

# TRANSFORMED 2

## January 22, 2017 | mediaatvictory.com

**Genesis 2:8-9,15-17 (NIV)** - <sup>8</sup> Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. <sup>9</sup> The Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. <sup>15</sup> The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. <sup>16</sup> And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; <sup>17</sup> but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”

**I John 5:12 (NIV)** - <sup>12</sup> Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

**Genesis 3:1-5 (NIV)** – <sup>1</sup> Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’” <sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’” <sup>4</sup> “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. <sup>5</sup> “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

Satan appealed to Eve’s desire to be godly (like God), not her desire to do evil. In doing so, Satan tried to exalt “his throne” above Gods. The original temptation is the same one we contend with today: doubt the veracity of God’s Word and find life outside of His life.

Temptation is not a test of your self-control, but rather of the strength of your relationship with God. Sin in my life exposes a lie that I believe about God, that something else will love me more and meet my needs.

**Genesis 3:6-7 (NIV)** - <sup>6</sup> When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

When their eyes were opened, how they saw life changed. It caused them hide from God’s presence and judge God. They covered themselves and tried to find their own righteousness. As such, they were living in the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

On the other hand, the tree of life recognizes that God has already done everything that needs to be done. That He sets the standards, and that he loves you just as you are.

**John 5:39-40 (TLB)** - <sup>39</sup>“You search the Scriptures, for you believe they give you eternal life. And the Scriptures point to me! <sup>40</sup>Yet you won’t come to me so that I can give you this life eternal!

God was looking for Adam right after he failed. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil caused him to see God through the lens of shame, which caused him to judge God’s intentions towards him.

In truth though, God was coming to save, redeem and cover him. Today, God is still saying, “Where are you?” He says it in a loving tone, not an angry one. God loves us just like we are, but loves us too much to leave us where we are.

The tree of the knowledge of good and evil = TKGE  
The tree of life = TOL

To obey God, the TKGE says, “I obey out of duty and obligation.” The TOL says, “I obey out of delight.”

**Romans 7:22 (TLB)** - <sup>22</sup> I love to do God’s will so far as my new nature is concerned

When it comes to giving and serving the TKGE is compelled by the law. The TOL is compelled by love. We love Him, because He loved us first. Love God first and obedience will come naturally.

When it comes to how we treat others, people living in TKGE are critical of others, notice other people’s faults and sins, and insist on punishment. People in TOL believe the best of every person and respect the choices of others.

#### 5 Responses to the TREE OF LIFE

- Fall in Love with Jesus
- Serve God through relationship, not rules
- Respond to all sin (yours and others) with life
- Guard your heart from going back to the TKGE
- Choose your Tree

**Deuteronomy 30:19 (NIV)** – <sup>19</sup> This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live

Three questions to ask yourself:

- What is God saying to me?
- What is my next step?
- Who can God use me to lead to Christ or impact for Him?