

Trees

Genesis 2:9 - And out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight or to be desired — good (suitable, pleasant) for food; the Tree of Life also in the center of the garden, and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

The Tree of Life was in the center of the garden, and also in the center, was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil!!

Both are in the center of the garden.

Both trees, both realities, are in the center of man's life, but both cannot be the center of his life.

The Bible says; "Choose you this day who you will serve!"

At the beginning of man's existence on earth, we are shown Adam in a relationship with **3 kinds of trees.**

In the garden that the Lord God planted there were all manner of trees that were good for food. Adam and Eve were to freely partake of all *except* the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Now, we know that eating a piece of fruit in itself was not the sin, but rather that the **fruit was symbolic of a spiritual reality.**

They could eat of all of the trees of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, "Thou shalt not eat of it".

Gen 2:17 - But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

There was no death in all the other trees of the garden; death was only in the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Adam could have lived on and on forever being sustained only by the fruit of all the trees of the garden. As long as he continued to eat of the trees in the garden he had a sustained life. Yet he was still mortal!!!

The tree of the knowledge of good and evil and the Tree of Life were both in the midst of the garden.

The knowledge of good and evil only deals with external behavior, judging all things on the basis of whether they are good or evil, and it produces death. **Man makes the assumption that everything that is good is also acceptable and Godly. This is not true!!** If it were, then man could be justified by the works of the law. Isn't that the very thing Jesus died to set us free from?

Life is the nature of God, good is the nature of man. Life is good, but not all good is life. Life is neither good nor evil; we see this in the garden.

Why would God say not to eat of the Tree of the knowledge of good and evil?

Because it is a condition of the nature of humanity and man's carnal realm of reasoning which keeps man in his carnal nature and not in the sphere of God's Spirit. Good and evil can only be evaluated in the physical, natural realm and do not produce life. Only the Tree of Life produces life which is Spirit.

To know God is to know Him in Spirit and in Truth!! Just like the Word says, we sit with Him in the heavenly sphere, which is the spirit realm, which is above the world, above our carnal nature, above principalities and powers.

Christ died to free us from the curse of the law and bring us into a dimension of Spirit life that produces life. There is no life in good, or in evil. It is the **knowledge** of, but not the **life** of!!!! This is the reason why so many have a form of godliness but deny the power thereof. We have churches on every block, but where is the power? Where is the manifestation of God in our cities and nations? Yes, you understand now. Going through the motions, living and evaluating everything by good works, or what we do, keeps us in the natural, physical realm, *not* Spirit! Yes, religion is the greatest weapon of deception since Adam and Eve were deceived. "I live a good life, I go to church, I pay my tithes, I am a good person, I don't hurt anyone..." **This does not produce life!!**

The tree of the knowledge of good and evil is the mind of the flesh—the natural, physical, carnal mind.

Romans 8:6 (a) - *Now the mind of the flesh [which is sense and reason without the Holy Spirit] is death.*

Romans 8:13 - *For if you live according to the dictates of the flesh, you will surely die.*

The Tree of Life is the Spirit!!! The mind of Christ.

Romans 8:6 (b) - *But the mind of the [Holy] Spirit is life and [soul] peace [both now and forever].*

1 Cor 2:16 - *...But we have the mind of Christ (the Messiah) and do hold the thoughts (feelings and purposes) of His heart.*

The life giving fruit of this tree was accessible to man but had nothing to do with the physical or natural fruit realm of the earth. **Fruit is His offspring. What He bears!! He produces life through Spirit.** To know God is to know Him in Spirit and in Truth!!

Through the **Tree of Life**, God invited man to *partake* - partake of **His substance, His food, His nature, the indwelling Spirit!** What did Jesus say when He instituted communion? "Take, eat, this is My body!!!

Drink, this is My blood of the new covenant."

Who is the Bread of Life? Christ – The Living Word. Take, eat the Bread; eat My Word and drink My blood; drink of My Spirit.

We are to be dispensers of the New Covenant, dispensers of the Living Word and Spirit!!!

Out of your belly will flow rivers of Living Water!

2 Cor 3:6 - *[It is He] Who has qualified us [making us to be fit and worthy and sufficient] as ministers and dispensers of a new covenant [of salvation through Christ], not [ministers] of the letter (of legally written code) but of the Spirit; for the code [of the Law] kills, but the [Holy] Spirit makes alive.*

Christ in you, the hope of glory!! (Col. 1:27)

The indwelling Spirit is the source and center of life, so that in union with God we have His indwelling power of life; an environment in which man can live, move and have his being. When we eat of the Tree of Life we have illumination and possess the light that gives us life.

