

## Tree of Life

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

*{Genesis 2: 8-9}*

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 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.

*{Revelation 22:1-2}*

We are in a crisis. Pressures from growing pains. Like an infant going to school for the first time. Thrown into a strange environment. Different people laying down different rules. The adolescence confused by inner changes that thrust the body into outrages. To being an adult with responsibility for self and others. This crisis is knowing what inappropriate old habits must go. To be replaced with new effective attitudes.

What we have are tensions within and between Political Parties. The tension to hold onto what was. The tensions of uncertainty.

This spurt of new growth requires energy and strength. A willingness to adapt and comply.

As we search for depth in God the two readings give us a rich imagery. The tree of life is symbolic. The fruits convey life, wisdom and continuity.

It is also a figure of success.

She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her;  
those who hold her fast will be blessed. *{Proverbs 3:18}*

Hope deferred makes the heart sick,  
but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life. *{Proverbs 13:12}*



Blessed are those who trust in the Lord.  
They are like trees planted by water,  
sending out their roots by the stream.  
{*Jeremiah 17:8*}

And the man looked up and said, "I can  
see people but they look like trees,  
walking."  
{*Mark 8:24*}

Early Church Fathers present the Tree of Life as the Cross. Jesus Christ is its fruit.

This captures two powerful elements to life.

God's presence and God's provision.

However it appears to you or me, there is always more than we can ever see or know. One aspect we can be sure of is the joy of discovering:



The depth and movement of this life penetrates  
our life.

Cycles of rest and growth.

Moulding and shaping our inner self into rings of  
love.

When I am among the trees,  
Especially the willows and the honey locust,  
Equally the beech, the oaks and the pines,  
They give off such hints of gladness,  
I would almost say that they save me daily.

I am so distant from hope of myself,  
In which I have goodness and discernment,  
And never hurry through the world  
But walk slowly and bow often.

Around me the trees stir their leaves  
And call out, "Stay awhile."  
The light flows from their branches.  
And they call again, "It's simple, "They say,  
"and you have to come  
Into the world you do this, to go easy, to be filled  
With light and to shine."

*{Mary Oliver}*

The invite is to find a quiet place to rest.  
Close your eyes.  
Sit under your tree.  
Give yourself, your attention, your love to  
God.  
Capture the presence and provision of  
God.



What wisdom can you receive from your tree of life?