Lord of Life Ministries

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The Tree of Life

By: Joyce Morris May 1991

We have learned that whatever is happening outside in the natural, God is saying something spiritual; and I know that what is going on in Iraq is a sign to the whole world of what God is saying at this time. We want to encourage you, as always, God's word is an encouragement and is uplifting and helping us to know who He really is at this time and hour.

Over 2,000 years ago was the birthing of the Christ with Christ coming forth in a manger in Bethlehem. Many people have spent a lot of time worshipping the birth of Christ, but the birthing is different today. Not only is He being birthed, but also He is coming forth in a many membered body. Christ was born and made flesh and dwelt among us. He is birthed again in many people all over the world by the Holy Spirit, but this time He is coming forth in a manymembered body in the fruits of the Spirit so that God the Father might be manifested in the earth.

Reconciliation in Jesus

Jesus has said: "When you see me you have seen the Father." He was the total expression of God. He expressed what God was like. God is Spirit but He said, "I will send my Son and they will begin to have more of

an understanding of what I am like and who I am." He sent His Son to bring reconciliation to the whole world and to reconcile us back to the Father to where there would be peace. God is not an enemy but He is a friend and He sent His Son to bear all the sins of the world. So Jesus Christ bore everyone's sin upon the cross and even now the Father sees no man as unclean but sees the blood of Jesus, His own blood, flowing through the veins of the body of Christ to cover the whole world. God is not angry with man. Acts 10:28, And he said unto them, Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean.

He is not angry with the sinner but many that know Him who have the understanding and the truth are not obeying Him in the knowledge and understanding that God has already provided.

The Day of the Lord

Our excitement from within today, is knowing that this is THE DAY OF THE LORD, the DAY OF HIS SPIRIT, the day of Christ to come forth. The glory of the Christ in you is flowing out of you and is expressed through

you to mankind. That is the Glory of the Lord.

In the beginning God planted man in a garden. The garden of the Lord is the Kingdom of God, and God told man to till that garden and to keep it. So you are the garden of the Lord. In order to till your garden you have to look within yourself and be willing to change and realize that there are weeds sometimes growing in your garden. These weeds are thoughts that cannot produce any life at all. Weeds begin to smother the plants in the garden and to strangle them until they cannot produce any fruit. That is why God said, "Man, till your garden." The problem is that man has always looked at and tried to tend to somebody else's garden.

Experience it First

Many ministers today are so busy trying to preach to the people to change and they are not changing themselves. They are not willing to take a look at where they, themselves might need to change. I have found that the only way you can help someone is to first have had the experience yourself. The Tree of Life is really partaking of that Bread of Life, every revelation, every understanding, and all

knowledge that God has taught you, must be experienced by you.

When you eat food you digest it and you become what you eat. So it is not enough just to have the knowledge. That is like the Tree of Knowledge in some ways, being puffed up about all the scriptures that you can quote. Yet, there is no life in it. The reason is because we are not letting that knowledge and revelation, work in our lives to become life to others. I believe experience and a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ is where it really is. The Lord even commanded man to till the garden and I believe this same commandment is for us today that we let God pull out the weeds that keep Him from being birthed and coming forth in the fullness of Himself in you and me.

It was God's will and purpose to create man in His likeness and in His image. That purpose has never changed and it never will. God is not creating a man after the first Adam. He is creating a new man in the earth after the second man Adam, Jesus Christ. A people will begin to walk in the Spirit, and they are that Spirit man walking in the earth today for the Glory of the Father. That is the good news. Now the Tree of knowledge of good and evil is in every man. But the Tree of Life is Christ and the mind of God. It represents the wisdom and the understanding and the principles of the Kingdom of God that God has given to man. (Read Proverbs 3:18) As we begin to walk, in the understanding, in the simplicity of Christ, in the Truth that He has revealed to us, we are

beginning to partake of that Tree of Life. The Tree of Life cannot bring death to us but can only bring life. The Tree of Life is that peace in our mind, that harmony in our relationship with God.

Partake of the Tree of Life

A people are beginning to think LIFE – not negative things, not even talking about negative things. They always have a good report instead of a bad report. God even said in His Word,

"Think upon these things: whatsoever is good, whatsoever is just, whatsoever is pure, whatsoever is of a good report, think of these things." Remember that scripture in *Philippians 4:8*, so this is the Tree of Life. Even when we begin to partake of it, we still want to eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. There will always be warfare in the mind. The Kingdom of God is different from the Kingdom of Heaven. The Kingdom of Heaven is where the warfare is and I am sorry to say, is where a lot of people are dwelling In the Kingdom of Heaven there are principalities and warfare, but in the Kingdom of God there is nothing but righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. The good news is that a lot of people are beginning to partake of this Tree of Life, and beginning to govern their lives, which is the Holy Spirit in the Word of the Lord. They are letting Jesus Christ be Lord of their lives.