The Tree of Life is Truth.

The tree of the knowledge of good and evil is a *form* of truth!

They represent the battles of truth versus form, the letter of the Word versus Spirit, flesh versus Spirit, between law and grace, ritual and reality, doctrine and life, shadow and substance, between facts and truth.

Truth means: reality; free from pretense, simulation, falsehood or deceit.

You shall know the *truth*, and the *truth* shall set you free. (John 8:32)

Not, you shall know the *facts* and the *facts* will set you free.

Facts are merely the *form* of *truth*.

Form means: appearance, configuration, resemblance or shape.

Laws, forms, rituals, ceremonies, works, and activities are all figures representing or standing for truth and reality, but **within themselves they contain no life.**

The letter (of the law) kills but the Spirit gives life.

“The words that I speak unto you are Spirit and they are life,” Jesus said, “I am the Truth and I am the Life”.

Gen 3:5 - For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

The serpent said, "God knows in the day you eat your eyes shall be opened." This was a fact; and "**Ye shall be as gods**, knowing good and evil", was also a fact, for after Adam and Eve ate of the fruit of the tree, the Lord God Himself verified the serpent's statement as being a fact. Fruit is the seed, the offspring of what the tree produced – death – separation from God's life.

What the serpent failed to reveal was the **truth and reality** of the form; which is that, independently of God, man can *never* be a partaker of **His divine nature**.

Eve was deceived in this realm of half truth.

The serpent had a twisted *form* of the truth that did not reveal the *reality* of it. What the serpent concealed was that being **independent of God** and self-sufficient, yielding to the soulish realm with its carnal desires, results in separation from the Spirit of Life who is the only one who produces completeness, satisfaction and fulfillment with the One who created you.

The serpent was taking the Word of God that was promised, which was to make him (man) in the image of God, and he was **receiving it as a doctrine rather than a revelation, as form rather than life**.

Two trees that live within us: the **Tree of Life** and the **tree of the knowledge of good and evil**.

The **Tree of Life** is the *reality of the truth* and the **tree of the knowledge of good and evil** is the *form of truth*!

Many believers today have not learned the difference between these two trees, or between the voice of the Lord God in the garden and the hissing of the serpent from the field (uncultivated area).

So many of the Lord's people have not to this day discerned between *flesh* and *Spirit*, between the *letter that kills* and the *Spirit that gives life*, between the *external rituals* and the *internal reality*, between the *outward shadow* and the *inward substance*, between *facts* and *truth*, or between *form* and *reality*.

Jesus never said, "You shall know the *facts* and the *facts* shall make you free." He stated, rather, "You shall know the **truth**!"

Facts are merely the form of truth, truth held by the carnal mind, in the intellect as dead-letter doctrines, laws, creeds, forms, rituals, ceremonies, ordinances, works, activities, etc. — all *standing for* or *looking like* truth and reality, but within themselves containing **no life**.

"The letter *kills*," the apostle Paul assures us, "The Spirit gives *life*."

"The words that I speak to you, they are *Spirit* and they are *life*," says the Lord.

Man was deceived by the twisted form of truth and was thereby brought to ruin, cheated out of the very thing he sought.

He also was cast out of the garden — cast from the heavenly realm, separated from the blessings of the environment God intended for him — and set in the earth to till the ground from which he was taken. That which he was to rule and have dominion over would now rule him. God gave him his independence and now he would have to live in that environment. He reaped what he sowed!!

A way a man thinketh so he is!!! (Proverbs 23:7)

The university professor challenged his students with this question. Did God create everything that exists?

A student bravely replied yes, he did!"

"God created everything?" The professor asked.

"Yes, sir," the student replied.

The professor answered, "If God created everything, then God created evil since evil exists, and according to the principal that our works define who we are then God is evil."

The student became quiet before such an answer.

The professor was quite pleased with himself and boasted to the students that he had proven once more that the Christian faith was a myth.

Another student raised his hand and said, "Can I ask you a question professor?"

"Of course", replied the professor. The student stood up and asked, "Professor, does cold exist?"

"What kind of question is this? Of course it exists. Have you never been cold?"

The students snickered at the young man's question.

