

KEY STATEMENTS

**Eating the tree of life, that is, enjoying Christ as our life supply,
should be the primary matter in the church life.**

**The two trees in Genesis 2:9—
the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil—
represent two principles—
the principle of life and the principle of right and wrong.**

**The Lord's recovery is a recovery
of loving the Lord Jesus with the first love, the best love,
and of eating the Lord Jesus as the tree of life
for the building up of the organic Body of Christ,
which is the building up of the New Jerusalem
as the goal of God's eternal economy.**

**As a reproduction of Christ as the tree of life,
we, the believers in Christ and children of God,
not only have eternal life and may experience eternal life,
but we also can minister this life to other members of the Body of Christ.**

**INTRODUCTION:
TAKING THE WAY OF ENJOYING CHRIST AS THE TREE OF LIFE**

Crucial Fellowship from Brother Lee

“The tree of life typifies Christ who imparts life to man and who pleases and satisfies man”—*Life-study of Genesis*, p. 141.

“The one thing we need is to enjoy the Lord as the tree of life”—*The Tree of Life*, p. 23.

“In May of 1943...I had contracted a serious case of tuberculosis...I saw the tree of life during the two and a half years of my illness. During those two and a half years I saw that in the Lord’s recovery and in His work we lacked life. Every kind of problem, regardless of what it may be, is the result of a shortage of life. When I saw this, I was extremely remorseful, I confessed much and had a thorough repentance before the Lord, and I also had many dealings before Him...The messages on the tree of life saved many saints and also released many of the brothers and sisters in Nanking. Because of the four years of turmoil in the church in Shanghai, the saints had been disheartened and depressed for years and were unable to do anything. These messages released their spirit and enlightened their heart...I thank the Lord that through the messages on the tree of life, the church in Shanghai was healed...The messages on the tree of life laid a foundation for the revival of the church in Shanghai”—*The History and Revelation of the Lord’s Recovery*, vol. 1, pp. 130, 133, 135, 138.

“Eating the tree of life, that is, enjoying Christ as our life supply, should be the primary matter in the church life”—Rev. 2:7, footnote 6, para. 4.

“The evil condition of the wicked is that they do not come to the Lord to eat and enjoy the Lord...They do many things, but they do not come to contact the Lord, to take Him, to receive Him, to taste Him, and to enjoy Him. In the sight of God, nothing is more evil than this”—Isa. 57:20, footnote 1.

God’s intention for man was to give Himself as the tree of life to man for man to enjoy. “To see that God wants us to enjoy Him and that He does not want us to do anything for Him is to see that the Christian life is a matter of enjoyment...If our concept is changed so that we see these two points, it will be easy for us to live a life of enjoying God”—*The Vision of the Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil*, p. 60.

“If we want to take the way of enjoying God, we must have a change of concept...If we want to enter into the reality of the enjoyment of God, we must see a controlling vision...It was not until I was forty years of age that the Lord revealed to me the way of enjoying Him. I was disappointed that for twenty years most of my time and energy had been wasted. Most of my prayers were of no value, and the time that I had spent reading the Bible and other spiritual books was also of no value. This is when I realized that our way of working was wrong and that our way of spiritual pursuit was also wrong...Because I suffered a great loss from taking the wrong way, I do not want others to repeat the same mistake. I hope that others can take the way of enjoying God. I implore the saints to no longer take the wrong way. We should consider our former way of pursuit. We must have a drastic change of concept. We need to have a controlling vision”—*The Vision of the Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil*, p. 51.

**Outline of the Messages
for the Spanish Speaking Conference of the Churches in the Northeast
September 9-11, 2022**

**GENERAL SUBJECT:
TAKING THE WAY OF ENJOYING CHRIST AS THE TREE OF LIFE**

Message 1

**Taking the Way of Enjoying Christ as the Tree of Life
for the Accomplishing of God's Eternal Economy**

Scripture Reading: Gen. 2:7-9; Rev. 2:7; 22:14; John 1:4; 14:6a; 10:10b; 6:35, 57, 63

