

主日信息: 喫生命樹果

創世記 2:7-9, 16-17; 3:1-10, 22-24; 啟示錄 22:1-2

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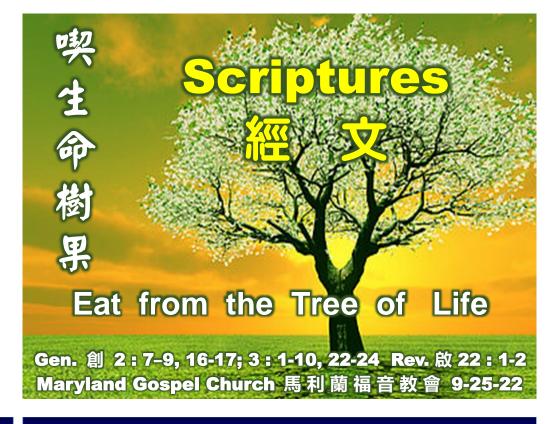
Sunday Message:

Eat from the Tree of Life

Genesis 2:7-9, 16-17; 3:1-10, 22-24;

Revelation 22:1-2

Preacher: Elder David Lee Interpreter: Sister Doris Liu



創世記 2:7-9

- 7 神用地上的塵土造人、將生氣吹在他鼻孔裡、 他就成了有靈的活人、名叫亞當。
- 8 耶和華神在東方的伊甸立了一個園子、把 所造的人安置在那裡。
- 9 耶和華神使各樣的樹從地裡長出來、可以 悅人的眼目、其上的果子好作食物. 園子當中 又有生命樹、和分別善惡的樹。

Genesis 2:7-9

7 the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

8 Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed.

9 And 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.

創世記 Genesis 2:16-17

- 16 耶和華 神吩咐他說、園中各樣樹上的果子 、你可以隨意喫.
- 17 只是分別善惡樹上的果子、你不可喫、因為你喫的日子必定死。
- 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden;
- 17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

創世記 3:1-5

- 1 耶和華神所造的、惟有蛇比田野一切的活物 更狡猾。蛇對女人說、神豈是真說、不許你 們喫園中所有樹上的果子麼。
- 2 女人對蛇說、園中樹上的果子我們可以喫.
- 3 惟有園當中那棵樹上的果子、神曾說、你們 不可喫、也不可摸、免得你們死。

Genesis 3:1-5

- 1 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'?"
- 2 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,
- 3 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.'"

創世記 Genesis 3:4-5

- 4 蛇對女人說、你們不一定死、
- 5 因為神知道、你們喫的日子眼睛就明亮了、 你們便如神能知道善惡。
- 4 "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman.
- 5 "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

創世記 3:6-7

- 6 於是女人見那棵樹的果子好作食物、也悅人的 眼目、且是可喜愛的、能使人有智慧、就摘下 果子來喫了.又給他丈夫、他丈夫也喫了。
- 7 他們二人的眼睛就明亮了、纔知道自己是赤身 露體、便拿無花果樹的葉子、為自己編作裙子。

Genesis 3:6-7

- 6 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.
- 7 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.

創世記 3:8-10

- 8 天起了涼風、耶和華 神在園中行走。那人和他 妻子聽見神的聲音、就藏在園裡的樹木中、躲避 耶和華神的面。
- 9 耶和華 神呼喚那人、對他說、你在那裡。
- 10 他說、我在園中聽見你的聲音、我就害怕、 因為我赤身露體. 我便藏了。

Genesis 3:8-10

- 8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden.
- 9 But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"
- 10 He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

創世記 3:23-24

- 23 耶和華神說、那人已經與我們相似、能知道 善惡. 現在恐怕他伸手又摘生命樹的果子喫、 就永遠活著.
- 24 耶和華神便打發他出伊甸園去、耕種他所自出之土。於是把他趕出去了. 又在伊甸園的東邊安設基路伯、和四面轉動發火焰的劍、要把守生命樹的道路。

Genesis 3:23-24

- 23 And the LORD God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever."
- 24 So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

啓示錄 22:1-2

- 1 天使又指示我在城内街道當中一道生命水的 河、明亮如水晶、從神和羔羊的寶座流出來
- 2 在河這邊與那邊有生命樹、結十二樣果子每月都結果子. 樹上的葉子乃為醫治萬民。

Revelation 22:1-2

- 1 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb
- 2 down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.



