

CHRISTIANS ON CAMPUS

Friday Night Fellowship: Fully Equipped

Session 2: The Source and Consummation of the Two Trees

I. Three Parties in the Universe and Two Minglings

Genesis 2:7 And Jehovah God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul.

Gen 3:2-7 And the woman said to the serpent, Of the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; But of the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, You shall not eat of it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die. And the serpent said to the woman, You shall not surely die! For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will become like God, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and *that* the tree was to be desired to make *oneself* wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave *some* to her husband with her, and he ate. And the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Gen. 6:3,5 And Jehovah said, My Spirit will not strive with man forever, for he indeed is flesh...And Jehovah saw the wickedness of man was great in the earth

1 Corinthians 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.

Romans 8:16 The Spirit Himself witnesses with our spirit that we are children of God.

II. Experiencing Christ as the Tree of Life in Our spirit

John 5:39-40 You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that testify concerning Me. Yet you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.

Matthew 16:22-23 And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, *God* be merciful to You, Lord! This shall by no means happen to You! But He turned and said to Peter, Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me, for you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of men.

III. The Ultimate Consummation of the Two Trees

Revelation 20:14 And death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire.

Revelation 22:2 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
Group Study Excerpts

THE THREE PARTIES IN THE UNIVERSE

In the universe there are three parties: God, Satan, and man. Man is in between God and Satan. After man was created by God, he was neutral to God and to Satan. In Genesis God is represented by the tree of life. God presented Himself to man as the tree of life, so the tree of life is the reality of God. There is another tree, the tree of knowledge, representing Satan. Man, created by God with a spirit, soul, and body (2:7), was neutral between these two trees. The three parties in Genesis 2 are God, represented by the tree of life; Satan, the very source of death, represented by the tree of knowledge; and man, who was created by God in three parts. Genesis 2:7 says that "Jehovah God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul." This verse shows the tripartite man with the body formed of the dust of the ground, the spirit as the breath of life, and the soul, which was formed when both the spirit and the body came together. Between God and Satan there was and still is a struggle. God is going to perform and fulfill His purpose, and Satan is doing his best to frustrate God's purpose. All the incidents recorded in the sixty-six books of the Scriptures came either out of the tree of life through man or out of the tree of knowledge through man.

In the Bible there is a line of the satanic work and another line of God's work. The enemy of God is working all the time by injecting himself into man's soul. All the evil things and sinful stories come out of the mingling of Satan with man's soul, the working of Satan into man, with man, and through man. At the same time God works. God's work is to work Himself into man's spirit. All the holy things and spiritual stories come out of another mingling, the mingling of God with man's spirit. Eventually, in the New Testament there is this verse, 1 Corinthians 6:17, which says, "He who is joined to the Lord is one spirit." Since the Lord Himself is the Spirit (2 Cor. 3:17) and has created us with a spirit (Rom. 8:16), we can be joined to Him as one spirit. The story of Abel testifies of a man who did not live in the soul but in the spirit. The accounts of Enosh, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph also testify of people who were not living by their reasoning in their soul but who were living by the faith in the spirit.

EXPERIENCING CHRIST AS THE TREE OF LIFE IN OUR SPIRIT

The Lord is not merely interested in what we are doing, but in whether we are in our soul or in our spirit. This is why the Lord told us emphatically in the four Gospels many times that we have to deny the soul, the self. This is because Satan is mingled with our soul, with our self. In Matthew 16 Peter thought that he was saying something good to the Lord, but the Lord rebuked him, calling him Satan (vv. 22-23). Christ perceived that it was not Peter but Satan who frustrated Him from taking the cross. Immediately after this the Lord talked about denying the self and losing the soul-life (vv. 24-25). This proves that Satan is one with our soul, one with our self.

Only the experiences of the Lord Himself in our spirit will last eternally. The teachings will not remain; they will pass away. Our primary need is not for more knowledge about the Lord. What we need today is to contact the Lord. Our need today is not for gifts but for the Lord Himself as our life, our food, our drink, and our air. We have to realize the Lord Himself in such a full and all-inclusive way. Then we will have the proper and living knowledge of the Lord, not from letters but from life. If we will experience the Lord in such a way, we will then have the proper function. The proper function and the proper gifts will come out of the inner life.

It is good that we retire from things other than the Lord Himself. We must learn to return ourselves to the Lord Himself. With the tree of the knowledge of good and evil everything is complicated. Good and evil are mixed together and result in death. The one thing we need is to enjoy the Lord as the tree of life. We have to learn how to enjoy, to partake of, this living Lord. We have to learn how to contact Him, how to realize Him, and how to experience Him in the spirit as our life and everything.