



bloodline network newsletter

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THE PLANTING OF THE LORD

The Lord planted a garden ... and there He put the man whom He had formed. And out of the ground the Lord God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

God created the heavens and the earth in excellence and perfection—Adam and Eve were formed as mature adults. Everything He created has purpose and value. Yet there came a day when Eve would see that the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was good for food and pleasant to the eye—but because of the cunning words of the serpent, she also saw the tree as desirable to make one wise. Even though God had spoken that man was already made in His image, the serpent convinced Eve that she would only be like God if she ate the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

God made Adam and Eve to be one with Him—extending His productive energy through them. They were an important branch in the function of His creation—an offshoot of the abundance and benevolence of His creative power. They had possibility with God ... and apart from Him they had nothing. Sin separated the creation from the Creator—the branch from the tree.

Adam and Eve ate the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and their eyes were opened. They had already seen the magnificent wisdom of God but now they saw what they were without God ... and seeing their lack, they despised their own nakedness. Their new perception caused their minds to become cloudy and confused. Anytime we separate identity from purpose we likewise sprout confusion. Adam changed the way he thought and instead of thinking on God's thought, he now possessed an innate fear that God thought as he did and it scared him.

Initially in the Garden of Eden, Adam named each animal. His wisdom flourished as he discerned their respective nature and properties—their identity and purpose. Even though Adam was in a deep sleep when God made Eve, the depth of his wisdom

comprehended who Eve was and for what purpose she was made. Yet after eating the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil he was bewildered and couldn't even remember the nature of God—that God knows all things! They sewed fig leaves together and hid from God like the beast of the field hides in the foliage. Adam and Eve were stripped of their excellence, lost their innocence and fell into a condition of poverty and peril.

Adam and Eve experienced the highest dimension of love in the Garden before they fell into sin. Adam's decision changed everything. Adam was commanded by God to 'not' eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Even though he knew the consequence to eating its fruit was death, he still chose to share in his wife's sin. We do not know if his wisdom allowed him to see that this was the only way he could save his wife—believing God would formulate a plan to save them. If he did, he certainly forgot quickly after eating the fruit.

The first man Adam had a love for his wife and was willing to die 'with' her—yet the second man Adam lamented and mourned His Bride and died 'as' her. Jesus wisely chose to fulfill His purpose and destiny by drinking His Bride's cup of iniquity (the 'fruit' of the vine) to die as her—reconnecting the branch to the tree of life. Therefore it is not surprising that Jesus should die on a cross—He is the tree of life! Our branch was restored the day Jesus redeemed us from our sins by nailing the 'fruit' of the knowledge of good and evil to His tree. His loving act of Atonement engrafted our branch into His and His fruit manifests as its crowning glory.

We see the progression of love through the dimensions. Adam broke God's law because of the love he had for his wife. True love is the opposite of lawlessness—Jesus fulfills the law because he loved His Bride. *Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down his life.* The whole world was sentenced to death because of sin, but Jesus died 'instead of the world' that all might live. The third dimension is the Risen Christ in the Kingdom and is the greatest expression of love. If we ascend to this dimension—perfect love casts out all fear. We are fearless because *as He is, so are we in this world.* The essence of who God is—is love. *God is love.* Our connection to the tree of life allows us to experience perfect love and manifest it in our fruit.

The Apostle Paul writes about the fruit of the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil—only the garden is in our own minds. Although these trees grow in the same garden and produce fruit, Paul emphasizes that the trees are very contrary in nature. The tree of life brings forth a blessing but the tree of the knowledge of good and evil yields a curse.

Paul separated the two trees by defining one as fulfilling the sinful dispositions of the flesh and the other as the fruitfulness of the Spirit. Each tree yields fruit according to its nature. The bad seed produced a bad tree, yielding all manner of bad fruit—the '*works of the flesh.*' The good seed produced a good tree, bringing forth fruits of the most excellent kind. The good fruit of the Spirit yields "*love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, self-control.*" The fruit of the Spirit is not only the

essence of His nature but is also a distinct expression or fragrance of His fruit that we emanate to the world.