Gen. 創 2:7-9,16-17;3:1-10,22-24 Rev. 啟 22:1-2 Maryland Gospel Church 馬利蘭福音教會 9-25-22

Introduction 引言

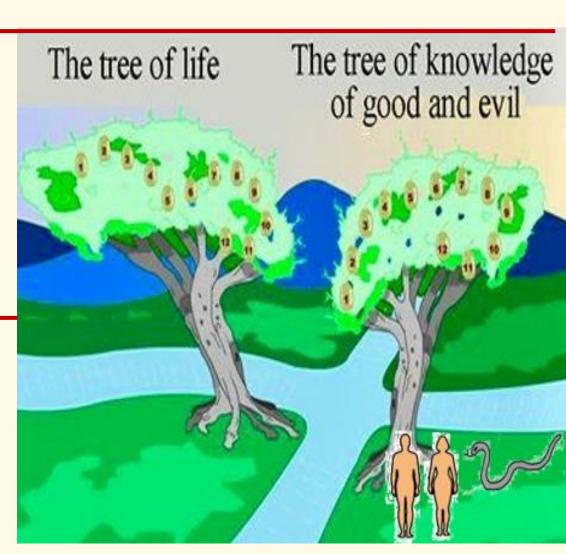
Today's sermon is a continuation on the theme of my last sermon on July 31 - "Spiritual Diet and Maturity 屬靈飲食與成長".

The Scriptures we just read from Genesis is a familiar story that everyone knows.

Even our young children can tell us the story of Adam and Eve and the two trees in the Garden of Eden.

But I doubt everyone grasp the full meaning and the implications of this story.

So today we will dig deeper into the story and the mystery surrounding the tree of life.



Introduction 引言

Many Christians are unaware that the tree of life also appears in Revelation 22, in the last chapter of the last book in the Bible.

Many Christians have never read the Book of Revelation.

They don't want to read Revelation because they think it is difficult, horrible and they don't want to hear about "end time great tribulations (末日大災難)" and "the end of the world".

But the book of Revelation promises blessings for those who read, believe and keep the words in it 凡念、相信並遵守這書(啟示錄) 上豫言的是有福的. (Rev. 啟 1:3;22:7).

The fact that the tree of life appears in the beginning and the end of the Bible tells us that God has an eternal, a consistent and an unchanging plan for His creation.

It is God's will that man can enjoy eternal life and dwell with Him forever. God's plan will be accomplished regardless of human failures and attempts by Satan to foil it.

What Does the Two Trees in Eden Represent? 伊甸園中兩棵樹代表什麼?

Tree of Life 生命樹

Tree of Knowledge of Good & Evil 分别善惡樹 **Knowledge** for making judgements

判斷是非的知識

象徵與神無關的人生

Eternal Life 永遠的生命

Symbolize a life without God

Symbolize God Himself (Christ) 象徵神自己(基督)

Draw near to God 親近神 Obey God 順服神

A life dependent on God for judgment, decisions, provisions and strength

Depart from God 離開神 Disobey God 叛逆神 A life that relies on one's ability for judgment, decisions and obtain provisions

凡事依靠神 凡事依靠自己的能力 作判斷,决定和獲取供應 作判斷,决定,獲取供應和力量 Lost the original image of God Mold into the image of Christ 失去原創時神的形象和樣式 被模成主的樣式

What Does the Two Trees in Eden Represent ? 伊甸園中兩棵樹代表什麼?

I am afraid that most people, even including some Christians, are living by the way of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

We are living by the way of the tree of knowledge of good and evil when we:

- 1) value knowledge more than God,
- 2) pursue our own dreams instead of seeking God's purpose in our life.
- 3) make judgments and decisions based on our knowledge instead of seeking God's will and guidance
- 4) try to solve problems and overcome difficulties by ourselves instead of relying on God
- 5) In short, living the way of the tree of knowledge of good and evil is pursuing a life independent of God.

