



Session 6 Called to Be Like The Tree of Life - Psalm 1:3

I. CALLED TO BE LIKE JESUS, LIKE THE PSALM 1:3 TREE

- A. God's passionate desire for you is to be like Jesus Christ, to be like the Psalm 1:3 tree.

Psalm 1:3 He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.

- B. This Psalm 1:3 tree is a beautiful picture of your life as a Christian, as one who abides in Jesus Christ, dwelling in His love.

1 John 4:16 And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

John 15:9 Jesus said... ***abide in My love.***

- C. You have been planted like a tree by the rivers of water (Ps. 1:3) – a very plentiful never-ending supply of water. You have the great privilege and honor of drinking from the rivers of His pleasure - the rivers of His love.

Psalm 36:8 And You give them drink from the river of Your pleasures (Eden).

1. The Hebrew word for “pleasures” is Eden.

Psalm 46:4 TPT God has a constantly flowing river whose sparkling streams bring joy and delight to His people... (Eden is not in this verse, but it carries the same meaning.)

2. The garden of Eden had rivers of pleasure (delight), a plentiful supply of water.

Genesis 2:10 Now a river went out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it parted and became four riverheads.

- D. This river appears at the end of the book of Revelation, where it is seen once again along with the tree of life. Because you have access to God's throne of grace (Heb. 4:16), you have access to this heavenly river as you live here on earth.

Rev. 22:1-2 And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life...

1. Because the source of the river is from God's throne and of the Lamb, it possesses the life of God along with all His authority and power. Just as the Lamb of God is without spot or blemish, this water is pure, clear as crystal. When you drink from it, you are purified.

2. The water from God's river is life-giving, for the Spirit of life is in the river.

Ezekiel 47:9 ... for they will be healed, and everything will live wherever the river goes.

3. When the women at the well asked Jesus for a drink, He answered her:

John 4:10 “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.

4. ***John 7:37-38 ... Jesus stood and cried out saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.”***
5. Abiding in God’s love involves drinking continuously from “The River of Living Water,” drinking continuously from “The River” of God’s love. (1 Cor. 3:9)

Isaiah 58:11 You shall be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.

- E. A healthy strong vibrant fruit bearing tree mirrors what is happening below the surface. As your roots grow deeper in God’s river of life, the river of His love (Eph. 3:16-20), your branches with its leaves and fruits will be filled with the fulness of God, with the fulness of His love.

Eph. 3:16-20 ... to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man ... 17 that you, being rooted and grounded in love... 19 to know the love of Christ ... that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

- F. Your inner root system needs to daily be nourished and strengthened in the love of God. Therefore, it is crucial that you put on the lens of God’s great love as you read and meditate on God’s Word. (Rom. 8:32)
- G. Your duty and privilege in life is to drink from the river of His life, the river of His love. And as you drink deeply of His love, you will be to fulfill God’s greatest commandment as Matthew 22:37-40 states.

Matthew 22:37-40 Jesus said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

- H. Your greatest calling in life is to abide in God’s love, to be like the Psalm 1:3 tree, to be like Jesus Christ. (1 John 4:16, John 15:9) As you look into the mirror of God’s Word, God’s love, you will be “transformed into the same image from glory to glory...” (2 Cor. 3:18) Like a tree, you will grow more and more into the image of God, the image of love.

II. GOD’S PLAN FOR MANKIND HAS NOT CHANGED

- A. How does this knowledge of Jesus’ name as the Aleph and Taw, the Alpha and Omega, as presented in Psalm 1 affect your understanding of Psalm 1:3?
 1. God is informing us that His plans for mankind, for you and I, to grow in the likeness of His Son Jesus Christ, the Psalm 1:3 tree, has not changed and will not change.
Rev. 2:7 ... To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.

2. God is showing us that this Psalm 1:3 tree is the “tree of life” that appeared in the center of the Garden of Eden in Genesis, the book of the beginnings, (Gen. 2:9, 3:17, 22, & 24) and that appears in the new Jerusalem in the book of Revelation, the book of endings. (Rev. 2:7, 22:2, 14 & 19)

Genesis 2:9 ...the tree of life was also in the midst of the garden...

