

THE FORTY - SECOND GENERATION

The Tree of Life

August 2016

Greetings in the name of Christ Jesus our Lord.

“And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the Tree of Life.” Genesis 3:22-24

In these verses, the Lord tells us we must partake of the Tree of Life to live. This brings up a question to consider: How can we partake of the Tree of Life when it is protected by the flaming sword? Paul relates:

“And take the helmet of

salvation, and the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God:” Ephesians 6:17

And again the writer of Hebrew relates:

“For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” Hebrews 4:12

These verses tell us the Sword of the Spirit is the Word of God. These scriptures show us the only way back to the Tree of Life is through God's Word. In the Old Testament Solomon relates:

“Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding. For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver;

and the gain thereof than fine gold. She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her. Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honour. Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her: and happy is every one that retaineth her. Proverbs 3:13-18

Wisdom and understanding of God's Word are a Tree of Life to those who seek and search and lay hold upon them for themselves. We also find in Proverbs that:

*“The fruit of the righteous is a Tree of Life; and he that winneth souls is wise.”
Proverbs 11:30*

The fruit of the righteous are the fruits of the spirit operating in our lives. Our lives should be a Tree of Life to those around us. We will not partake of the Tree of Life without the fruits of the Spirit abounding in our lives. Again we discover in Proverbs that:

*“Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but when the desire cometh, it is a Tree of Life.
Proverbs 13:12*

The word **deferred** means “*drawn out, prolonged, scattered, drawn away, and postponed.*” Is your hope in God being postponed, prolonged, or drawn away? We must then ask ourselves what is our hope? By the Holy Spirit, Paul reveals:

“To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:” Colossians 1:27

Praise the Lord, it is Christ in us that is our hope of glory. The word **hope** means “*expectation, belief, trust.*” We must expect, believe, and trust that God is coming in a people, in those who are partaking of the Tree of Life. Hear Solomon's words again:

“Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but when the desire cometh, it is a Tree of Life.” Proverbs 13:12

What is our hope? When will this hope be revealed? It will be when we desire with our whole heart for it to come. It is then our hope will become this Tree of Life. We must not prolong God's changes in us any longer. We must, instead, desire to change and fill ourselves with the fruits of the Spirit. Yes, when we desire God's hope in our inner being, we will become a Tree of Life. Solomon again relates:

“A wholesome tongue is a

tree of life: but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit.” Proverbs 15:4

The word **wholesome** means “*health, healing, remedy, cure, refreshing, deliverance, meekness, tranquility of mind, gentleness and modest speech.*” Does your tongue bring Godly traits such as these, or does it tear down and destroy? We must lift up and encourage so that our tongue may become a Tree of Life.

In the book of Revelation, we discover:

“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the Tree of Life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.”
Revelation 2:7

For us to eat of that Tree of Life, we must overcome many things: fear, doubt, unbelief, pride, anger, greed, and unforgiveness, etc. . . These sinful ways keep us from partaking of the Tree of Life. In Revelation, Chapter 22, we discover:

“And He shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was

there the Tree of Life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.”
Revelation 22:1-2

We are directed to bare twelve manner of fruits: love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance, lowliness, patience, and righteousness. If our lives produce all of these fruits we will be drinking from the pure river of water of life, the Word of God, and we will become a Tree of Life. Again in the book of Revelation, we find:

“And He said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be My son.”
Revelation 21:6-7

Are you thirsty for God's Word? There are many people who partake of the water of God's Word, but there are not very many who are truly thirsting for His Word with every fiber of their being. If we are not thirsty for His Word, He will not give us the water of life freely. Paul relates:

“If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.” Colossians 3:1-3

How can we be risen with Christ? It is only by dying to self. We must die to pride, hate, fear, unforgiveness, lust, anger, vain imaginations, greed, unbelief, and unrighteousness..... Paul again tells us:

*“So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, **if** so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwelleth in you.” Romans 8:8-11*

Paul tells us that if we do not die to these fleshly things we will not be pleasing to God. The Spirit that raised up Jesus is the Tree of Life.

I pray you continue to thirst for His Word. Strive to partake of that Tree of Life. Continue to fill yourself with the fruits of the Spirit. May God bless you in your walk towards the Kingdom of God. Keep pressing in. Remember God created us for His glory. *as given to Robert Bixler*

*“Even every one that is called by My name: for I have created him for My glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.”
Isaiah 43:7*

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