

One woman's view on faith and living according to the Tree of Life, which is Eternal, and not bound to the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, which is natural.

That Other Tree

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That Other Tree

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Preface

We are living in a very hectic, confusing time in history. There are books, schools, philosophies, and teachers calling out their varied teaching about life and God, and truth. Some people find themselves tossed here and there on great waves of ideologies, with many “ports” in sight and available. Some of those ports may be hostile; others may be a place of haven and rest.

To whom shall we listen? Which way should we each go? Shall we selfishly indulge ourselves at the expense of others? Shall we indulge ourselves at our own expense? In this world, so many ideas and teachings labeled “truth,” yet with so little peace and joy among people!

Within the circle of Christian religion, there is such diversity that one observing might wonder at the God revered. There are those denominations, which bear the name of Jesus Christ, and there are cults, which claim the same name. Yet, as we observe and listen, we form even from our early childhood, a mental picture of Jesus Christ and what He is like, which is often a false image. Where is the truth?

Jesus Christ, very simply, is the Truth. He said He is and we believe Him, or we do not. Any other teaching or philosophy apart from Him fades at different degrees, from the truth. In an attempt to understand what truth is, it would seem that the main problem lies in discerning what really is from God and what is not. This is not only a problem among those who say they are searching for truth, but also among Christians who differ about certain doctrines and teachings. Where is the peace and joy promised to those who follow and trust Jesus Christ? More than even those, where is love?

There are many “how-to” books written to help understand God, Jesus Christ, the Church, the gifts of the Holy Spirit, how to walk in love, faith, joy, and peace, how to understand the prophetic writings, and the various viewpoints on “sound doctrine.” There are so many it would be very tiring to attempt to decide which ones, if any, to read. There is a great danger surrounding this particular subject also, false

teaching. (A little leaven leavens the whole loaf; a little corruption pollutes the whole).

Why should a person pick up and read one book instead of another? Because it was suggested by someone who has read it and praises its worth, or perhaps selected at random. Either way could be a mistake, and the teaching once assimilated, can be very difficult to dismiss. What is the answer for anyone who wishes to know and love God? The Spirit of God leads us into all truth! He only knows who we really are, what we need to learn, and when. His authority is the only one to whom we must bow.

This little book, written without any attempt to be a literary masterpiece, is a communication to others called by God in Jesus Christ, who may encounter the same difficulties and the temptation to give up or compromise along the way, because many have become obstacles rather than established in the Way.

Whatever comes, I want Jesus Christ above all else. He is my life. He affects my relationships with all I come in contact. If God's Truth and love, observed a bit more clearly, and the tremendous freedom and hope there is in relying totally on Him through any light in this writing, then God will be glorified and honored, and this is as it should be.

Certainly, there is more to this story, but these were assembled for this little book from my own scope of understanding, in His light for my path.

May you be made rich beyond any measure as you draw closer to God in Jesus Christ. Rich in all of the things He pours into the heart and life of those who trust Him; Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Faith, and all of the things that pertain to His Kingdom, forever.

THAT OTHER TREE ...but Spiritually!

There were two trees in the garden of God, in a perfect and magnificent place, which has since disappeared from the earth. Adam, cast out of the Garden by his Creator from this high place that once existed for him, into a down direction, to a place made for the beasts of the field. In some way, the Garden was in a higher and more wonderful dimension. It was the place where Adam had close fellowship with God. It was a place in time where Adam understood God's voice, and could personally talk with God in close fellowship with Him. God had placed within Adam a human spirit that was alive and able to know God, which was the characteristic that was like God, Who is Spirit.

Adam as a created being had access to God, in a sense, much as the position lost to Lucifer. Second in command, with a free will, Lucifer had the opportunity to walk with God in complete obedience to Him. The Lord God had then made a similar opportunity possible for Adam.

God took a rib from sleeping Adam, and created a woman as a counterpart and companion to him. She was from Adam, so she was like Adam: flesh of his flesh, and bone of his bone.

We are unable to receive spiritual truth with our finite minds. These truths are to be `spiritually discerned, so that Adam who had this ability for a time but was lost to him when he was tempted by Satan's serpent mouth, who then deposited into Adam the doubt and lust that came from the Dragon's own character.

All the earth's inhabitants by natural birth, connected to those first parents and Adam's rebellion against God, caused all to be unwillingly bound to Satan. When Adam rebelled against God's authority, as many do in their youth, Adam followed Eve's lead in eating the fruit of the tree God had forbidden them to eat.

This was no arbitrary rule on the part of God. That was no ordinary tree. The forbidden fruit connected to the mind of fallen Lucifer, who had chosen to stand against the Most High God. The roots of the tree, planted deep in Satan's character, appeared appealing to

her, and the fruit looked desirable and good to Eve. Eve responded to the outward appearance of the fruit, and believed the lies that flowed from the mouth of the serpent.

