

**2 TREES AND A TESTIMONY**

# Forever Freedom 2

## Two Trees & A Testimony

**Focus Scripture:** “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.”

Genesis 2:17 NKJV

**Lesson Goal:** To open our eyes to the development of evil from the very beginning of humanity. To help us understand individually how we have been living from the demonic roots of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil and producing the devils’ fruits. To show us a clear path of climbing eliminating the power of the root system of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. To purposely change trees by placing our roots in the Holy Spirit and producing fruits of love in Jesus Name. To be encouraged by God’s powerful hand of supernatural liberation extended to Brother Alan and to all of us. To see this verse come alive in all of us. When Jesus sets us free, we are truly free.

“So, if the Son sets you free, you are truly free.”

John 8:36 NLT

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# Forever Freedom 3

## Two Trees and A Testimony



So, the Lord God took the man [He had made] and settled him in the Garden of Eden to cultivate and keep it. <sup>16</sup> And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may freely (unconditionally) eat [the fruit] from every tree of the garden; <sup>17</sup> **but [only] from the tree of the knowledge (recognition) of good and evil you shall not eat, otherwise on the day that you eat from it, you shall most certainly die** [because of your disobedience].”

Genesis 2:15-17 AMP

**It’s all about Jesus!**

### The Garden Decision

The Truth recorded in Genesis chapters 2 and 3 about the two trees in the Garden of Eden is central to all of life. The events recorded in the Garden of Eden are a true reflection of how humankind relates to God and to each other today. God walked with Adam and Eve in perfect harmony through the Garden of Eden in those first days. They walked together in the *cool of the day* (Genesis 3:8). This is God’s heart’s desire for you today my friend, to walk in the cool of the day with Him! Unfortunately, by Genesis 3:8, Adam and Eve had already been deceived by the devil, served their own prideful curiosity, and eaten the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. This one sinful bite brought dire consequences to all humanity and separated both you and me from our Heavenly Father.

Likely, there were a great variety of trees, beautiful plants, nuts, berries, and flowers. Lush grasses, annuals, and perennials may have populated this paradise.

But let's consider the two trees in the Garden, the Bible calls **The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil and The Tree of Life**. When man ate from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, according to Genesis 3:22, "He became like one of us, knowing how to distinguish between good and evil (paraphrase)." Adam and Eve's decision to eat from this tree ultimately brought spiritual and physical death on all humanity.

**Genesis chapter 2:8 - 3:24** reveals that Adam and Eve decided to be their own prideful gods. Their selfish decision set in motion a domino effect: Pride – Sin – Death - Hell became a step-by-step road map of the destiny for all mankind. If not for God's gracious mercy and Jesus' victorious journey to the Cross, hell would be our eternal home.

Adam and Eve had Two Trees of destiny and a wonderful, luscious garden set before them. They could have enjoyed the fruit and beauty from all the Garden, but ultimately, *they had a choice to make between these Two Trees*. **Dining from the Tree of Life would please God and allow them to live forever. Eating from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil would allow their eyes to be open to all the world's darkness. This led them from innocence into pride and ultimately resulted in death.** We know what tree they chose, *now which tree are you going to choose?*

<sup>14</sup> Blessed are those who wash their robes. They will be permitted to enter through the gates of the city and eat the fruit from the tree of life. <sup>15</sup> Outside the city are the dogs—the sorcerers, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idol worshipers, and all who love to live a lie.

Revelation 22:14-15 NLT

We will explore these Two Trees in detail. The earthly and eternal value of the **Tree of Life** will be evident. The death march that results from living from the **Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil** will become abundantly clear as well. We are praying for an **A-HA moment** for you when God reveals that you may have been living from the cursed tree all of your days.



**Study Genesis 2:8 - 3:24** and respond to the following questions.



What happened when Adam and Eve ate from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil?



What happens when we eat from this tree?



What happened when Adam and Eve heard the sound of God walking in the Garden after they had sinned?



What was God's response when Adam and Eve ate the Forbidden fruit? *Sin has consequences!* Write every detail of their punishment.



Satan is the father of lies. In your opinion, what is the greatest lie he has ever perpetrated on mankind?

In my opinion, satan's greatest deception is to trick us into falsely believing that he doesn't exist at all. Most unbelievers would never claim their position as satan followers. They instead are deceived into believing they are just living normal lives in the world like everyone else. Simultaneously, *Christians are often unwilling to acknowledge the real existence of their mortal enemy and are woefully unprepared to fight and win.*

We know [with confidence] that anyone born of God **does not *habitually* sin;** but He (Jesus) who was born of God [carefully] keeps *and* protects him, and the evil one does not touch him. <sup>19</sup> We know [for a fact] that we are of God, **and the whole world [around us] lies in the power of the evil one** [opposing God and His precepts].

1 John 5:18-19 AMP



What lies has satan tricked you into believing?



How have you tried to be like God knowing good from evil and being wise in your own eyes?



How has the world around you attempted to be like God, building its own kingdom?



How have you tried to be like God building your own kingdom?



Satan wants to kill us! He kills us by enticing us to sin just like he lied to Eve and enticed her to sin. Our choice to sin separates us from our Loving God. How does that fateful moment in the Garden impact your life today?

Let's discuss the **choice** we have to live everyday from one of these two Trees. The devil's plan to kill you will be clearly revealed. **Your life can drastically change to the Glory of God.** You can decide to intentionally live every day from the Tree of Life.