The Bible tells us the LORD doesn't take pleasure in the strength of horses. He doesn't take delight in the strong legs of men. The LORD delights in those who fear Him, who put their hope in His unfailing love. 神不喜悅馬的力大、不喜愛人的腿快。耶和華喜愛敬畏祂、和盼望祂慈愛的人。(Psalm 詩篇 147:10-11)

The Forbidden Tree in Eden 伊甸園中的禁果

The book of Genesis doesn't tell us much about the fruits on the tree of life, but it tells us that the fruits on the tree of knowledge of good and evil is attractive to the eyes, good tasting and desirable to man because it can give man knowledge. Satan even said it could make man like God.

God warned Adam, eating from the tree of knowledge of good and evil would result in death - immediate spiritual death and eventual physical death.

After Adam and Eve ate from the forbidden tree, they became aware of their nakedness, they felt ashamed and guilty. They became afraid of God and tried to hide from God.

Guilt and fear of God are indications of alienation from God, separation from God

And separation from God is spiritual death



The Fruit of Transgression 罪的苦果

God told Adam after he sinned: "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground."

神對亞當說: 你喫了我所吩咐你不可喫的那樹上的果子、地必為你的緣故受咒詛,你必終身勞苦、纔能從地裡得喫的。地必給你長出荊棘和蒺藜來、你也要喫田間的菜蔬。你必汗流滿面纔得糊口、直到你歸回塵土" Gen. 創 3: 17-19

The tree of life, is a life-giving tree created to support the physical and spiritual life of mankind. It played the role in sustaining the lives of Adam and Eve.

In their transgression, Adam and Eve lost their everlasting lives.

But even in their fallen state (spiritually dead), if Adam and Eve were allowed to eat from the tree of life, they would be able to live forever physically (Genesis 創世記 3:22). However this would mean they will live forever in hardship, sorrow, agony and in sins with no hope of reunion with God.

Barred from Eating from the Tree of Life 被禁止吃生命樹的果子

God, in His mercy, didn't want Adam and Eve to live forever in such a pitiful state. So He drove them out of the Garden of Eden and denied them access to the tree of life.

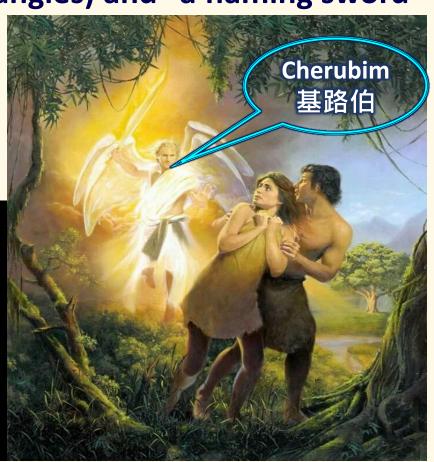
To make sure that Adam and Eve could not eat from the tree of life again, God placed cherubim (angles) and "a flaming sword"

that turns in every direction" to guard the way to the tree of life.

耶和華又在伊甸園的東邊安設 基路伯·和四面轉動發火焰的劍· 要把守生命樹的道路。 (Gen 創 3:24)

a flaming sword that turns in every direction 四面轉動 發火焰的劍





After the fall, man's access to God (our tree of life) continued to be prohibited throughout the Old Testament time for 4,000 years

This remained so even after God instructed Moses and Solomon to build the tabernacle(會幕) and the temple (聖殿) where He would dwell with His people in the "Holy of Holies 至聖所 "



Going into the Holy of Holies in the OT 在舊約進入至聖所(神的所在)

Only once a year the high priest could enter the Holy of Holies. He was to take some of the bull's blood and sprinkle some of it with his finger seven times before the mercy seat* for the sin offering for the people (Lev 16: 14) *(mercy seat is also called the atonement cover)

只有大祭司每年一次可以進入至聖所,他要取些公牛的血、用指頭彈在施恩座的東面、又在施恩座*的前面、彈血七次。為百姓作贖罪祭(利未記 16:14)(*施恩座 又名贖罪蓋)