Love—The connotation of a love feast. It's an intimacy with God that graciously pours over to every area of our life with the same intensity as God's love towards us. We love as He loves—it's the celebration of life and love abounds.

Joy—It is a calm delight from the core of our being—something planted deep inside. David said, "*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life. I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*" David knew God rejoiced over him for good and it showed in his life—the scripture says there was a 'brightness' in him. We cannot give what we don't have—he had joy and it manifested.

Peace—The serenity of an ordered life in Christ. We are one with Him. And because we are one with Him, we understand that everything really will work out for good according to His purpose. Our life has purpose, our life is ordered. If we have the essence of peace in our life then we know everything will truly be okay.

Long-suffering—The fortitude that God will do something and whether quickly or soon—it will be good. We can wait and submit cheerfully to every dispensation of divine providence, and thereby derive His goodness and grace—benefiting from everything that happens to us. We never quit because we know God is working the situation out for His purpose in us.

Kindness—It is that graciousness that can bestow kindness in any situation because of the influence of God in our life. Because we are so connected to God—we think like He thinks. We cannot return evil for evil but only words of kindness. There is agreeableness because they enter the same dimension of thought that we are having with God and they likewise think as God thinks.

Goodness—This must spring forth from a pure heart. Because the tree is pure, the virtue that flows manifests in goodness and benevolence. Our motives are pure ... so our works are good. It is not about our personal agendas or about trying to make people like us, but about the outflow of who we are in Christ. It is so deep and pure that everything we do is good.

Faithfulness—It's a genuine bond of connection that does not measure weakness as a reason to leave a relationship but continues because Christ is in them. God never fails—because we have faith in His faithfulness, we extend it to others.

Meekness or Gentleness—It has nothing to do with timidity or weakness. A man has passions and possesses the capability of fulfilling his own will, yet as a

gentleman he will not violate another's will. Likewise those who have died to their rights and have taken on His righteousness can possess a nature that is totally submitted to authority. A meek man is tremendously empowered because all that he does is not of self but of the divine. He is an open conduit of divine power—nothing is fighting against God to close off the flow of the miraculous through them. They do not try to make themselves somebody.

Self-Control—This is self-government or moderation in all things by having an even balance of all tempers and passions—they maintain the course. No excess. We put our vessel under authority, not walking by feeling but by what we know is the right thing to do and take responsibility for our life. Therefore we, “do the right thing, at the right time, in the right way, for the right reason and in the right spirit.”

Bearing fruit is the culminating glory of a tree. Engrafted into the tree of life, we also manifest His glory through our fruit. Fruitfulness is the outgrowth of our intimacy with Jesus in every dimension of our life—body, mind and spirit. Our fruit is the substance of Christ and our fruitfulness is the proliferation of what we are and how we function—our identity and purpose.

The fruit of love abounded splendidly in the Garden, but when the ‘fruit’ from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil manifested—God wisely cast it out of the Garden. *Perfect love casts out all fear.* We likewise as the fearless of the Lord, will not tolerate fear to blossom and we pull it out by its root. We have the mind of Christ and being perfected as the resurrected corporate man through His atoning love, we are made *eternal excellence—the joy of many generations.*

It is the time of maturity, of releasing and of divine intervention—God walking among us in the cool of the day. The fearless intercede, “*Awake O north wind and come O south! Blow upon my Garden that its spices may flow out. Let my Beloved come to His Garden and eat its pleasant fruit.*” Once again the scent of pleasant fruit permeates the air with lovely fragrance as the breath of the Almighty stirs up the trees of His Garden. And in the gentle breeze we hear a sound whispering through our branches ... the sound of the Lord calling to us ... the sound of exquisite affirmations that truly we are His *trees of righteousness ... the planting of the LORD!*

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