The following reading will introduce the Two Trees and help you understand how to live free from the world and free from the demonic realm. I will also share my own experience of overcoming the devil by the blood of Jesus! May God uproot the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil in all of us and transplant our roots into the streams of Living Water, God's Holy Spirit, as we produce fruit in keeping with His great glory.



# TREE OF LIFE





And he will be like a **tree *firmly* planted** [and fed] **by streams of water**, which yields its fruit in its season; Its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers [and comes to maturity].

Psalm 1:3 AMP

- Are you ready to transplant your roots from pain and darkness to God's Holy Spirit? We are praying for you right now and we are excited for you, my friend. You are becoming an awesome fruitful tree. Dream about all the beautiful fruit God wants to produce through you.

## Tree of Life

The Tree of Life represents a life lived in love and obedience to Jesus. Consistently living from this Tree will ultimately lead to eternal life with God in Heaven. Living from the Tree of Life means to dine on the things given to us by our Lord. We thrive on His goodness and **His Presence**. We joy in **His Word and His Love**. We treasure **His Holy Spirit** as our best friend, guide and comforter. We produce fruit that pleases Him as we love Him with all our hearts, minds, and strength and we love our neighbors as ourselves.

**Read the following Scriptures and consider this opportunity to live from the Tree of Life.**

And [in that garden] the Lord God caused to grow from the ground every tree that is desirable *and* pleasing to the sight and good (suitable, pleasant) for food; the **tree of life** was also in the midst of the garden, and **the tree of the** [experiential] **knowledge** (recognition) of [the difference between] **good and evil**.

Genesis 2:9 AMP

Blessed [fortunate, prosperous, and favored by God] is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked [following their advice and example], Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit [down to rest] in the seat

of coffers (ridiculers).<sup>2</sup> But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And on His law [His precepts and teachings] he [habitually] meditates day and night. <sup>3</sup> And he will be **like a tree *firmly* planted [and fed] by streams of water,** Which yields its fruit in its season; Its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers [and comes to maturity].

Psalm 1:1-3 AMP

<sup>14</sup> Blessed *are* those who do His commandments, that **they may have the right to the tree of life,** and may enter through the gates into the city.

Revelation 22:14 NKJV

He who has an ear, let him hear *and* heed what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes [the world through believing that Jesus is the Son of God], I will grant [the privilege] **to eat [the fruit] from the tree of life,** which is in the Paradise of God.

Revelation 2:7 AMP

It flowed down the center of the main street. On each side of the river grew a **tree of life**, bearing twelve crops of fruit, with a fresh crop each month. The leaves were used for medicine to heal the nations.

Revelation 22:2 AMP

And if anyone removes any of the words from this book of prophecy, God will remove that person's **share in the tree of life** and in the holy city that are described in this book.

Revelation 22:19 AMP

But the **Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit** in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature

to his cross and crucified them there. Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.

Galatians 5:22-25 NLT

The Jesus Journey will consider all these Scriptures when we think about living from the **Tree of Life**. We have created an illustration of what this Tree **may look like** as a model for us to live by. The Book of Revelation speaks of the eternal value of the **Tree of Life** to the nations. It was in the Garden of Eden and will one day be in the new Heaven and new Earth! Beautiful! Psalm 1 speaks of its roots and its eternal fruit. Galatians 5 lets us know what the fruit it produces looks like. The **Tree of Life** foreshadows the ultimate victory over death on the Cross of Christ. Our decision to crucify our flesh with Christ Jesus (As discussed in Freedom 2) is God's plan for us to live forever from this life-giving Tree.