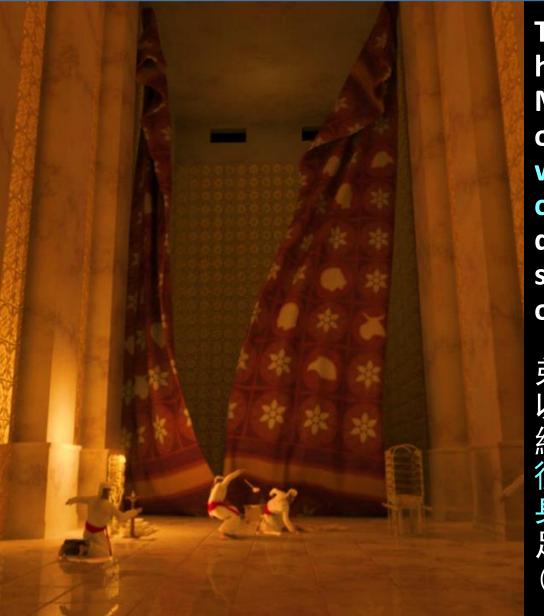




⁵⁰ And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, He gave up His spirit. ⁵¹ Then, behold, **the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom**; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split.

50 耶穌又大聲喊叫、氣就斷了。51 <mark>忽然殿裡的幔子、從上到下</mark> 製為兩半·地也震動·磐石也崩裂· (馬太福音 27:50-51)

A New & Living Way to Come Before God — 條 又 新 又 活 的 路 來 到 神 面 前



Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, His body.. let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith. (Hebrews 10:19–22)

弟兄們,我們既因耶穌的血得以坦然進入至聖所,是藉著祂給我們開了一條又新又活的路,從幔子經過,這幔子就是祂的身體; ··· 就當存著誠心和充足的信心來到神面前。(希伯來書 10:19-22)

Is Jesus the Tree of Life? 耶 穌 是 生 命 樹 嗎 ?

Even though Jesus had never declared that He was the tree of life, yet there are plenty of Biblical supports that the tree of life symbolizes Jesus.

Many theologians and Bible scholars throughout history, including Charles Spurgeon (司布真牧師) believed that Jesus is the tree of life. Here are 4 Biblical supports:

Twice, Jesus declared He is the life 耶穌兩次宣告祂就是生命 (John 約 11:25; 14:6)

3 times, the apostle John who wrote the Gospel of John, pointed out life is in Jesus 生命在祂裡頭 (John 1:4) and believing in Jesus gives the believer eternal life 信耶穌得永生

Jesus said He is the true vine (a tree) 真葡萄樹 (一棵樹) (John 約 15:5)

(John 20:31)

Is Jesus the Tree of Life? 耶穌是生命樹嗎?

Three times the Book of Acts says Jesus was hanged on a tree (Acts 徒 5:30; 10:39; 13:29) 使徒行傳三次說耶穌 "被掛在木頭上" (英文翻譯為被掛在樹上)

Because of a tree. man sinned and lost his eternal life. On the cross, which is a dead tree, Jesus died to pay for man's penalty of sin, restoring man back to God. On the cross He turned a tree of death into a tree of life. 因著一棵樹人類犯罪死亡失去永生。在十字架上 (一棵枯死的樹),耶穌為贖世人的罪而死,把人帶回神面前。

耶穌把一棵致人於死的樹變為一棵生命樹

Putting all these together, we can conclude that the tree of life symbolizes Jesus. And because of Christ's atonement for our sins, access to God (our tree of life) has been restored

How Do We Eat Fruits From the Tree of Life? 如何吃生命樹果?

Let us first ask: in what form does the tree of life comes to us? The following scriptures give us the answer:

'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. 人活著、不是單靠食物、乃是靠 神口裡所出的一切話' Matthew 馬太福音4:4

Jesus said 'I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh...The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. 我是從天上降下來生命的糧·人若喫這糧、就必永遠活著·我所要賜的糧、就是我的肉、為世人之生命所賜的。...叫人活著的乃是靈、內體是無益的·我對你們所說的話、就是靈、就是生命。'John 約翰福音 6:51,63

These scriptures tell us life comes out of God's mouth as WORDS Therefore the spoken word of God is the tree of life. Since Jesus is called the Word of God, therefore Jesus is the tree of life.

The Greek word for God's spoken word is "rhema" This differs from another Greek word "logo" which is God's written word.