Revelation 22:2 ... In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life...

III. CREATED TO BE LIKE THE TREE OF LIFE

- A. In a very real sense, Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden were already “*like the tree planted by the rivers of water...*” like Ps. 1:3 describes.

Genesis 2:8 The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed.

- B. When you received Jesus Christ into your heart, you were taken out of the kingdom of darkness and planted into God’s kingdom of love.

Colossians 1:13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love...

- C. Adam and Eve were made in the image, the likeness of God, having the very life of God - the very breath of God - within them.

Genesis 1:27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

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

- D. Through inviting Jesus Christ to come into your heart as your Lord and Savior, you became a new creation in Christ Jesus, made in the image and likeness of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

1. Isaiah prophesied this core reality of the new birth.

Isaiah 61:3 ...they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord...

2. And, at this same time you entered into a “one-flesh” relationship with Jesus. (Eph. 5:30-32; Matthew 5:30-31)

- E. Just like the life-giving Spirit was breathed into Adam, the life-giving Spirit has been breathed into you, when you received Jesus Christ.

1. Jesus breathed on His disciples and told them to receive the Holy Spirit.

John 20: 22 And when He (Jesus) had said this, He breathed on them (the disciples), and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”

2. The Holy Spirit, releases the breath of God, the very life force of God, the life of Jesus Christ into our spirits.

Acts 2:2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.

3. The greatest gift the Holy Spirit imparts is the grace to receive God’s love and to express love to God.

Romans 5:5 ...because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

4. The anointing of the Holy Spirit will teach you all things, including how to abide fully in Jesus Christ.

1 John 2:27 But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you....teaches you concerning all things...

- F. When God spoke the blessing over Adam and Eve’s life to be fruitful, multiply, subdue, and have dominion over every living thing, He was calling out their destiny, to be like the “tree of life” that stood in the midst of the garden. Mankind’s destiny has never changed.

Genesis 1:28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

IV. CREATED IN THE LIKENESS OF LOVE

- A. Just like Adam and Eve, you were created in the image of the God, Who is love (1 John 4:16). Because of this, you were created with a great capacity to love and to be loved, which is unique to the human spirit. Love is God’s nature – His personality. Love is your nature – your personality.
- B. You were created in God’s likeness to relate to God in the same way that the Godhead relates to one another.
1. God dwells in a deeply satisfying relationship of love within the Trinity. Jesus loves the Father, and the Father loves His Son Jesus (Jn. 3:35; 5:20; 14:31)
 2. They delight in using their authority to honor one another (Jn. 5:23; 8:49-51); to serve one other Jn. 12:26, and to glorify one another (Jn. 13:31-32; 14:12-14; 17:1, 4-5, 22, 24) They are fully committed to one another.
- C. God loves you in the same way and to the same degree that God loves God. (John 15:9; John 17:23). Jesus invites you to abide, remain and dwell, in this family of love. Ask the Holy Spirit to direct your heart into the love of God and that this love would abound more and more.

2 Thes. 3:5 Now may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience of Christ.

Phil. 1:9 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment.

V. THE TREE OF LIFE = THE LIFE OF GOD

A. The “Tree of Life” was a real tree by which the zoe life, the life of God, was imparted to Adam and Eve as they ate from the tree. There are two ways of abiding in the tree of life, in Jesus Christ.

1. Abiding in His Word.

John 8:32 If you abide in My Word, you are my disciples indeed...

Jeremiah 15:16 Your words were found, and I ate them, and Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart.

Matthew 4:4 But He (Jesus) answered and said, “ It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. ’”

2. Eating Jesus’ Flesh and Drinking His Blood – Communion.

John 6:56 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him

John 6:53-54 Then Jesus said to them, “... unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life...

John 6:56

B. The “tree of life” was placed in the center of the garden of Eden for a purpose, much like everything God says or does. Adam and Eve’s life was to be centered and dependent upon God as their source of life, just like your life is to be centered and dependent upon God.

Genesis 2:9 ...The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden...

C. The tree in the midst of the garden of Eden and in the new Jerusalem is “The Tree of Life”. John highlights the importance of receiving the life of God.

John 20:31 ... but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life (zoe) in His name.