Receive His Nature

Jesus as Savior is one thing. But my question is, "Is He becoming Lord of every area of your life?" For Jesus to become Lord of every area of your life just doesn't happen overnight. It takes time for God to cause you

to let go of every area of your life and allow Him to change those areas into His nature to where He begins to rule over your actions, deeds, and thoughts. Is not Jesus the example that God the Father set for mankind? Jesus began to do all things that pleased the Father, meaning that He became one with God. God ruled Him in His actions, His thoughts, and in everything that He did. there were the times that He struggled just like you and I do. He had temptations just as we do, yet He overcame them by vielding to the will of the Father in obeying His Word. He has set that example for you and me today.

The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil really represents the free will of self. Jesus said in His Word that He is the vine and we are the branches. branch separates itself from the vine, it loses its source of supply from God and, therefore, it begins to whither and die, spiritually, falling by the wayside. When self gets in, we become centered on self, yielding to our flesh, desires, and affections. Then we separate ourselves from the Lord. You cannot eat of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil without yielding yourselves to the affections of the lust of the flesh.

When man begins to lay hold of the Tree of Life, which is Christ and have a union with Him, it brings life. Man also feeds on the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil which is negative and really not his true self. This begins the process of destruction, aging and death. God said that whatsoever you sow you shall reap. He said if you sow to the

flesh, you shall reap corruption; if you sow to the Spirit, you shall reap life. Sowing to the Spirit means sowing to the Tree Of Life. Sowing to the flesh means sowing to the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. This should not be hard to understand.

Oneness with the Father

Today there is a people who are letting God govern their actions and thoughts. They are beginning to allow the Lord to be completely in control of their They are walking in a union in oneness with the Father, growing up and maturing so that He can express His LOVE to all There is this river mankind. within you, which is the Christ. This river will flow out and bring healing to the nations. Also, it says in *Rev.* 22, that this river has become pure because there are a people that God has been changing, cleansing, and purging their souls and their hearts. The heart is really what rules man's The heart is the mind. Today God is cleansing, purging, and purifying the mind.

Many people live in a duality realm all of the time. One day God is in control, and the next Satan is in control. They are worshiping two gods in their mind. Jesus Christ is Lord and He said that He has all power in heaven and earth. The enemy only has power that we give to him and he can only eat of the dust (the flesh). When we walk in the carnal mind, we are in the dust realm. God is raising up a man to walk in God consciousness, to walk in the mind of the Spirit. When we walk in the mind of the Spirit, we can be led of the Spirit as well as walking in the Spirit daily in our

lives. It is one thing to be led of the Spirit but quite another to be walking in the Spirit. To be led of the Spirit, you must obey His voice. Also in walking in the Spirit you must have your mind filled with right thinking to experience peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Bringing Forth a People! Revelation 22 - states that God is bringing forth a people. There is a pure river that flows from the Throne of God, and there also is a Lamb that was slain. They are a people that God has cleansed, purged, and renewed minds) and whose souls have been totally swallowed up. Every thought in their mind is being cleansed conscious and subconscious with God beginning to flow through. He needs a mind to operate through so He can continue to express himself in the earth. That pure river is a people that have come into a place where the Mind of God is operating through them and the nature of the Lamb is being portrayed throughout the The Tree of Life is producing twelve fruits a year. "divine Twelve means government". It is a people allowing God to govern their lives, actions and thoughts so that He can be Lord in every area in their lives. This is a finished product of the people that God is working on today in the earth. Ezekiel 47, Talks about the River of Life that overtook Ezekiel and caused him to be overcome by the Spirit. It overtook him completely, and wherever it flowed, it brought Life; but it would not go into the marsh places (carnal mind) because the carnal mind cannot understand

the things of God; but it will go into the Spirit and minister to people who are tuned in to what God is saying today. You can only understand the spiritual things of the Lord by getting into the Spirit. If you're not in the Spirit while reading this, this write-up may seem like a parable to you.