The Various Ways God Speaks to Man 神 向 人 說 話 的 不 同 方 式

1. 聖經 The Bible



希臘文,沒有 中文翻譯

God once spoke thru a donkey (Number 22) 神曾籍著騾 子向人說話 (民數記 22)

- 2. 聖靈在心裡的感動和聲音 Inner voice and inspiration from the Holy Spirit
- 3. 超自然啟示(異象、異夢、預言) Visions, dreams and "prophecies" from God
- 4. 詩歌、講道、屬靈書藉 Hymns, preaching and Biblical literatures
- 5. 其他基督徒的勸勉 Exhortations from fellow Christians
- 6. 環境的引導與印證 Guidance and confirmations through circumstances
- 7. 任何人和事物 Through other people and means

Differences Between Logo and Rhema 道 與 Rhema 的 不 同

The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. (John 6:63)

神的話 God's word

我對你們所說的話、就是靈、就是生命(約6:63)

Logos 道

God's words written down in the Bible 用文字寫下來 神的話語

Truth perceived intellectually 在理性上明白的真理

Knowledge 知識

Rhema^{希臘文,}沒有 中文翻譯

God's words spoken out through the Spirit 神藉著聖靈對人 個別說出來的話

Spoken word received experientially 在經歷上聽到神說的話

John 6:63

Life 生命

約

6:63

How Can One Hear God's Rhema 如何能聽到神說話

- 1. Read the Bible daily, so God can bring it to your remembrance and speak to you through His words 每天有規律地讀經,讓神有機會在你有需要時對你說話。
- 2. Richly store God's word in your heart, so God can use it to speak to you. 把聖經豐富記在心裡,讓神可以隨時引用對你說話。

This is like storing many seasoning ingredients in you kitchen pantry. 這猶如在廚房儲備許多調味料。 The more ingredients you have, the more delicious meals the chef can make 烹飪材料愈多,廚師做出來





Prerequisite to Hearing God Speaks 聽 到 神 說 話 的 先 決 條 件

- A. Must be born again A person must be born of the Spirit to be able to hear from the Spirit —個人必須從聖靈重生,才可以聽到聖靈對他說話。
- B. Abide in the Lord. Jesus promised if we abide (remain) in Him, His word (rhema) abides with us. (John 15:7) 我們若常住在祂裡面 (不離開祂), 祂的話(rhema)也會常在我們裡面。(約 15:7)
- C. Must be willing to obey God. It is useless for God to speak to a person if He doesn't want to obey. And God knows what is in the heart of man. (Heb. 4:12)
 —個人必須願意遵行神的吩咐,不然的話,神對他說話是枉費的。神是看透人內心的。(來 4:12)
- D. Must be pure hearted and quiet before the LORD. If we are busy with many things like Martha all day long, we will lose Mary's blessing of listening to the Lord at His feet. 一個人必須清心和在神面前安靜,才可以見到視、聽到神對他說話。如果整天像馬大為許多事忙碌,就會失去馬利亞在主脚前聽主說話的上好福分。

I was a new born spiritual baby when I came to the United State for college decades ago. Out of my naiveness, I enrolled in a military school in New York because it offered the undergraduate major I wanted to pursue.

幾十年前我來到美國上大學時,我是一個剛重生的屬靈嬰兒。 由於我天真無知,我進入了紐約一所軍校,因為這學校提供了 我想攻讀的本科專業。

I had no friends or relatives on the US east coast and there was not another Chinese student in the whole school. In addition, the military school environment was just too tough for me.

我在美國東岸沒有親友,全校沒有另一個中國學生。 此外,軍校的環境對我來說實在太難了。

I got very homesick and lonely and I cried. But then God opened my ears and I began to hear God speaking to me through the Bible and the Holy Spirit.

我很思家,很孤單,不禁哭起來。但那時神開通了我的耳朵, 我開始聽到神透過聖經和聖靈向我說話。

As I read my Bible, it became alive and a love letter the Father wrote to me. To give an example, He spoke to me through Proverbs 3: 1-6: "My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, for they will prolong your life many years and bring you prosperity. Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man. Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and He will make your paths straight...." God addressed me as His son – how sweet!