The next step was that Eve, seduced by the lust of emotional promise, brought the sensual fruit to Adam, from whom no other influence was used, just rebellion against God's order. He did eat. Eve was beguiled, and Adam rebelled. They were in it together.

When they realized they were naked, which had not mattered before because they were innocent and pure, they tried to hide on God. After God confronted Adam, the retort was also much as a youth rebelling against a parent, "the woman You gave to me caused me to do it." Was he blaming the woman? No, Adam blamed God.

The typical characteristic of all rebellion against authority is the answer "it was not my fault." Someone else is to blame.

The woman was a bit more correct by saying "the serpent" caused me to do it. Neither Adam, nor his wife Eve, confessed the truth to God. They had ingested the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, blessing and calamity. They saw that they were naked, and they learned immediately to speak the half-truth, and the blatant lie.

The whole scene and all they experienced, was passed on down through that nature from the first parents. Trapped by the nature of flesh, Adam was then connected, and in bondage to Satan with his fallen angel army of Principalities, Powers, and Rulers of darkness. In essence, Adam had handed the keys to the kingdom of this World, to the evil one who then became the Prince of the World.

God could not allow Adam to remain in that perfect garden, so God banished Adam and Eve from it into the domain that Satan ruled, with the beasts of the field. God could not allow Adam to eat any of the fruit of that other tree, because the fruit of it was from God Himself.

It was the Tree of Life, which is Life Eternal. Adam did not dare eat this fruit in his condition because it would mean remaining forever in that horrible condition. It would be a few thousand years before what occurred in that garden was resolved through Jesus Christ's death and resurrection.

The tree of the knowledge of good and evil, blessing and calamity was the fallen condition of Adam, and in all who were born

That Other Tree

after him. The tantalizing characteristic of that nature is the ability to weigh the difference between good and evil, thereby attempting to be good. It is receiving energies and motivations from the character of Satan and his fallen angels. Its roots are in the World, so Adam, governed by the World, the flesh, and the Devil, in pure bondage, had no way out.

Adam had experienced a bit of Lucifer's existence. He had walked and talked with God until He found iniquity and guilt in Adam and Eve, and they both lost their position with their Creator.

This fallen nature of Adam is that which the Bible calls "the old man.", and must be exchanged for the new "man" which is unattainable without recognizing it is impossible without God.

In this fallen condition there had to be a new life from God. Man was incapable of being good enough to please God due to his evil heart, and his connection to Satan's nature. Because of the sin nature, the knowledge of good and evil, Adam was compelled to think independently of God.

This was not a thought in Adam, but according to God's Own plan. I believe it was His plan even as Lucifer was rebelling. The judgment is coming, so this earth holds the trial. This would be Man's opportunity to be reconciled to God, and live forever with Him beyond this temporary World.

God created a temporary World and placed a race of temporary people to lead the population to His permanent Home. The first fruit of the wrong tree placed all under the same curse. The second tree, demonstrated fully in Jesus Christ, produces fruit that remains forever.

In the fallen condition the natural mind is subject to the dictates of the flesh, completely joined to the World, influenced, and motivated by Satan, a union and condition that only God could atone for and remedy.

We cannot receive spiritual truth with our finite minds. These truths must be spiritually discerned, but with a dead human spirit, it is impossible. "Because they are spiritually discerned and estimated and appreciated," (1 Cor. 2:14.)

When a person becomes a believer in Jesus Christ and His atonement for our sin, God's Holy Spirit give the dead human spirit

life. Similarly, as an embryo is the life which results from the fusing together of a living sperm and an egg, so it is with our new life in God, joined by His Holy Spirit, becoming one with Jesus Christ. "To as many as received Him, to them gave her power to become children of God." By this example, we can see that our new life in Jesus Christ is far from fleshly energies attempting to be "like" Him.

By faith, we allow Him to lead us out of our life bound by sin so we can then begin to see the reality, more and more, of His power over the enemy.

He does not simply blot out our names on some "sinful" list and write them down in the Book of Life, allowing us to struggle with our flesh until we go to be with Him where everything is peaceful and perfect. He is actively moving and interested in every second, every thought, every step of our individual lives enabling us to inherit the promises here on earth where war is in progress in the unseen world. We are to be involved in the victory and not be perpetual "casualties" of that warfare. "And so that you can know and understand what is the immeasurable and unlimited and surpassing greatness of His power in and for us who believe, as demonstrated in the working of His mighty strength..."(Eph 1:19)

Therefore, the Bible, taken neither literally or figuratively, but understood spiritually taught only by the Teacher, Jesus Christ. There is much hope and freedom in this truth in that we need not fear anything nor long for understanding, because God is our Lord, and in Jesus Christ we become enlightened to whatever we need to be revealed to us.

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