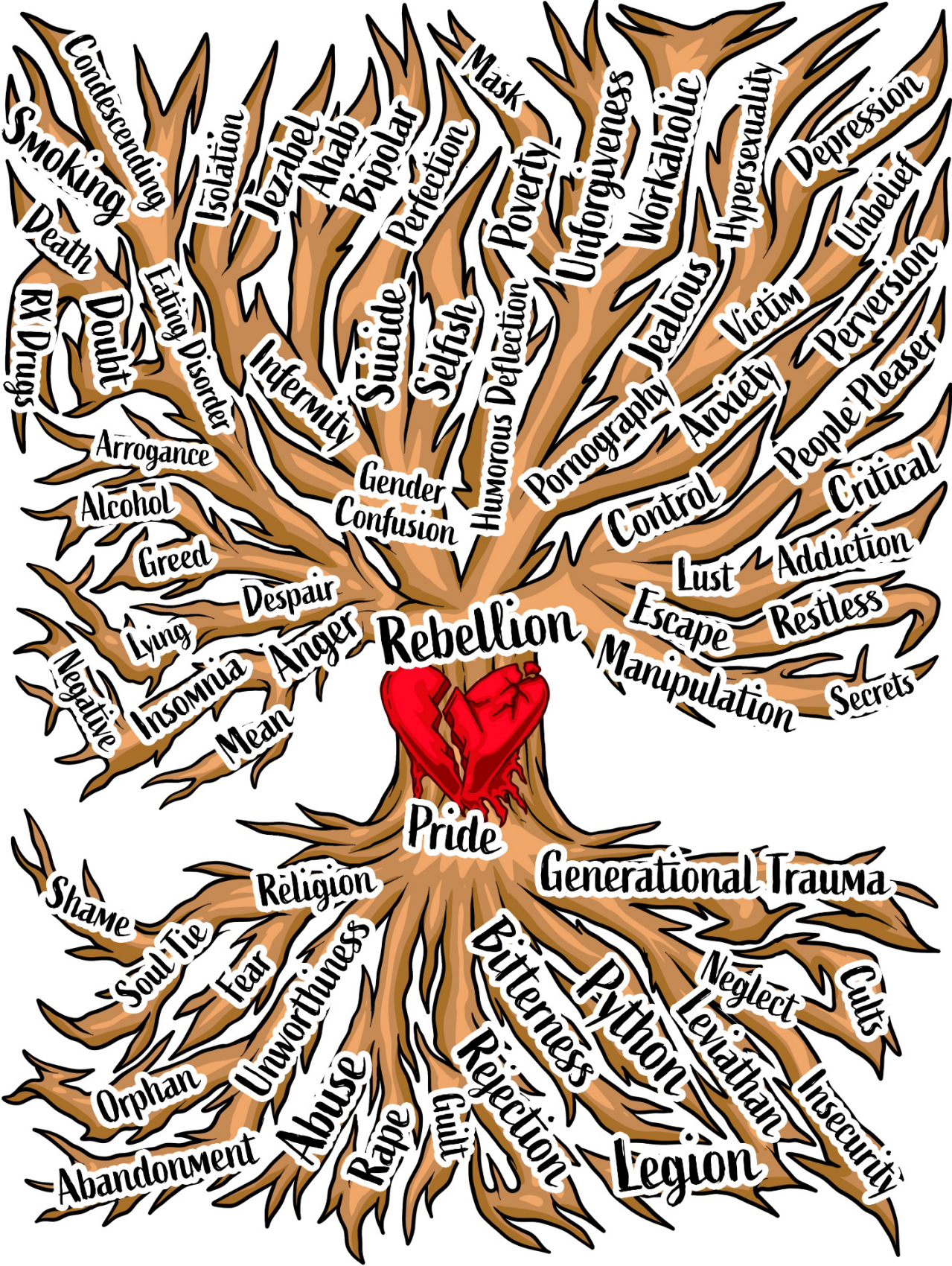
I began to meditate on these two Trees in 2015 and God showed me how critical this picture is to all our life stories and how we choose to live. **Ultimately, the picture of Eternal Life and Abundant Life is found as we live and eat from the Tree of Life.** In the preceding Scripture passages, God draws us a beautiful picture of our roots in the river of water provided by the Holy Spirit. We allow the Holy Spirit to guide us in every thought and nurture us. We surrender our emotions, and we choose God's Will over our own human plans. We crucify our flesh. We bring our flesh into submission and allow the Holy Spirit to guide us moment by moment. He is the River of Living Water who brings refreshing and produces delicious fruit.

"I can't do it! Forget it!" you may be thinking. Man, I sure understand that, but hang in there. We must get the chainsaw first and cut down the poison tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil! We must acknowledge that our roots have been entangled in darkness. These poisonous roots must be destroyed once and for all in Jesus' Name! We are citizens of Heaven. As you continue the Jesus Journey, you will understand how to live victoriously from your Heavenly position.

We can activate God's Will in our lives as it is in Heaven (Matthew 6:10). We can participate in Jesus' spectacular vision of the Tree of Life in Revelation 22:1-5. We can excitedly imagine the throne of God and the dazzling river flowing beneath the **Tree of Life** whose branches and fruit completely encompass the river. WOW! Don't you want to be part of that? **Now is the time to change trees my friend!**



# TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL



But the Lord God warned him, "You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden – except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die."  
 Genesis 2:16-17 NLT

## Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil

We pray the light has come on and you are beginning to understand the daily impact these two trees have had in your life. We pray God is inspiring you to live from the **Tree of Life**. Now, we would like to help you further understand in detail the destructive nature of the **Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil**. The Diagram representing this death tree is illustrated by a root system of evil life conditions perpetrated by the devil to destroy us. The **roots** from this tree produce outward behavioral and attitudinal **fruit** that is destructive and painful.

Our experience in dealing with people, from deacons to death row inmates, has led us to identify a general pattern of demonic influence. Please know that the Bible does not go into this kind of detail regarding the **Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil**. This illustration is an abstract tool to help us understand our enemy's strategy, overcome his lies and live victorious abundant lives in Jesus' love and power. Jesus came to liberate us from the demonic chaos created when Eve chose this Tree of Death.

These are the first public words of Jesus' ministry recorded by Dr. Luke.

