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OUR LORDS PRAYER – JOHN 17

LESSON 3, VS. 2 (b)

John 17:2, **“...that He should give eternal life to as many...”** It is Jesus who gives us eternal life. The Father gave Him the power to do that (vs. 2 (a)).

Eternal life in communion with God was the original plan. Adam was created to live on earth forever. One evidence of that was the Tree of Life. It was not forbidden to Adam and Eve because they already were made for eternal life. After his fall into sin, that broke his communion with God and brought a curse of death. The death was both physical and spiritual.

After sin entered, God expelled Adam and Eve from the garden, **“Lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the Tree of Life, and eat, and live forever.”** (Gen. 3:22). God was not going to let Adam eat of that garden tree and raise generations of sinful souls that would forever control the earth and escape the sin curse of death.

When I think now of the garden of Eden, I realize something I had never seen before or heard anyone else teach. (Thank you, again, Holy Spirit.) Eden was a microcosm of heaven right here on earth. All was peace; everything was in harmony. Even the tree of the knowledge of good and evil represented God's presence since He is all knowing (omniscient).

The Tree of Life also represented God since He is eternal. Where is the Tree of Life today? It is in heaven. Revelation 22:2 tells us that in the middle of the street in heaven flows a river (of life) and it has a Tree of Life on each side of it which bears twelve kinds of fruit. (Rev. 22:14 says, **“blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have (the) right to (eat of) the Tree of Life and may enter in through the gates into the city.”** Rev. 2:7 also says, **“To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the Tree of Life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.”** Those of us who are overcomers on earth will eat of the Tree of Eternal Everlasting Life.

Adam had heaven on earth at Eden. Rev. 22:7 even indicates (by inference) that Eden's Tree of Life was right in the middle of the garden. Adam was not an overcomer. He was a “sinker under.” He lost out.

Jesus is the one who gives us eternal life. He is the one who gives us the fruit. Which of the twelve fruits will be your favorite? I would say “all of them.” LOL!