth to others." The more that we love Him, the more we are qualified, equipped, and even perfected to speak.

We also must enjoy the Lord in the Word every day early in the morning to have a new start each day (Psa. 119:147-148). According to God's principle in His creation, He ordained to have a new year, a new month or a new moon, and a new day. Within every year we can have three hundred sixty-five new starts. If we failed for three hundred sixty-four days, we still have one more opportunity to have a successful day. We may have failed today, but thank the Lord tomorrow is still here waiting for us. Tomorrow morning we will have another chance to have a new start. Within every twenty-four hours, there is a new chance for us to have a new start and be renewed.

To have a new start is not hard. It is so easy. Just rise up a little earlier and say, "O Lord Jesus. O Lord Jesus."

You do not need to shout loudly and bother others. Just say, "O Lord Jesus." To say this makes a big difference. Sometimes I forgot to call on the Lord immediately after I woke up. That became a big loss to me. As soon as I realized this, I said, "Lord Jesus, forgive me for forgetting You."

Then we need to pray-read a short portion of the Word, anywhere from two to four verses. We can enjoy the Lord with His Word and in His Word through pray-reading. We should do this every day in the morning to have a good, new start. We can speak the Word to ourselves, to the Lord, and even to the angels. We can speak the Word to our pets and even to our furniture. When we speak the Word in such a way, we will be the first ones nourished by our speaking. We do not need to spend a long time to enjoy the Lord in the Word early in the morning. Ten to fifteen minutes is sufficient to get nourished and have a good start of a new day. We need to practice this. (CWWL, 1988, vol. 1, "Speaking Christ for the Building Up of the Body of Christ," pp. 172, 175-176)

Further Reading: CWWL, 1972, vol. 1, "The Living and Practical Way to Enjoy Christ," ch. 3; CWWL, 1969, vol. 3, pp. 474-475

Saturday 9/24**Related Verses****Rom. 8:2, 6**

2 For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.

6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.

Rev. 3:20-21

20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, then I will come in to him and dine with him and he with Me.

21 He who overcomes, to him I will give to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat with My Father on His throne.

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3 And all ate the same spiritual food,

4 And all drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank of a spiritual rock which followed them, and the rock was Christ.

Psa. 78:24-25

24 And He rained down upon them manna to eat And gave them the food of heaven.

25 Man ate the bread of the mighty; He sent them full provision.

Heb. 5:12-14

12 For when because of the time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you what the rudiments of the beginning of the oracles of God are and have become those who have need of milk and not of solid food.

13 For everyone who partakes of milk is inexperienced in the word of righteousness, for he is an infant;

14 But solid food is for the full-grown, who because of practice have their faculties exercised for discriminating between both good and evil.

Related Reading

Every genuine Christian is a miniature garden of Eden. The mind of your soul represents your self, sin in your flesh represents Satan [as the tree of knowledge], and the Spirit in your spirit represents God [as the tree of life].

In Romans 8...we see the outcrop of the two trees. Romans 8:6 says that the mind set on the flesh is death and that the mind set on the spirit is life and peace. In Genesis 2 the two trees were objective; in Romans 8 they are subjective. We should never say that these two trees are no longer with us. Even as you read this message, they are within you...Romans 8:2 mentions the law of the Spirit of life, which sets us free from the law of sin and death. Therefore, in Romans 8 we have two laws—the law of life and the law of death. These two laws are the two principles of the two trees in our subjective experience. (*Life-study of Genesis*, pp. 177-178)

Who is this “me” [in Romans 8:2]? It is the switching “me.” It does not mean that the law of the Spirit of life frees every believer with no qualification. At least the one

in Romans 7 was not freed; he was still struggling there. Until Paul reached chapter 8, the law [of the Spirit of life] had no way to work out something. The law had been set up, and the law was still under God's operation, yet it needed Paul's switching on.

We have the regeneration, and we have the indwelling. We also have the mingling. All these are matters of the installation...The installation has been done, and the operation is in progress. They are all here waiting for you to switch on by walking according to the spirit, by setting the mind on the spirit, by killing the practices of the body, by being led by Him, by crying, by witnessing, by groaning. (*CWWL*, 1980, vol. 1, “Perfecting Training,” pp. 314-315, 317-318)

[The] golden tree [the golden lampstand in Exodus 25] has many almond blossoms...Aaron's rod budding with almonds signifies resurrection life. Hence, the almonds on the lampstand indicate that it is a tree in resurrection. Resurrection is life that overcomes death without being damaged or injured by death. Death is powerless to do anything with resurrection life. Death can inflict all kinds of damage on other forms of life, plant life, animal life, and human life. Only one kind of life cannot be hurt by death, and this is resurrection life...According to the full revelation of the Scriptures, God Himself is this resurrection life. The lampstand, of course, gives light. However, the first significance of the lampstand is not light, but life. The light is at the top of the lampstand, and underneath this shining light are the blossoms...The calyx under each pair of branches indicates the growth of life. These branches are produced by the growing of life. Thus, with the lampstand we see the branching out of life which takes place under the shining of the light. Life grows out light and blossoms with light. This means that the light is actually the blossoming of life. When we grow and blossom, the light shines. Our blossoming is our shining. We grow with life, but we blossom out light.