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. **[Kingdom Salvation]** He has sent me **to proclaim liberty to the captives [Forever Freedom]** and recovering of sight to the blind, **[Holy Healing]** to set at **liberty those who are oppressed, [Forever Freedom]**<sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

Luke 4:18-19 ESV

Jesus came to bring the good news (Kingdom Salvation), to set the captives free of the dark influences of this world (Forever Freedom), and to heal the blind (Holy Healing). *Jesus Journey is all about these three original priorities of Jesus.* We will consider our **roots** to be the primary influencing factors of our lives in our journey toward Forever Freedom. These **roots** are often hidden in generational secrets and painful experiences. Dark demonic spirits have attempted to influence us through these root factors in our lives. Please understand that the great majority of these painful root conditions affecting our lives are completely beyond our control. Many events and circumstances occurred before we were ever born, and others occurred during our childhood. **Although we did not build these original root systems of our lives, we have been left to deal with their consequences.**

Subsequentially, we have sinned and made choices to allow further demonic influences in our lives. Too often, we have chosen to cope with our pain by seeking the world's answers. We have often attempted to soothe our emotions with temporary worldly vices. Often, we have fallen into dark emotional or behavioral holes, and we are stuck in lifestyle patterns that appear impossible to overcome. We try and try to break free but fail and fail again. My dear friend, I completely understand! I was stuck in my own cycle of rebellion -> sin -> isolation -> shame -> depression -> and escape for ten years. Prior to these years of outward failure, I silently dealt with an unending stream of impure thoughts and a prideful, selfish lifestyle. I have been there man!

Now, let's talk about how to get FOREVER FREE! In my case, I had to quit doing a religious dance. I had to quit living for the devil. I had come to the reality of this Scripture. I'm praying for you today as you join me on this path to abundant life and eternal hope in Jesus.

Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. <sup>8</sup> **Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil**, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. <sup>9</sup> **No one born of God makes a practice of sinning**, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God. <sup>10</sup> By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: **whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God**, nor is the one who does not love his brother.

1 John 3:7-10 ESV

The fruit of my life was evil. I had habitually been practicing sin, privately and publicly. I was double-minded, unstable and a phenomenal actor (James 1:8). From the outside, from the age of 15 to 35, my cup appeared clean. Your life experience is unique, but likely involves similar secret sinful situations, painful relationships and traumatic events. Is an avalanche of insecurity, rejection, fear, and bitterness burying you?





List some examples of how you have been double minded?

## **Why Do I Do What I Do Not Want to Do?**

For I do not understand my own actions [I am baffled and bewildered by them]. I do not practice what I want *to do*, but I am doing the very thing I hate [and yielding to my human nature, my worldliness—my sinful capacity]. <sup>16</sup> **Now if I *habitually* do what I do not want to do**, [that means] I agree with the Law, *confessing* that it is good (morally excellent). <sup>17</sup> So now [if that is the case, then] **it is no longer I who do it [the disobedient thing which I despise], but the sin [nature] which lives in me.** <sup>18</sup> For I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my flesh [my human nature, my worldliness—my sinful capacity]. For the willingness [to do good] is present in me, but the doing of good is not. <sup>19</sup> **For the good that I want to do, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want.** <sup>20</sup> But if I am doing the very thing I do not want to do, I am no longer the one doing it [that is, it is not me that acts], but the sin [nature] which lives in me.

Romans 7:15-20 AMP

In Paul's example, the man wanted to do one thing – a good thing – yet he could not do it. He ends up doing the very thing he did not want to do! It's as if he had no control over his decision-making process. When Paul states, "It's no longer I that live **but sin living in me.**" Please understand, sin does not randomly live in us. We combat our sin nature originating from Adam and Eve as well as sin seeds planted by unclean demonic spirits. These demonic spirits are controlled by satan and organized into military ranks (see Colossians 2:13-15; Ephesians 6:12; and Daniel 10). They are sent on assignment to control our territories, war against our families and seduce us personally. In short, **there is a reason you can't quit sinning.** You likely live in emotional pain and can't seem to get your life of chaos together. The

demons are influencing you and you are in bondage to their power. I've been there, Big Time!

Is this your story?... You don't really want to gossip, but you find your tongue is out of control. You know porn comes from the devil, but day after day you fail, even right after church you return to your vomit. You walk by the beer fridge in the convenience store, and without any conscious thought, your taste buds start to quiver. Next thing you know, you have another twelve-pack in your hand. We know God says, "Do not judge others," yet we justify our actions and keep throwing stones at the neighbors. *Sin doesn't randomly live in us; it lives in us in the form of demons. These demons are constantly attempting to influence us and lead us into darkness.* It may seem like we can't control ourselves and our fight is hopeless, but this is where the freedom from Jesus comes into action! **We can take authority over the demonic spirits** and evict them from our lives once and for all in Jesus' Holy Name.

## **The GREAT NEWS**

This is great news! You can be set free in Jesus' Name! If you have repented of your sins, laid down your **sin sick cycle** and truly surrendered your life to Jesus, the demons have no legal right to torment you anymore. You can run them out of your life and eliminate the dark power of the **Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil** in Jesus' Name! You can be delivered from the evil one. Jesus Journey will lead you into this powerful path of Freedom through deliverance in Freedom 5. Thank you, Jesus, for going to the Cross and shedding your Blood to set us free!

<sup>13</sup> When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh (worldliness, manner of life), God made you alive together with Christ, having [freely] forgiven us all our sins, <sup>14</sup> having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of legal demands [which were in force] against us and which were hostile to us. And this certificate He has set aside *and* completely removed by nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup> **When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities [those supernatural forces of evil operating against us], He made a public example of them [exhibiting them as captives in His triumphal procession], having triumphed over them through the cross.**

Colossians 2:13-15 AMP

*The power of every demon that has ever existed is subject to the Blood of Jesus on the Cross!* The demons were embarrassed. Their power was taken away! Why then, after we are saved, do we continue to live under demonic influence? The answer is quite simple...because we have never taken authority over them in Jesus' Name and cast them out of our lives. You likely have never been taught about this critical part of Jesus' ministry. Now God has opened the door for you to be forever free. Praise God you are about to bust that door wide open!