Sometimes man's heart becomes hardened through disobedience and unbelief to God's Word. When the heart begins to harden, it is not tender towards the Lord and ones relationship with the Lord is hindered. Ezekiel also talks about a people or a tree whose fruits will not be consumed. There have been things in our lives that have consumed the love of God. They have consumed the peace and the joy of the Lord. By God's grace and mercy, He has turned things around and is consuming all those things that have consumed His Fruit. We are getting to the point where nothing will ever consume the things of God again. There won't be one negative thought in our minds that will take away our peace again, or keep us from loving someone, or even loving our enemies. God wants us to bless those who miss use us, as the Word teaches. God's love is also correction.

Healing the Nations

There are a people whose "leaves of the tree will bring healing to the nations". The Lord began to speak to me about the cedar tree. A cedar tree stays green all of the time. You are like the cedar tree when you come into a place where God has changed you more and more into His understanding, and where

are walking in that understanding (thinking, talking, expressing the way that pleases the Father). Then you are like the cedar tree. Remember the cedar tree stays green and never loses its covering or leaves. leaves are for healing the nations. Healing comes because there is so much LIFE flowing out of these trees to bring the LOVE of Christ to mankind. Jesus is that Tree of Life, and there are many people today in whom He wants to live again and operate that life through to the world in a many membered body or Corporate Man. Psalm 104:16 states: "The trees of the Lord are full of sap, the cedars of Lebanon which He has planted." Lebanon is a high mountain. It is a high place in the Lord, which means it is a place in which we will stay in the Spirit, not going in and out all the time. The cedar tree never loses its covering, but we lose covering when we do not obey God. We get back in the flesh our garments and become spotted by the flesh and the corruption that is in our mind. A people who are beginning to obey God's voice everyday and become one with Him do not come down into that soulish realm anymore. When they experience this life, peace, and joy everyday of their lives, they know that this is where it really is at. It is not living down there in that earthy realm where there is corruption, negative thinking, fear, doubt, and unbelief. It is living in that light that Jesus Christ has brought you and me into today. When you are talking to someone in the earthly realm and seemingly they are speaking words to try to pull you down

into that realm, what they say seems foreign to you. You don't want to live in that realm because of what you are experiencing in the Lord.

Solomon - A Partaker

Even Solomon learned how to partake of the Tree of Life, but he had to come to Mount Gibeon. Mt. Gibeon means "A High Place, a High Mountain, a place of sacrifice". 1 Kings 3:3, states that Solomon loved the Lord, and walked in the statures of David, his father. He sacrificed and burned incense in high places. It says that the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there. That was the great high place, a thousand burnt offerings did Solomon offer up.

Basically this means for you and me today to get into that high place which causes our consciousness to be raised up into the realm of the Spirit through praise, worship and thanksgiving unto the Father. We are going to have to sacrifice our negative thoughts. Sometimes there might thousands of negative thoughts running through our mind, but as we yield them to God our mind becomes peaceful and still and we can now hear from the Father.

Become like a Child

Solomon had become like a little child and began to hear the wisdom and understanding of the Lord. The Tree of Life is wisdom and understanding. In the next chapter 1 Kings 4:29, Solomon was given wisdom and much understanding, so he really had partaken of the Tree of Life. He said that it was even as, "the sand on the seashore". Have you ever walked on the shore and looked at the sand? That was a

lot of wisdom and understanding he was receiving. He was a wise man. Many people came to hear the Wisdom of Solomon. In verse 33, Solomon spoke of a people that had become as the cedar tree. He was speaking of the Sons of God who were overcomes. God changed their lives and they had overcome the beast or flesh nature through Jesus Christ. Solomon was speaking about the beast, those creeping thoughts that come into men's lives. Solomon could speak wisdom because he had partaken of the Tree of Life. As we see here, the cedar trees were all made up on Mt. Gibeon. Gibeon, means "white, clean, pure, brilliant, snowy, a range of mountains". And this is where Solomon went to get all the cedar trees to build the House of the Lord. So it is a people that have been purged, have been cleansed without spot or wrinkle, and even without blemish. We need the purification of thoughts. Truly, if you think pure thoughts all of the time, your tree will remain green all year around. Psalms 92:13, states: "The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree. He shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon." That is the good news. As we begin to stay in the Spirit, we will grow like a cedar tree in Lebanon on a high mountain.

Walk in Him Daily

So now we have the understanding that God changing some people into His nature and His likeness. Jesus portrayed this life. He came that we might have this LIFE and have it more abundantly. wants us to begin to experience it and walk in it daily. If any thoughts get in the way, let God deal with them and cleanse them. God wants us to become that cedar tree because He is going to have a bride, the soul purged and cleansed totally, to be in His likeness and image. Jesus Christ is coming for a church, a people that will be cleansed from all traditions and doctrines of man, that are in their lives.