



Walking in the Steps of the Master:

A Twelve Step Guide to Discipleship

COME TO ZION MINISTRIES

Isaiah 49:6...I will give You as a light to the Gentiles, that You should be my salvation to the ends of the earth.

Located in the Western Galilee, Israel

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Step One: Meeting GOD in the Garden of Eden

When a person is first encountering a new situation, it is important that they become familiar with the most influential person involved. In the case of our salvation, it is important to know GOD as the author of our salvation. The Scriptures tells us that GOD had planned our salvation before the foundation of the world. This means that our heavenly Father loved us so much that He decided to create us, even though He knew that we would sin and disappoint Him.

When we first meet GOD in the Book of Genesis, He is busy creating the world. We can see each step of creation and the loving care that He put into each stage of creation. We can see the diversity of plants and animals that He created, both for His enjoyment and for the enjoyment of man, who was His crowning creation. GOD blessed the creation of man and He blew His own breathe into man, making him a living soul. GOD created man as male and female and instructed them to multiply upon the Earth.

We can scarcely imagine the awe and wonderment that Adam and Eve enjoyed as they experience each new nuance of GOD's creation. But the greatest joy that they received was the great privilege of walking with GOD in the Garden of Eden, which was a paradise of unimaginable beauty and plenty. They had no burdens or cares for GOD had provided everything that they needed for life at their finger tips. All they had to do was obey the simple command of not eating from the Tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil. This command was actually a test to see if mankind would use their free will to choose to obey GOD.

GOD had actually placed another tree in the Garden called the Tree of Life. This tree represented their dependence on GOD for everything they needed. If they had a question, they would go to GOD and GOD

would answer their question. GOD was their teacher and mentor. And it appears that this arrangement worked great for a season, but there came a day when Adam and Eve no longer went to GOD for their knowledge because they decided to seek knowledge on their terms. Thus they partook of the tree that they were forbidden to eat from and they sinned before GOD

Their punishment for disobeying GOD was swift and just, for they were expelled from the paradise. Now mankind would labor to provide their sustenance and to raise their families. Instead of the intimate communion that they shared with GOD, they would now know Him from a distance. Life had changed drastically for this pair and they initiated a pattern of life that we would all share for the rest of this age.

And lest we think this account is just a story, we need to examine our life to see this very pattern occurring on a daily basis. We have all forsook the ways of GOD and we have all decided to lead our life in a manner that we chose. Thus every time that we choose to disobey GOD, we are eating from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil just as did Adam and Eve. Such actions will lead to death, which is a separation from GOD. You can see how this principle works in your life, for every time you disobey, you feel like running away from GOD. Many people resist coming to GOD because of the sin their life. But GOD still wants us to come to Him because He has a way of dealing with that sin.

That way was made possible by the loving sacrifice of Yeshua's life that paid the price for all of our sin. Now we have the privilege through Yeshua to once again have an intimate communion with the Father. We have regained the privilege of eating from the Tree of Life. Yeshua said that knowing GOD was eternal life. So when we know GOD and learn of His ways, we will want to obey GOD and do HIS will, so that we can experience His joy, peace and provision in our life. Thus every time we obey GOD, it is like we are eating from the Tree of Life.

Our work then as a disciple is to make choices: do we choose to do what GOD wants us to do (obey) or do we choose to do what we want to do (disobey). This is the battle that we face every waking moment of every day. Our Father gives us the option to make the decision by ourselves. We must choose between the things that will help us grow spiritually and those things that distract us from this goal. The choices are never easy but our loving Father does not force His will upon us. Eventually we come to the point where we realize that the more that we choose to do what GOD wants us to do, the more we will grow spiritually and the better that we will feel about ourselves and our families.