Study the illustration of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. Focus first on the **ROOTS**. Have any of these **ROOTS** had an influence on your life?



Have these roots influenced your behavior (**Fruit**) which you can't seem to control?

Roots produce fruit. Certain root conditions of our lives produce corresponding fruit. For example, if a person is a child of divorce (generational root) they have roots of insecurity (root) and abandonment (root). These roots then produce anxiety (fruit) that often leads to the additional fruit of control, fear of man, rebellion, or many other spiritually sick behaviors. You may have never stopped to consider the painful root causes that have led you to the coping mindsets and behaviors that now have you bound. Take this time and trace a few of your Sin Sick patterns.





Choose a **ROOT** that has given you trouble. Explain how you believe that root has produced unwanted behavioral **FRUIT** in your life. Ask God to reveal the devil's lies which have led you into this pattern of pain and darkness. Explain.



Now choose another root and repeat the process.

Are you beginning to see how this nasty tree has dominated your life? Do you like it? When I was living under the power of this tree, I literally could not control my behavior, my thoughts or my tongue. I could not maintain any self-control. Secrets dominated me and I was sick! There was no amount of *trying harder* or counseling or *faking it until I make it* that was going to make any difference. **I needed some relief!** These nasty dark influences had to go!



Are you ready to quit living from this death tree and begin to bear the fruit of the Tree of Life? Yes or No?

Take the pictures of each Tree and hang them side by side on your fridge or in another prominent area you see often. As you see them daily, become aware of which tree is influencing you.



Record instances when you are influenced by the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.



Pray and begin to prepare your heart and mind to chop down the devil's Tree and pull up its roots once and for all in Jesus' Name! Write your prayer here as you pray.

God showed me an image of what the **Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil** looked liked. Now, this isn't the literal Tree, I wasn't in the Garden of Eden. God showed me this image of a shiny, yet evil Tree of selfishness and deception to share with the world, as a tool of freedom in Jesus. God created the Tree, yet satan used the Tree to capture Eve's heart and ultimately her actions. He tricked her and he is still tricking us today.

BUT... the devil's deception can end today my friend in Jesus' Name! Your eyes can be opened to the devil's lie and you can chop down the **Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil** in Jesus' Name! The roots of this Tree were birthed in the rebellion of the Garden and have continued to tangle up humanity ever since. **The ROOTS are all of the conditions of life that we cannot control.** Before we were born, God had a plan for us – but so did the devil. God planned to prosper us in royalty, but the devil planned to dethrone us and kill us. The roots of the Tree began generationally before we were ever born and they radically affect us today. Our painful experiences were not random but were directly affected by the devil. For example, as a young child you may have been abandoned by your family through divorce or traumatic circumstances. This wasn't your fault, but you've *felt abandoned all your life*. When we *feel abandoned*, we often seek approval of people and sometimes compromise ourselves in an attempt to find acceptance. Abandonment did not randomly come upon us; the devil sent it in the form of a demon *spirit of abandonment*. This discussion of the *abandonment* spirit is merely one example of the innumerable plans of satan. It's time to understand the devil's strategy and take away the power of the enemy in Jesus' Name! You have the authority!

The roots of this Tree represent the painful sources that motivate our actions. **Our actions are the FRUIT we produce and false identities we hide behind.** Sin doesn't randomly live in us. Satan comes to kill, steal and destroy (John 10:10). Satan accomplishes this by giving assignments to his demons. These deceptive demons seduce us and attempt to lead us into sin. When we take the bait of satan, we are on his hook. He controls us and leads us into even darker territory. At some point, our lives become out of control and we are completely dominated by the demons. Many of us become professional actors and fear admitting that we are in this condition. Do not fear, trust God. Forever Freedom is coming my friend in Jesus' Name!

And he gives grace generously. As the Scriptures say, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." **So humble yourselves before God.** Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world.

James 4:6-8 NLT

# Understanding Your Spiritual Battle

## The Word of God:

We know about the presence of demons and their influence from Scripture. The New Testament is filled with accounts of demons and how Jesus, and His appointed disciples, handled them. He gave us clear commands to do the same (Matthew 10, Luke 9 and 10, Mathew 6, etc.). Peter, John and Paul also dealt with demons throughout the New Testament. *If demons were causing confusion in the world then (I Timothy 4:1), how much more is satan attempting to control us through his legion of evil spirits now* (Ezekiel 28:12-19, Revelation 12:9, Luke 10:18)? Paul clearly tells us our struggle is not against our flesh, but against rulers, powers, and authorities (ranks of demons) in Ephesians 6:12. The church has largely ignored this fact. We have failed to fight and have attempted instead to counsel the demons away. That strategy simply does not work! Recall the words of Jack Hayford, “You cannot cast out the flesh, and *you cannot disciple a demon.*”

Jesus gave us this most powerful commissioning just before He returned to His Father in Heaven.

<sup>17</sup> These signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will **cast out demons**, they will speak in new tongues; <sup>18</sup> they will pick up serpents, and if they drink anything deadly, it will not hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will get well.”