The young man replied, "In fact sir, cold does not exist. According to the laws of physics, what we consider cold is in reality the absence of heat. Every body and every object is susceptible to study when it has or transmits energy, and heat is what makes a body or matter have or transmit energy. Absolute zero (- 460 degrees F) is the total absence of heat; all matter becomes inert and incapable of reaction at that temperature. Cold does not exist. We have created this word to describe how we feel if we have too little heat.

The student continued. "Professor, does darkness exist?"

The professor responded, "Of course it does".

The student replied, "Once again you are wrong sir, darkness does not exist either. Darkness is in reality the absence of light. Light we can study, but not darkness. In fact we can use Newton's prism to break white light into many colors and study the various wavelengths of each color. You cannot measure darkness. A simple ray of light can break into a world of darkness and illuminate it. How can you know how dark a certain space is? You measure the amount of light present. Isn't this correct? Darkness is a term used by man to describe what happens when there is no light present."

Finally the young man asked the professor. "Sir, does evil exist?"

Now uncertain, the professor responded, "Of course as I have already said. We see it every day. It is in the daily example of man's inhumanity to man. It is in the multitude of crime and violence everywhere in the world. "These manifestations are nothing else but evil."

To this the student replied, "Evil does not exist sir, or at least it does not exist unto itself. Evil is simply the absence of God. It is just like darkness and cold, a word that man has created to describe the absence of God. God did not create evil. Evil is not like faith, or love, that exist just as does light and heat. Evil is the result of what happens when man does not have God's love present in his heart. It's like the cold that comes when there is no heat or the darkness that comes when there is no light."

The professor sat down.

The young mans name --- Albert Einstein

Two trees, representing two realities, are in the midst of the garden of man's experience and being. Both realities are in the middle - within man. One or the other is at every man's center, the place of his consciousness, the sphere of his existence.

Both trees, both realities are in the center of man's life, but both cannot be the center of his life!!!

Rom 8:13 - For if you live according to [the dictates of] the flesh, you will surely die. But if through the power of the [Holy] Spirit you are putting to death (making extinct) the [evil] deeds prompted by the body, you shall [really and genuinely] live forever.

Gal 5:16 - But I say, walk and live [habitually] in the [Holy] Spirit [responsive to and controlled and guided by the Spirit]; then you will certainly not gratify the cravings and desires of the flesh (of human nature without God).

The Tree of Life

The Tree Of The Knowledge Of Good And Evil

Spirit Of God

Spirit Of Satan

Truth

Error

Reality

Form

Blessing

Cursing

Free Woman

Bond Woman

Sarah

Hagar

Queen Esther

Queen Vashti

Mordacai

Haman

Samuel

Eli

David

Saul

Philippians 2:13 - *For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do His good pleasure*

Christ in you the hope of glory! We must identify with our true nature and walk in it. Everywhere you go you should be representing Him. You have been begotten by the

same incorruptible seed as Christ. The Tree of Life is within you, you must learn to draw from Him. God is working in you to do HIS WILL!!!

As we love Him and read His Word and believe, we will produce an atmosphere, an environment of who He is. We are His offspring, His representatives in the earth, so we must identify with our true nature, His will, which is His Word and His Life.

Will means - purpose, intent, to desire, please, choice, determination, decree, to breathe after, pleasure

The real issue is that God has placed His divine will within us and we must rise up, deny the desires of the flesh and submit to the Spirit of our true nature.

We have been born again, regenerated by an immortal seed within us. Now we must learn to acknowledge the Christ within and live in what He says we are instead of what the world and our carnal nature say we are.

Romans 7:22-25 - For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self (with my new nature). (23) But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

(24) O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death? (25) I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then indeed **I, of myself with the MIND and HEART, serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.**

Psalms 1:2 - But his delight and desire are in the law of the Lord, and on His law (the precepts, the instructions, the teachings of God) he habitually meditates (ponders and studies) by day and by night.

Eph. 1:11, 13 - In whom also **we have obtained an inheritance**, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who **worketh all things after the counsel of His own will.**

(13) We trusted, heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom we believed, **you were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise.**

We have been sealed by the promise that **everything He is, we are in the earth!!** Our dilemma is what do we believe and from which decree (law) are we operating???? The law of God which produces life more abundantly, or the flesh of the law of sin which produces separation and death??

HIS WILL is IN YOU to do HIS GOOD PLEASURE!!!