Praise the Lord that we [who believe in Christ] are parts of this tree in resurrection and with the divine nature, life, the Spirit, and the shining light!

This living tree is growing, branching, budding, and blossoming...The blossoming is the shining of the light.

Thus, the light is the life blossoming. Actually the light is the life. John 1:1 and 4 say, “In the beginning was the Word...and the Word was God...In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.” This is the shining of Christ, the embodiment of the Triune God, as the light of life. (*Life-study of Exodus*, pp. 1083-1084)

Further Reading: *CWWL*, 1980, vol. 1, “Perfecting Training,” chs. 31, 33; *CWWL*, 1984, vol. 3, “The Divine Economy,” ch. 4; *Life-study of Exodus*, msg. 93

Taking the Way of Enjoying Christ as the Tree of Life for the Accomplishing of God's Economy**Lord's Day 9/25****Related Verses****Matt. 15:27-28, 32-33, 37**

27 And she said, Yes, Lord, for even the little dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.

28 Then Jesus answered and said to her, O woman, great is your faith! Be it done to you as you wish. And her daughter was healed from that hour.

32 And Jesus called His disciples to Him and said, I am moved with compassion for the crowd, because for three days now they have remained with Me and they do not have anything to eat. And I am not willing to send them away hungry, lest they faint on the way.

33 And the disciples said to Him, Where can we get so many loaves in this desolate place to satisfy so great a crowd?

37 And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, seven baskets full.

Jer. 15:16

16 Your words were found and I ate them, And Your word became to me The gladness and joy of my heart, For I am called by Your name, O Jehovah, God of hosts.

Matt. 4:4

4 But He answered and said, It is written, "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out through the mouth of God."

Rev. 10:9-11

9 And I went to the Angel and told Him to give me the little scroll. And He said to me, Take it and devour it, and it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be as sweet as honey.

10 And I took the little scroll out of the hand of the Angel and devoured it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth; and when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter.

11 And they said to me, You must prophesy again over many peoples and nations and tongues and kings.

Further Reading:

CWWL, 1965, vol. 3, "The Enjoyment of Christ," chp. 1

Life-Study of Job, msg. 37

CWWN, vol. 56, "Two Principles of Living," pp. 418-432

Life-Study of Exodus, msg. 93

Hymns, #1195

- 1 Life is mysterious, life is God Himself,
Whose whole intention focuses on man.
God made him to take in the tree of life,
To have a man of life for His own plan.
- 2 But man was tempted and seduced to sin,
By taking knowledge from the other source.
This man then fell as knowledge entered in
And dominated him with all its force.
- 3 This knowledge has developed in the man
Into the human culture on the earth.
So man, created to fulfill God's plan,
Became a failure full of Satan's dearth.
- 4 Then God came in the Person of the Son;
Lived He on earth, Christ Jesus was His name —
A living model so that everyone
Could live by life, God's fullness to obtain.
- 5 This God-man, Christ, went to the cross and died,
By death He ended knowledge, the old man.
Things negative forever crucified,
Death He subdued, a new life He began!
- 6 From death He resurrected and became
The living Spirit to give life to us.
When we believe and call upon His name;
This living Spirit comes to dwell in us.

- 7 By this the very Triune God is now
The living Spirit mingling deep within.
Our spirit joins in oneness; this is how
We are one spirit evermore with Him.
- 8 'Tis by this Spirit that we walk and act,
We have our being, think, and see all things;
We're now within this Spirit! What a fact!
This Spirit to us all God's fullness brings!
- 9 So now we have to set our mind on Him;
Each day, each hour, our mind on Him must be;
That by this Spirit we'd be saved within
By life and reign in life eternally.
- 10 'Tis by this Spirit that we shall be freed
From Sin whose law inside us death would bring.
Our mortal bodies will have life indeed;
Thus sanctified we'll be in everything.
- 11 This Spirit shall transform our natural life,
Save us from self, build us in one new man,
Till we're conformed to be like Jesus Christ,
Thus finishing our God's eternal plan.
- 12 Life is our God and life is Christ our Lord.
Life is the Spirit. Life's the only way —
Till we're transfigured and redeemed to God.
We're waiting, looking forward to that day!