

TWO TREES IN THE GARDEN

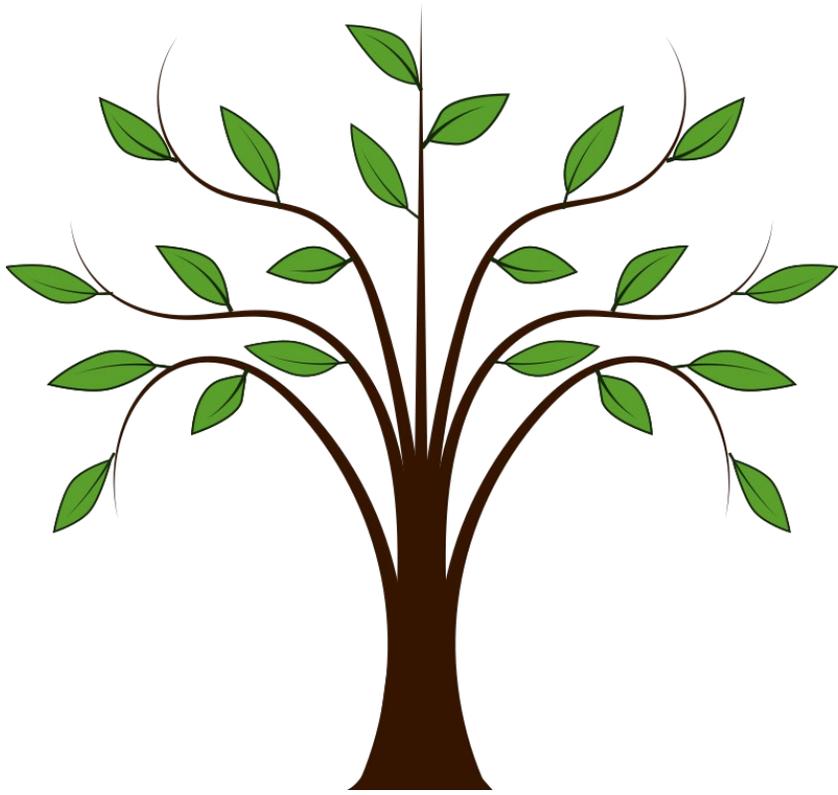
Presented by Barbara Bucklin

Luke 4:18 Ministries

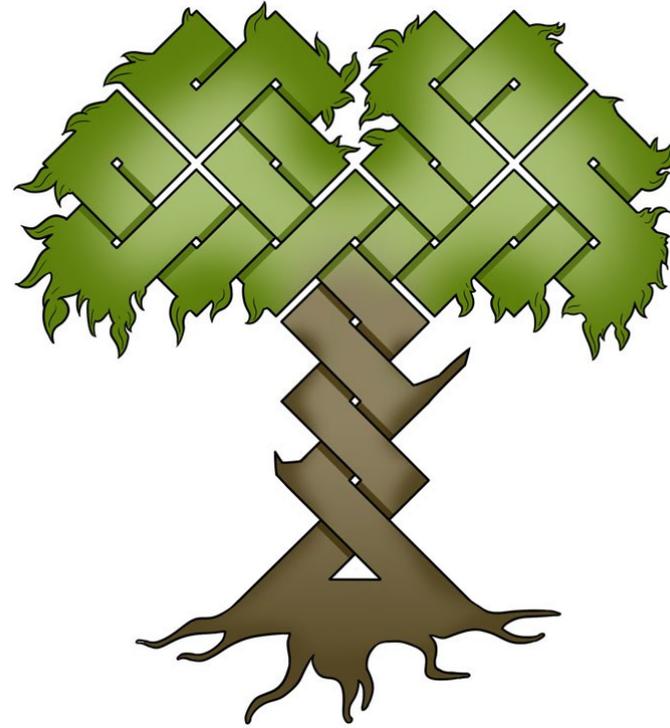
Heal • Restore • Transform

Genesis 2: 8, 9, 15-17

- ⁸ And the Lord God [f]planted a garden (oasis) in the east, in Eden (delight, land of happiness); and He put the man whom He had formed (created) there. ⁹ And [in that garden] the Lord God caused to grow from the ground every tree that is desirable *and* pleasing to the sight and good (suitable, pleasant) for food; the tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the [experiential] knowledge (recognition) of [the difference between] good and evil.
- ¹⁵ So the Lord God took the man [He had made] and settled him in the Garden of Eden to cultivate and keep it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may freely (unconditionally) eat [the fruit] from every tree of the garden; ¹⁷ but [only] from the tree of the knowledge (recognition) of good and evil you shall not eat, otherwise on the day that you eat from it, you shall most certainly [h]die [because of your disobedience].”



- **Tree of Life**
- **Tree of Truth**
- **Tree of Light**



- **Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil**
- **Tree of Deception**
- **Tree of Darkness**

Hebrews 13:8

Jesus, the Anointed One, is always the **same—yesterday, today, and forever**

Isaiah 28:16

- ¹⁶ Therefore the Lord GOD says this,
- “Listen carefully, I am laying in Zion a Stone, a tested Stone, A precious Cornerstone for the [secure] foundation, firmly placed. He who believes [who trusts in, relies on, and adheres to that Stone] will not [a]be disturbed or give way [in sudden panic].

John 14:6

- ⁶ Jesus said to him, “[a] I am the [only] Way [to God] and the [real] Truth and the [real] Life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

I John 5:6

- ⁶ This is He who came through water and blood [His baptism and death], Jesus Christ—not by the water only, but by the water and the blood. It is the [Holy] Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. [He is the essence and origin of truth itself.]

Truths:

1

Jesus has not changed.

2

Neither has satan. He is the Father of Lies.

3

In the Greek translation, The Source, his name is Slanderer/Liar.