Mark 16:17 AMP

Isn't it exciting to understand how Jesus imparted this power to us! Unfortunately, most folks have not activated this commission in their lifestyle. Consequently, most people live powerlessly and continue to be influenced by dark powers. Jesus has already given us authority and commissioned us to cast out these life stealing demons. Well, great news, now you understand. Jesus Journey will seek to train you in how to operate in this power given to you by Jesus.

## The Devil's Expulsion from Heaven

“Your heart was **proud** *and* arrogant because of your beauty; You destroyed your wisdom for the sake of your splendor. **I cast you to the ground;**  
I lay you before kings, That they might look at you.

Ezekiel 28:17 AMP

<sup>9</sup> And the **great dragon was thrown down**, the age-old serpent who is called the devil and Satan, he who *continually* deceives *and* seduces the entire inhabited world; he was thrown down to the earth, and **his angels were thrown down with him.**

Revelations 12:9 AMP



In your own words describe the event that happened in these two Scriptures above.

**Why do good things happen to bad people? Why do bad things happen to good people?** Wise authors have written grand novels, attempting to answer these timeless questions. Whole forests have been lost in the books produced, wrestling with this question. I'm a simple man with an answer from Jesus. *The devil is real my friends.* Mankind's sin and our rejection of God gave worldly power to the prince of the air. *The devil has turned the world upside down. Justice and fairness have been replaced with chaos.* Justice resides only in heaven. Here on earth, understand Jesus' words from the Sermon on the Mount.

<sup>45</sup> In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike.

Matthew 5:45 NLT



God has temporarily turned our world over to the evil one. God has power to control events, as He sends the rain and sunshine on both good and evil people. The uncontrollable circumstances of life fall upon us, regardless of us being good or bad people. Understand what happened in the Garden and how our enemy constantly baits our hooks with the evil roots and fruits from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.

*The first key to peace is to see the devil's lie perpetrated on us from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, and change trees. The next key to living in peace is to release the expectation of perfection in this world; it's simply not going to happen. Live for eternity, not for today and trust Jesus, not man.*

<sup>12</sup> I know how to get along and live humbly [in difficult times], and I also know how to enjoy abundance *and* live in prosperity. In any and every circumstance I have learned the secret [of facing life], whether well-fed or going hungry, whether having an abundance or being in need.

Philippians 4:12 AMP



## **Alan's Freedom Experience:**

Lost, rebellious, depressed, high and on the run from the cops, a Christian drug counselor, Bonnie Nixon, sent me to see **Don Dickerman** in Colleyville, Texas in 2004. Mr. Dickerman has been called by God to operate in Freedom ministry.

You see, I grew up the son of an influential and loving Pastor in a traditional denominational church in East Texas. God blessed the church so beautifully as thousands of families followed in the footsteps of Jesus. I love you; you are my family. I too wanted to follow Jesus, but I was blissfully unaware and blind to my dark spiritual condition.

“The eye is the lamp of the body; so if your eye is clear[spiritually perceptive], your whole body will be full of light[benefiting from God's precepts]. <sup>23</sup> **But if your eye is bad[spiritually blind], your whole body will be full of darkness** [devoid of God's precepts]. So if

the [very] light inside you [your inner self, your heart, your conscience] is darkness, **how great and terrible is that darkness!**

Matthew 6:22-23 AMP

I tried serving the Lord, but I failed. I could never discipline my flesh. My pride was out of control. Sexuality dominated my thinking and actions. My perspective was jaded and selfish. Layers of sinful darkness abounded. The things I wanted to do for Jesus, I could not do. But the things I did not want to do (rebellion, sexual temptations, selfish actions) I did (Romans 7:15-20). You see I had a secret, and I never shared that secret with anyone until I was forty years old.

My Papa, my dad's dad, was a dedicated fisherman. Many Fridays and Saturdays we would travel about fifty miles to MeeMaw and Papa's house. I thought these trips were just so I could go fish with Papa, but really, Dad was going to share his heart with his dad. You see, Papa was my dad's very best friend. Lots of times, however, when we made this trip, something evil would happen to me. My dad had a much younger brother, named Davey that lived with Papa. Davey would escort me into his bedroom, close the door and darkness would take over. This lasted about five years. I was between the ages of five and ten. I finally had enough and broke away from Davey. The evil had already been planted inside of me. The devil had formed a soul tie between Davey and me. The demons I confronted from my experiences with Davey had a stronghold on my thoughts and actions. Perhaps the most powerful and painful of all were the shameful secrets I was concealing. Davey was perverted and he was mean! He sold dope and lived in rebellion on every level. We would often witness full on fights between Davey and Papa. Hate lived in Davey.

On Christmas morning, 1978, when I was just sixteen years old, Papa, Meemaw, Uncle Davey and his wife and son, were planning to travel to our home to celebrate, but that never happened. Sometime in the dark night of Christmas Eve, Davey went completely crazy. High on hallucinogenic drugs, he broke into Meemaw and Papa's home, threatened them both at gunpoint, and shot Papa twice in the chest. Papa died. Chaos followed as the police chased Davey across the county and finally captured him. By Christmas afternoon, we were at Papa's house mopping up his blood from his bedroom floor. Hate took me over. I wanted to break into the jail and kill my twisted uncle. He had just murdered my Papa! The soul tie with Davey intensified. I was now a puppet in the hands of the devil and his demons that I unwittingly inherited from Davey. Revengeful pride motivated

my thinking and actions. I detached from God and my parents and began to escape into my own private world.