I. In Genesis 2 we see two choices before man—the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil—vv. 7-9:

- A. The two trees show that in this universe there are two wills, two sources, and two possibilities for man to choose with his free will—cf. Deut. 30:19-20.
- B. The tree of life signifies Christ, the embodiment of the Triune God, as life to man in the form of food for man to enjoy Him and be constituted with Him for His glory, His corporate expression, thus accomplishing God's original intention according to His eternal economy—Gen. 1:26; Isa. 43:7; Gen. 2:9; Rev. 2:7; 22:14; John 1:4; 14:6a; 10:10b; 6:35, 57, 63; Rev. 21:10-11; cf. 4:3:
 1. The tree of life, the tree of God, the God-tree, is the center of the universe.
 2. The Old Testament begins with the tree of life (Gen. 2:9), and the New Testament ends with the tree of life (Rev. 22:2, 14); thus, the thought of God being man's life runs through the entire divine revelation.
 3. God's placing man in front of the tree of life indicates that God wanted man to receive Him as his life by eating Him organically and assimilating Him metabolically, so that God might become the very constituent of man's being—John 6:57, 63; Jer. 15:16; Matt. 4:4.
- C. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil signifies Satan as the source of death to man—Heb. 2:14:
 1. It also signifies all things apart from God, for anything that is not God Himself, including good things and even scriptural things and religious things, can be utilized by Satan, the subtle one, to bring death to man—John 5:39-40; 2 Cor. 3:6b.
 2. Good and evil are not signified by two trees but by one tree, the second tree; thus, seeking good other than God belongs to Satan.
 3. The genuine good is God Himself; hence, gaining God equals gaining the genuine good—Matt. 19:17a; Mark 10:17-18; Psa. 16:2.
- D. The tree of life causes man to be dependent on God (John 15:5), but the tree of knowledge causes man to rebel against God and be independent from Him (cf. Gen. 3:5):
 1. Eating indicates dependence; that God is our food, signified by the tree of life, means that we must depend on God continually.
 2. The tree of knowledge indicates independence; in the eyes of God, man's first sin and the greatest sin is independence.
- E. The two trees issue in two lines, two ways—the way of life and the way of death—that run through the entire Bible and end in the book of Revelation:
 1. Death begins with the tree of knowledge (Gen. 2:17) and ends with the lake of fire (Rev. 20:10, 14).

2. Life begins with the tree of life and ends with the New Jerusalem, the city of the water of life—22:1-2.

II. We must stay on the way of life, the line of life, in the maintenance of life by enjoying Christ as the tree of life for God's building in life by our growth in life—John 10:10b; Rev. 22:1-2; Eph. 4:16; 2:21-22; Col. 2:19:

- A. We stay on the way of life by living and serving according to the principle of life, not according to the principle of right and wrong:
 1. We must live and act according to the inner sense of life in our spirit, the leading of life, not according to right and wrong—Rom. 8:6; 2 Cor. 2:13.
 2. The standard for Christian living is the presence of the indwelling Christ within us; it is not a question of what is right or wrong but of whether or not the divine life within us agrees with something—Matt. 17:3, 5, 8; cf. Mal. 2:15-16.
- B. We stay on the way of life by loving the Lord to the uttermost, drawing others to run after Him—Mark 12:30; S. S. 1:4a:
 1. To enjoy Christ as the tree of life, we must tell Him all the time, “Lord Jesus, I love You”; if we have a burning love toward the Lord Jesus, giving Him the first place in all things, we will enjoy all that He is—Rev. 2:4-5, 7.
 2. To enjoy Christ as the tree of life, we must betroth people to Him, bringing them into the genuine appreciation, love, and enjoyment of the precious person of the Lord Jesus—2 Cor. 11:2-3.
- C. We stay on the way of life by eating Jesus through pray-reading the Word, musing on the word, and ministering the word as the Spirit into others by the exercise of our spirit of faith—John 6:57, 63; Jer. 15:16; Psa. 119:15; Matt. 4:4; 24:45; 1 Cor. 2:4-5, 13:
 1. We must enjoy Him in the Word early in the morning to have a new start of each day, and we must receive His word with much and careful consideration—Psa. 119:15, 147-148; cf. Lev. 11:3.
 2. We must speak Christ to all kinds of people daily in season and out of season (Acts 5:42; 8:4; 2 Tim. 4:2) and desperately endeavor to build up a habit of speaking in any meeting (1 Cor. 14:26, 4-5, 12, 31).
- D. We stay on the way of life by enjoying the Triune God as the law of the Spirit of life with its divine capacity—Rom. 8:2; Jer. 32:39:
 1. In the garden of Eden with the two trees, we see life, good, and evil; we are a miniature garden of Eden with the law of the Spirit of life in our spirit, the law of good in our natural, independent mind, and the law of evil in our flesh—Rom. 7:23; 8:2, 16.
 2. We must “switch on” the law of the Spirit of life by walking according to the spirit and setting our mind on the spirit for the dispensing of the Triune God as life into our tripartite being—vv. 2, 4, 6, 10-11.
- E. We stay on the way of life by living in resurrection, in the reality of the church as the Body of Christ, signified by the golden lampstand as a tree of resurrection life; this is so that we may bear the glory of God for God's expression as the city of life, the New Jerusalem—Eph. 1:22-23; Exo. 25:31-40; Rev. 1:11-12; 21:10-11.

III. The unique way for us to be overcomers is by eating and enjoying Christ as the tree of life so that we can be transformed in life to become the man-child for the display of Christ's victory and for us to become the bride for Christ's satisfaction—2:7, 17; 3:20-21; 12:5-12; 19:7-9; 22:2, 14.