

## Proverbs about the Tree of Life

*“She (wisdom) is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, and happy are all who hold her fast.”* Proverbs 3:18

*“The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life...”* Proverbs 11:30

*“Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but desire fulfilled is a tree of life.”* Proverbs 13:12

*“A soothing tongue is a tree of life, but perversion in it crushes the spirit.”* Proverbs 15:4

## December Birthdays

17 Bill Brown    27 Sue Tanner    29 Noah McKnight  
30 Richard Karns    31 Robert Pescador

## December Anniversaries

12 Ron & Peggy Woodruff    18 Jim & Marie Burruss

### Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.  
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.  
Sunday.....6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

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# Indio Informer

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## God’s Desire Revealed Through a Tree

By Mike McKnight

The Scriptures are filled with different teachings, parables, comparisons, symbols and examples revealing to us different aspects of our wonderful Creator. His will for us to know Him is a central theme of the Bible and His love can be found on every page. In His word we are told that He chose us even before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:4). Referring to His plan of salvation, God’s desire is that we are to be *“holy and blameless before Him”*. It has been God’s plan from the beginning that we should dwell with Him, yet because of sin we are separated, and it is only through the sacrifice of His Son that we can be reconciled to our heavenly Creator.

One of the lessons we are given to understand the character of God’s kindness can be found through the symbolic use of the *“tree of life.”* In Genesis 2:9, where the *“tree of life”* is first mentioned, God places it in the garden for man to eat of it’s fruit. A physical tree that symbolizes God’s desire that man live forever (eternal). We also find in this perfect state of creation, that man dwelt in the presence of God (Genesis 3:8). In chapter 3:22, after man has sinned, God announces that man has come to know good and evil and now if he continues to eat of the tree, man will live forever. God could not allow man in his sinful state to continue to dwell in His presence forever. In this account, we see the fall of man. In that one day, man experienced two death sentences: one physical and the other spiritual (Rom.5:12, 3:23). Physically speaking, access to the *“tree of life”* was taken away, therefore man would not be able to partake of it; thus through sin, death entered the world and all die. Spiritually speaking, access to the presence of God was taken away when man was removed from the garden; all sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Fast forward to the end of the Bible where we find the *“tree of life”* mentioned in the book of Revelation. John writes about our heavenly home in chapter 22, where the *“tree of life”* is mentioned three times. In verse 2, the tree is located in the same city where the “throne of God” exist, where man will once again dwell in the presence of God. In verse 14, those whose robes have been washed will have the right to eat of the *“tree of life”*. A tree by which partaking of its fruit symbolizes life eternal. In verse 19, there is a warning to all who will add or take away from the book, that God will restrict them from eating of the *“tree of life”*, the same punishment that was witnessed in Genesis when man refused to follow God’s commandment.

Also, consider some thoughts on the symbol of a tree that produces fruit that is good to eat and is desirable to make one wise. Have you ever eaten fruit right off of a tree? Right next to the neighborhood where I grew up, there was an orchard that had all sorts of fruit trees. During the summer months, a fresh orange was only a minute away once I traversed my neighbor’s fence. I still remember pulling oranges right off the tree. Not being able to wait until I got home to peel and eat it, a lot of times I’d just sit under the tree in the dirt, eating slice by heavenly slice, with juice running down my arms. I always preferred those orchard oranges over store-bought...nothing fresher or sweeter. I can see similarities to what God is offering us all; fruit that is pure and satisfying. The fruit that comes from the Bible is filled with refreshment, that just comes gushing forth like the juice out of one of those oranges when peeled. The life of a person who lives off of the fruit of His word is one who is filled with the goodness of His desires, one who is complete in His wisdom. When we eat straight from the tree, we are being fed by His Spirit.

Through the introduction and continual use of the tree of life, the Lord has shown His planned desire that we live with Him forever. From the beginning of time when Adam and Eve were in the Garden, until the day when we enter into that heavenly city where the tree of life now awaits, God is earnestly waiting to be reunited with those who are His.

But until that day, we must continually strive to overcome all that is earthly while living in the hope of our Savior’s promise: *“He who*

*has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.”* Revelation 2:7

God’s love for us is immeasurable. His desires for us are clearly seen through the patterns and promises revealed. So let us continue to strive with all of our might to seek that home where the *“tree of life”* is waiting for all of God’s children to partake.

## **Why go to church?**

(an email received...)

If you're spiritually alive, you're going to love this! If you're spiritually dead, you won't want to read it. If you're spiritually curious, there is still hope!

A church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. “I've gone for 30 years now,” he wrote, “and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons, but for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the preachers are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all.”

This started a real controversy in the 'Letters to the Editor' column. Much to the delight of the editor, it went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher: “I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!”

When we’re DOWN to nothing, God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible! Thank God for our physical and our spiritual nourishment!

When Satan is knocking at our door, simply say, “Jesus, could you get that for me, while I forward this message to my children?”