My uncle was living in a mobile home with his wife and innocent three-year-old son Glenn on that fateful Christmas Eve. The mobile home was located about fifty feet behind Papa's house. I wasn't Davey's only victim. Only God knows what Davey's wife went through in those days of insanity. And that little innocent three-year-old, David Glenn Johnson...what demonic spirits must have been birthed in him? This is not the last time you will hear about little Glenn.

Twenty-six years later, in 2004, at **Don Dickerman's office**, a freedom counsellor told me about demons and how they were controlling me. I really didn't buy it. He prayed over me for about an hour, but nothing changed in me. I was really only there in hopes of avoiding going to prison. I was already in big trouble with the probation office. Four more years of turmoil followed and finally in 2008, after ten years of abusing dope, alcohol, and people, and being arrested thirty to forty times, I surrendered to Jesus in the McClennon County Jail. After only three days I was miraculously released from jail, but I would soon be on my way to prison to face three felony charges. When I surrendered to Jesus, everything changed in my heart and my life. I was determined to live for Jesus!

I moved out of my girlfriend's house and ceased all sexual activity. She thought I was crazy and didn't understand. I called my attorney and made arrangements to surrender to the police and face the music. I had warrants in two counties, and they were both blue. I was on my way to prison, and I deserved it!

Some dear church friends allowed me to stay in their home for a few days, they had never given up on me despite all my rebellion. I was asleep in a small bedroom in their home when suddenly, in the middle of the night, I involuntarily sat straight up. I began to speak in the dialect and accent of an inmate that I had just been in jail with, his name was Eric. My voice sounded exactly like his! I was cursing, angry, shaking, and going crazy. Just at this moment of crisis, God brought to memory the hour I spent at **Don Dickerman's office** in 2004. Thank You Jesus!

God showed me that the demonic spirits who were dominating Eric were trying to control me as well. It just came to me, "cast out Eric" (The demon that sounded like Eric). So, I just said aloud, "In Jesus name, get out of me Eric!" The next thing I know, I'm throwing up on the floor and I felt something leave my body. I had been drunk for ten years straight and high for most all that time. I had been on five high powered controlled substances prescribed by the doctors, and every drug on

the street. In all my insanity, nothing as weird and unexplainable had ever happened to me as when the demons terrorizing Eric came out of me!

I thought it was all over and I tried to rest. I laid back down and the same thing happened with a guy named Diego. Diego was a young man who had been sleeping near me three days earlier in my cell in McClennon County Jail. He was dealing pills in the jail and trying to sell his eight-year-old sister to another inmate for sex. Diego was a big-time pervert, and I didn't want his demons hassling me. I leaned up in the bed and shouted this time, "Diego, In Jesus' Name get outta me!" My body rocked with intensity. Again, I regurgitated and shook as I felt something physically leave me. Now I wanted this pressure, chaos, fear, and depression to end. God had given me the key. **Repent Alan! Repent my friends! Repent!** I heard my precious Jesus calling me to turn away from all my sin and darkness and surrender to Him.

I began to weep and pray, and I truly saw my sin. I was totally surrendering. A **wave of love** began to flow through me and wash me clean as I prayed. Then God showed me a champagne bottle as He spoke to me. He said, "Alan, your whole life is like a champagne bottle. You are full of chaos and pressure. But the real problem is the cork. The Cork is holding all the chaos, perversion, rebellion, and selfishness inside you. Alan, that cork represents your **PRIDE**. If you want to be free, **you must repent of your pride.**" **Thank You Jesus for this Truth revealed to me!**

I didn't really know what was going on as I lay there on the little twin bed. I had never really heard from God before, but now we were having a real conversation. He spoke and I said "Yes, Lord Jesus." Then I saw it all so clearly. I saw how the demons first controlled me, and how I fueled their power by giving myself permission to live with pride, unforgiveness, resentment, rebellion, and bitterness. I understood that at some point I liked my condition. I embraced it, and knowingly came in partnership with the devil. I had sealed my relationship with the devil by pridefully corking up all the chaos and embracing the devil's lies. I began to pray like never before from the bottom of my broken heart.

Dear Lord, I am so lost. I have followed the devil. Thank you for saving me through Your Son Jesus! Dear God, I surrender my terrible PRIDE to you, I am so sorry! All of the sudden I was slammed to the floor and started to throw up again. Over the **next three hours**, God showed me so many people I had hurt and all the people I needed to forgive. He showed me my dark, selfish secretive heart. Soul ties and sin associations were broken as God supernaturally delivered me through repentance and revelation. God revealed my underlying motives and the root



demons of my rebellion, as He set me free. Demon after demon shook out of me while I was alone in that tiny bedroom made Holy by Jesus. I had gone to bed with a sick stomach, an aching back, and I could hardly walk. My bowels were all locked up. Toward the end of my time with the Lord, uncontrollable joy filled my spirit. Like never before I began to float weightlessly in my mind. My body began to experience a great refreshing as if I were floating in the crisp cool waters of the Colorado River. I visualized the blood flowing through my body, a cool cobalt blue in color. God was quite literally washing me and setting me free from the inside out, in Jesus' Name. When I emerged from the Holy Bedroom, I was free emotionally, physically and spiritually. I felt like I was eighteen again although I was forty-five. Thank you, Lord Jesus! Jesus had set me free, totally, indeed!