D. The way you receive the life of God is the same way you live the life of God - through believing in Jesus Christ.

John 3:16 ... that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life (zoe).

E. By faith, you the justified one – the righteous one, shall live.

Romans 1:16-17 ... the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes ... For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”

- F. Just like John summed up the purpose for writing his gospel in John 20:31, Jesus summed up His purpose for coming into the world – that you may have life.
John 10:10 I have come that they may have life (zoe), and that they may have it (zoe) more abundantly.
- G. God does not just want you to be a tree that is barely surviving because you don't have a sufficient supply of living water. God desires that you thrive because of the abundance of His life flowing through you.
- H. God has made you alive in His Son Jesus Christ. (1 Cor. 15:22; Romans 6:11-13)
Eph. 2:4-5 ...because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ.
- I. If you are not experiencing the life of God, the life of the blessed man Jesus Christ, pray for God to “revive you according to His Word.” (Psalm 119:25, 37, 40, 88, 107, 154,156, 159). Revive means making alive, keeping alive, and giving more life.
Psalm 119:1 Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord!
Psalm 119:25 Revive me according to Your word.

VI. THE CHOICE OF LOVE – THE CHOICE BETWEEN TWO TREES

- A. Can you imagine being in Adam and Eve's position of being able to partake from this wonderful tree of life – to partake of the zoe life of God?
- B. God gave Adam and Eve everything they needed to live in the fulness of His eternal love, the fulness of His peace and joy. He did not withhold one good thing from them. This is just like He has not withheld one good thing from you.
Romans 8:32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?
- C. However, God gave Adam and Eve a choice. They had a choice to eat from the tree of life as well as all the other trees in the garden, or to reject God's command and to eat from the one tree God forbid them to eat from – the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. (Gen. 2:9)
Genesis 2:16-17 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”
- D. The choice is a choice of love. The choice Adam and Eve had and you have is about living in a loving relationship with God. Would Adam and Eve find supreme satisfaction in the love of God and trust God's love for them, believing He knows what is best for them as revealed by His Word? Or would they turn their backs to God's instructions of love, His Word, to not eat from the “tree of the knowledge of good and evil and die?”
- E. God was not calling mankind, His children, to do anything different than His only Son Jesus Christ.

John 14:31 But that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave Me commandment, so I do.

John 14:15 “If you love Me, keep My commandments.”

- F. Satan who was very “cunning” appealed to Eve’s reasoning, just like He appeals to your fleshly reasoning which leaves God’s Word and will out from the equation. Psalm 1:1 refers to this as “ungodly counsel.”
- G. To this day, Lucifer has not changed his operational mode. After trying to get you and I to question who God really is and what God has really said, then, he tries to get us to question our God given identity. Satan’s proposition to Adam and Eve was similar to what he proposed to Jesus in the wilderness temptation and is exactly what he does with us.

Genesis 3:4 satan said to Eve “... *your eyes will be opened and you will be like God...*”

Mt. 4:3 the devil said to Jesus in the wilderness “If you are the Son of God...”

- H. Deut. 30:19 Highlights the spiritual implications connect to man’s choice. The Tree of Life imparted the blessing of the Life of God and the Tree of Knowledge of Good and evil imparted the curse of death.

Deuteronomy 30:19 I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live...

VII. THE FALL OF MANKIND

- A. Instead of crushing the serpent’s head and fulfilling their God given assignment to extend the blessing, God’s love, throughout all the earth, they ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Gen. 3:6). Immediately, they became devoid of the life of God. This caused the curse to enter into the world (Gen. 3:17-19). Their image of being made in the likeness of God was marred.
- B. Where the first Adam failed to obey God’s love, regarding this tree of the knowledge of good and evil, the second Adam, Jesus Christ, obeyed God’s love (John 15:13) by dying on the tree of Calvary. The tree of life became the life giving tree for you and I, redeeming us from the curse and allowing us to enter into the blessed state of the life of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.

Galatians 3:13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”)...

- C. Jesus gave His life, so you and I could once again access the Tree of Life. As a believer you are made in the image of the Tree of Life, Jesus Christ. God exhorts you in Psalm 1:3 to grow into the fulness of the life of Jesus.