

CHRISTIAN ON CAMPUS  
**Friday Night Fellowship**  
Session 3: Christ Opens the Way to the Tree of Life

**1. Sin prevented man from coming to the tree of life which is God Himself**

**Gen 3:22** And Jehovah God said, Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, lest he put forth his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat and live forever —

**Gen 3:23** Then Jehovah God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to work the ground from which he was taken.

**Gen 3:24** So He drove the man out, and at the east of the garden of Eden He placed the cherubim and a flaming sword which turned in every direction to guard the way to the tree of life.

**2. Christ opens the way to the tree of life**

**Heb 4:12** For the word of God is living and operative and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit and of joints and marrow, and able to discern the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

**Heb 4:14** Having therefore a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast the confession.

**Heb 4:15** For we do not have a High Priest who cannot be touched with the feeling of our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all respects like us, yet without sin.

**Heb 4:16** Let us therefore come forward with boldness to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace for timely help.

**Heb 10:19** Having therefore, brothers, boldness for entering the Holy of Holies in the blood of Jesus,

**Heb 10:20** Which entrance He initiated for us as a new and living way through the veil, that is, His flesh,

**Today's Reading**

By His death Christ did away with all the negative things, such as our sinful nature and our sins. He has cleansed us with His precious blood, and in His resurrection He became a life-giving Spirit. All that is needed is for us to enjoy Him. We all have to learn to eat and drink the Lord by exercising the proper organ to take Him in. The proper organ is our spirit. If we are going to contact this Spirit, we have to exercise our spirit. "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit" (John 4:24). We should not merely exercise our mind to understand, to learn, and to study, but we should exercise our spirit to contact Him, to drink Him, and to eat Him. The more we open ourselves to the Lord from our spirit, the more we have the peace and the sense that He is one with us. We can contact Him as the life-giving Spirit within us and enjoy the Lord.

Hebrews 4:12 tells us that the spirit must be divided from the soul. The soul is the real problem. The background of the book of Hebrews is related to the Judaizers distracting people from the

enjoyment of Christ. They may have told a Hebrew believer, "We are the descendants of our forefathers who received the law from our God. We have to believe in Jesus, yet we shouldn't give up the law." This doctrinal argument would have confused the Hebrew believers. Paul wrote Hebrews to tell these Christians that they had to deal with the living Christ and to enjoy this living Christ, not to deal with a religion. We do not need a religion, but we need a living person, who is Christ as the tree of life. If we are going to deal with a religion, we need the soul, the mind. But if we are going to deal with a living person, who is Christ, the life-giving Spirit, we have to learn how to exercise our spirit. Our spirit has to be divided from our disturbing and deceived soul. We have to discern our spirit from this deceived and disturbing soul. We have to learn to exercise our spirit to contact and enjoy Christ, the life-giving Spirit.

On the one hand, Christ is in the heavens. On the other hand, He is in our spirit. With the resurrected and ascended Christ there is no problem of space or time. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He is like the air. With the air there is no problem of space or time. As the air, Christ is everywhere. He is heavenly, not earthly, and He is spiritual, not fleshly. We must learn how to exercise our spirit to contact this heavenly and spiritual Christ, who is the life-giving Spirit. When we exercise our spirit to contact the Lord, we sense that we are in the Holy of Holies and that we are touching the throne of grace. We can obtain the needed mercy and find grace flowing within us as the living water to be our timely help. This is the way to enjoy the tree of life today.

By His all-inclusive death and His wonderful resurrection, He has paved the way and has prepared the place. It is now so easy for us to get into the Father and so easy for the Father to be brought into us. Everything is done, all has been prepared, and Christ has become a life-giving Spirit. The fulfillment of all the requirements of God's righteousness, holiness, and glory is also included in the life-giving Spirit. He is so available. All we need to do is receive this Spirit by calling on the name of the Lord. Then we will enjoy Him within.

Wherever we are and whenever we turn to Him, He is there. The only thing we need to realize is that we have to exercise our spirit to contact Him. When we exercise our spirit to contact Him, we are in the Holy of Holies touching the throne of grace and enjoying the source of grace, the life-giving Spirit. This is the enjoyment of the tree of life, which will transform us, equip us, strengthen us, clothe us, and even adorn us with Christ. Out of this enjoyment we all will be built up together as the building, the resting place, of God.

At the end of the Bible there is a universal building (Rev. 21:2). The throne is the center of this building, and out of this throne flows a river of living water (22:1). The tree of life grows in the flow of the water to supply all of God's redeemed (v. 2). This must not be a doctrine to us but must be something experienced by us day by day and hour by hour. The Lord needs a group of people to enjoy Him, to partake of Him, and to experience Him in such a living way that they may come together to be His living expression. With them there will be God's image to express the Triune God, God's authority to represent the ruling Lord, and God's life within to fulfill all the requirements. All of this depends on one thing—the enjoyment of the Triune God as the tree of life.