<sup>36</sup> So if the Son makes you free, then you are unquestionably free.

John 8:36 AMP

My friends, Jesus can set you free too! I never wanted another drink or line of cocaine. I never had another crazy sexual encounter. I had a heart-to-heart visit with my dad after I came to Jesus. He looked deep into my eyes searchingly and asked, "Why Al, why did you go so crazy? How did you change so drastically?" I thought for a long time and asked God how I could best explain it. Then I replied, "'Dad, satan is real and powerful and I let him steal me. **But Dad, God's love is more powerful. He answered your prayers Dad and He brought me Home.**"

That truth sat on my dad's heart for a while as I gave God all the Glory for His power to set me free. I told him of my supernatural deliverance as I witnessed bewilderment in his eyes.

*I realized in this critical moment that most Christians live as if satan is not real. They live tormented by the devil's demons as victims stuck coping with life. They often live in agony. They may never understand the authority over the darkness that God has given us. God confirms this authority in His Word. Since those days in 2008, through my time in prison and beyond, God has given me opportunity to walk with hundreds of friends as God has set them Free in Jesus' Name! **Are you ready to live free?***



Study the Diagram of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Circle the roots and fruits that have affected your life. Begin to pray about laying an axe to the roots, cutting them off and destroying the fruits of evil in your life. Explain how you would like to destroy the root system of turmoil in your life.

My sin did not start with the fruits of depression, drugs or drinking. My rebellion began with roots of false pride, my soul tie with Davey, sexual promiscuity, and shame. If you feel like you are out of control, I sure understand. It's time to take away the devil's control and give it to Jesus. Perhaps you are thinking, "My world never got that dark." Praise Jesus for that! However, there is no doubt that we sometimes struggle with depression, fear, rejection, anger, etc. Some of these things come from flesh which we must crucify with Jesus. We crucify the flesh (Galatians 2:20), then we cast out the demons (Luke 10), and we live Free in Jesus. This is perhaps the most critical stage of your journey with Jesus; Deliver me from the Evil one and live free forever!

By the way, my uncle Davey was sentenced to ninety-nine years in prison. He came up for parole many times but was always denied. He spent most of those years in the mental ward at TDC. He wasn't mentally ill; he was possessed by the devil. Sadly, Davey died alone in prison in 2020. I forgave him the night Jesus set me free. I wrote him letters and told him how much God had changed me, and that God could forgive and change him too. We have prayed for God's mercy on Davey. We break the soul ties and crush the intentions of the devil, by forgiving and releasing. If I had hung on to this soul tie, I too would still be headed for hell. Praise you Jesus that my name is now written in the Lamb's Book of Life (Luke 10:20)! In January of 2022, we found this letter written to my father, Laney. Davey had written this letter ten years before, in 2012.

10/28/12

DEAR LANEY

THE LORD PUT IT  
UPON MY HEART TO  
WRITE TO YOU TONIGHT,  
10/28/12 IN SPITE OF  
ALL MY WRONG DOING  
HERE ON EARTH. I LOVE  
THE LORD BECAUSE  
I KNOW IF HE COULD  
TURN SAUL AND MOSES  
IN TO STRONG MEN OF  
GOD HE COULD TURN  
ANY MAN INTO A GOOD  
CHRISTIAN. MY BROTHER  
MY HEART HAS BEEN  
CONVICTED BY THE  
HOLY GHOST. I WOULD  
LIKE TO MAKE IT TO  
HEAVEN. DAVEY R. JOHNSON  
#292497  
8602 PEACH ST.  
LUBBOCK, TX. 79404-7777

LOVE  
BRO. DAVEY

Judgement is mine, declares the Lord! Only God knows the fate of Davey's spirit, Heaven or Hell. You and I are still living, and our book is still being written. Our surrender to God, our obedience, and our operation in His love will determine our eternal destiny in Jesus' Name. Is Davey in Heaven or Hell? I don't know, but as for me, I'm not going to take a chance by living in any way that displeases Jesus.



How about you my friend, is your name written in the Lamb's Book of Life? Explain how you know your name is registered in the Book of Life.

We know we love God's children if we love God and obey his commandments. Loving God means keeping his commandments, and his commandments are not burdensome.

1John 5:2-3 NLT



Are you following God's commands confirming your love for Him? Explain.



Pray aloud now, repenting and surrendering your life to Jesus, as God directs you.



Observe the picture of the **Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil**, as you continue to pray. Ask God to forgive you of living from the roots and fruits of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. **Pray and commit** to the Lord that you will stop giving power to this Tree of Darkness in Jesus' Name.



Observe the picture of the beautiful **Tree of Life**. **Pray and commit** that the Holy Spirit will become the new root system of your life. See yourself transferring power from the dark roots of the death tree to the refreshing waters of the Holy Spirit. See your motivations for life emerged in the flowing river that are producing the beautiful fruits of the Holy Spirit.



Record a story here of how you have begun to live from the Tree of Life. This is your power and your victory story!



## **Transformation Point – Two Trees and a Testimony**

- We pray God will transform you lesson by lesson throughout Jesus Journey. Transformation comes through your commitment to activate the truths and challenges of each lesson. What commitment are you making to God as a result of this lesson; *Two Trees and a Testimony*?

**We are moving forward in Jesus' name and nothing can hold us back!**