The Questions For Us Today Are:

WHAT TREE ARE WE PARKED IN?

WHAT FRUIT HAVE WE EATEN?

WHAT ABOUT UNBELIEF – IN THE GARDEN AND TODAY?

WHAT ARE WE BELIEVING? or NOT BELIEVING?

WHAT HAPPENS TO US WHEN WE EAT FROM THE WRONG TREE?

DOES OUR WORLDVIEW MATCH JESUS'?



WHAT IS A WORLDVIEW?

WORLDVIEW IS . . .

- A set of presuppositions or assumptions which we hold (consciously or subconsciously) about the basic makeup of our world.
- Worldview is what one really believes, as over against what one may profess to believe.
- "People may not live what they profess, but they will always live what they believe."
- Implication: If you want to change the way a person lives, you must first change the way she/he believes.
- Worldview is like a filter, or set of filters, through which we see the world.

Relation to Culture

- **Worldview is essential for understanding any culture, because elements in the culture find their explanation in the worldview of the ethnic group. This relates to their system of values, their view of causation in the physical world, and their view of the spirit world.**
- **Christians may look more like their culture than believers who eat from the Tree of Life.**



Representative Worldviews

Monism/Pantheism

- God is everything and everything is god.
- God is not a person but a world soul.
- Therefore, "since I am part of everything, I am part of God. Since I am god, I can control my own destiny."

Animism

- **Most widely-held worldview - belief system of tribal societies and practices of most adherents to world religions. Widely, popularly practiced in western societies, especially in the new age movement.**
- **Often includes a belief in a high god, but one who is seen as not playing a very significant part in the world today.**

Western Worldview(s)

- There are number of them, but this is typical of the view held by most western Christians:
- Two functional realms - the natural and the supernatural.
- The natural realm is "this world", run by natural (scientific) laws and seldom affected by spirit beings.
- The supernatural realm is essentially "other-worldly" and contains all spirit beings - both good and evil.
- It is assumed that science and religion can be kept separate, as in public education.

How Did This Worldview Develop?