當我讀聖經時,它變成一本活的書,是天父寫給我的情信。舉例來說,祂透過箴言 3: 1-6 對我說:「我兒、不要忘記我的法則,你心要謹守我的誡命,因為祂必將長久的日子、生命的年數、與平安、加給你。不可使慈愛誠實離開你,要繫在你頸項上、刻在你心版上,這樣、你必在 神和世人眼前蒙恩寵、有聰明。在你一切所行的事上、都要認定祂、祂必指引你的路。」祂是稱我為祂的兒子,多麼甜蜜啊!

God spoke to me not only through the scriptures, but through other means as well, especially through the indwelling Holy Spirit. I experienced miracles after miracles as I witness fulfillments of God's words spoken to me.

神不僅是透過聖經向我說話,還透過其他方式,特別是透過內住的聖靈。 我一生重重覆覆的經歷到許多神對我說話應驗的奇蹟。

I came to realize that God had a purpose in putting me in a lonely environment. This was to bring me into a close personal fellowship with Him in an undistracted environment. Praise the LORD

我漸漸意識到神把我放在孤單和安靜的環境中是有目的的。 是為了讓我在一個不受干擾的環境中與祂建立密切的個人交通。 感謝讚美主。

I think one big problem with Christians today is the lack of quiet personal time with the LORD. Our lives are so busy, fully scheduled with programs and activities everyday and every week. In addition, the internet, the smartphone and social media messages keep us busy 24/7. So we just leave God behind and go on our own.

Isn't this like choosing to live by the tree of knowledge of good and evil over living by the tree of life?

我認為今天基督徒一個很大的問題是缺乏個人與主獨處的安靜時間。 我們生活忙忙碌碌,每天和每週都排滿了節目和活動。此外,互聯網、智能手機和社交媒體訊息讓我們每週七天24 小時忙得不可開交。 所以我們不得不把神拋在腦後,去處理工作和其他自己安排的事務。

這是否像選擇過分別善惡樹的生活,而不是過生命樹的生活呢?

May God bring awakening to our soul and return us to the tree of life.

願神喚醒我們的心靈,讓我們回到生命樹那裏。

A few days ago, when I was preparing this sermon, some distractions came to my mind and cast worries into my heart. So I wanted to bring the matter before the LORD.

幾天前,當我準備這篇講道的時候,一些雜念浮現在我的腦海裡 讓我的心充滿了憂慮。 我打算藉著禱告把這些事帶到神面前。

Even before I got down on my knees, a Christian brother sent me a song through WhatsApp with just a few words:

A hymn that you would enjoy https://youtube.com/watch?v=hzhKGPireAA&feature=share

我還未跪下禱告,一位基督徒弟兄透過 WhatsApp 發給我一首詩歌,裡面只有一句話:一首你會喜歡的讚美詩

This is a very beautiful and meaningful song with encouraging words. As I listened, I knew God was answering my prayer that had yet to be brought before Him. He knew what I was going to say. 這是一首非常優美和意味深長的歌曲,歌詞非常鼓舞人心。當我聽這首歌的時候,我曉得神是用這首歌回答我還未發出的禱告。我還未祈求以先祂已知道,祂已應允(賽65:24),感謝主

I want to share this song with you today even though it is not related to today's sermon. I am sure this heavenly song can bring relief to those of us who are heavy laden with burdens

今天我想和你們分享這首歌,儘管它與今天這篇講道無關。 我相信這首天上的詩歌可以為我們當中心靈背負重擔的帶來解脫

The name of the song is "He Giveth More Grace" 這首歌的名字是 "祂賜更多的恩典" 有中文版 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ed5ZVApgTxA 但不及英文版動聽

After this song, Sister Vivian will lead us to sing today's response song: "The Tree of Life, How Sweet the Fruit"

聽完這首歌之後,楊修微姊妹會帶我們唱今天的回應詩歌: "生命樹果何等甘甜"

He Giveth More Grace 祂賜更多的恩典



https://youtube.com/watch?v=hzhKGPireAA&feature=share





Gen. 創 2:7-9,16-17;3:1-10,22-24 Rev. 啟 22:1-2 Maryland Gospel Church 馬利蘭福音教會 9-25-22