

Doctrine of the Tree of Life

1. After God created Adam and Eve, He took them to the Garden of Eden and drew their attention to two unique trees. There was the Tree of Life, which grew in the middle of the Garden of Eden, and there was the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.
 - *Genesis 2:9 And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.*

2. Created in innocence and placed in a state of probation with a view towards establishing righteousness, Adam and Eve were forbidden to eat of the fruit found on the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.
 - *Genesis 2:15 And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 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.*

3. Initially, there appears to be no divine prohibition against eating the fruit of the Tree of Life. Indeed, in a state of innocence Adam and Eve were free to eat of the Tree of Life with the potential of living forever.

4. Then came the Fall. Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden fruit on the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. Lest they continue to eat of the Tree of Life and live forever in a confirmed state of evil, God drove them from the Garden that they might eventually die.
 - *Genesis 3:22 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: 23 Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.*

5. To make sure that Adam and Eve did not return to the Garden of Eden to eat the fruit of the Tree of Life and continue to live, Cherubims were placed at the eastern entrance to the garden, to secure that access to the Tree of Life would be denied.
 - *Genesis 3:24 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.*

6. In the centuries to come, in Hebrew society, several proverbs emerged to speak of the Tree of Life.
 - *Wisdom. Proverbs 3:18 She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her: and happy is every one that retaineth her.*

- Righteousness. *Proverbs 11:30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.*
 - Fulfilled Desire. *Proverbs 13:12 Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life.*
 - A Wholesome Tongue. *Proverbs 15:4 A wholesome tongue is a tree of life: but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit.*
7. The promise to the church is that one day she shall eat again of the Tree of Life.
- *Revelation 2:7 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 22:2 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.*
8. Gospel obedience has always been the divine condition for eating of the Tree of Life. In Christ, the condition of perfect obedience has been met. And, because every Christian is placed “in Christ”, the gospel privilege will come to spiritually eat of the Tree of Life.
- *Revelation 22:14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.*