The Enlightenment and the evolutionary theory removed creation as a means of revelation. Result? Self replaced God as the center of life.

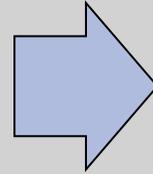
This secularized worldview finds its way into evangelical thinking at a subconscious level.

AND wrong presuppositions lead to wrong conclusions!

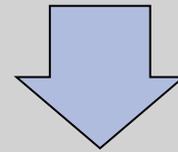
Up until the enlightenment, theology was known as the queen of science. Science was the study of how God made the world.

Key Enlightenment Ideas

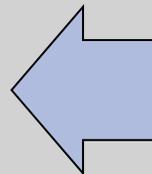
Rationalism -
Highest place is
given to human
reason.



Scientism -
Scientific method is
the only path to
truth.



Empiricism –
Experience, not
revelation, is the
source of truth.



Humanism -
Thinking man is the
final arbiter of
truth.



The U.S. Biblical Worldview

Barna Research starts with these suppositions basic to a Christian worldview:

First % represents general U.S. population replies; second represents replies of those who describe themselves as “born again Christians who believe they will go to heaven.”

1. Absolute Moral Truth Exists	34%	46%
2. Bible is accurate in all principles it teaches.	50%	79%
3. Satan is a real being or force, not merely symbolic.	27%	40%
4. A person can earn heaven by being good or doing good works.	28%	47%
5. Jesus led a sinless life on earth	40%	62%
6. God is the all-knowing, all-powerful creator of the world who still rules the heavens and earth today.	70%	93%

U.S. Biblical Worldview

- Has basically not changed since figures started to be collected in 1995.
- Biblical Worldview held by 9% of American adults, 19% of born-again believers.
- In age group of 18 - 23, 1/2 of 1% have a Biblical worldview
- 1 out of 10 demonstrate knowledge of Bible through their actions.

U.S. Biblical Worldview

- **Generational issues - not focused on giving children a Biblical worldview.**
- **Remember - our worldview serves as person's decision-making filters.**
- **Worldview causes a large difference in behavior - media uses profanity, gambling, drug use, honesty, civility, sexual actions.**
- **Worldview is in place by 13 years of age. It is refined through experience and then passed on to others.**

U.S. Biblical Worldview

- Figures have started to steadily decline within the last 20 years.

- Biblical Worldview held by 5% of American adults, 15% of born-again believers.

- In age group of 18 - 23, 1/2 of 1% have a Biblical worldview

- 1 out of 12 demonstrate knowledge of Bible through their actions.

Barna's Conclusions:

Children are not provided with the basic ability to think in a way that corresponds to fundamental Biblical teachings.

Christian families, schools and churches should be helping young people understand and adopt the core ideas of Christianity to reinforce those concepts through their own lives.

Postmodern Worldview

Postmodern ethicist - no such thing as "good or evil". Interesting that it exists only in western civilization.

Only absolute value - everyone's right to choose their own meaning.

Life is one incident of choosing after another; none are related.

Progress is an illusion. What does it mean to have a country move forward?

What does "forward" mean?

What is the Worldview of Jesus and the Scriptures?

It has 3 realms, which co-exist:

- **God's Realm – He is sovereign over all of His creation.**
- **The Angelic Realm – Fully functioning and populated.
300 references to angels in the Bible.**
- **The Earth Realm – Where we live.**

The Angelic Realm

- **Number is limitless: Daniel 7:10; Hebrews 12:22**
- **There are many types - cherubim, seraphim, archangels, etc.**
- **Their character, as created by God, is holy - Matthew 25:31**
- **Their role is that of servants - Hebrews 2:14**

Functions include:

- **Ministering to God in worship - Psalm 103:20; Rev. 7:11**
- **Ministering to Jesus - Matthew 4:6; Luke 22:43**
- **Ministering to the Saints - Hebrews 1:4**

The Angelic Realm

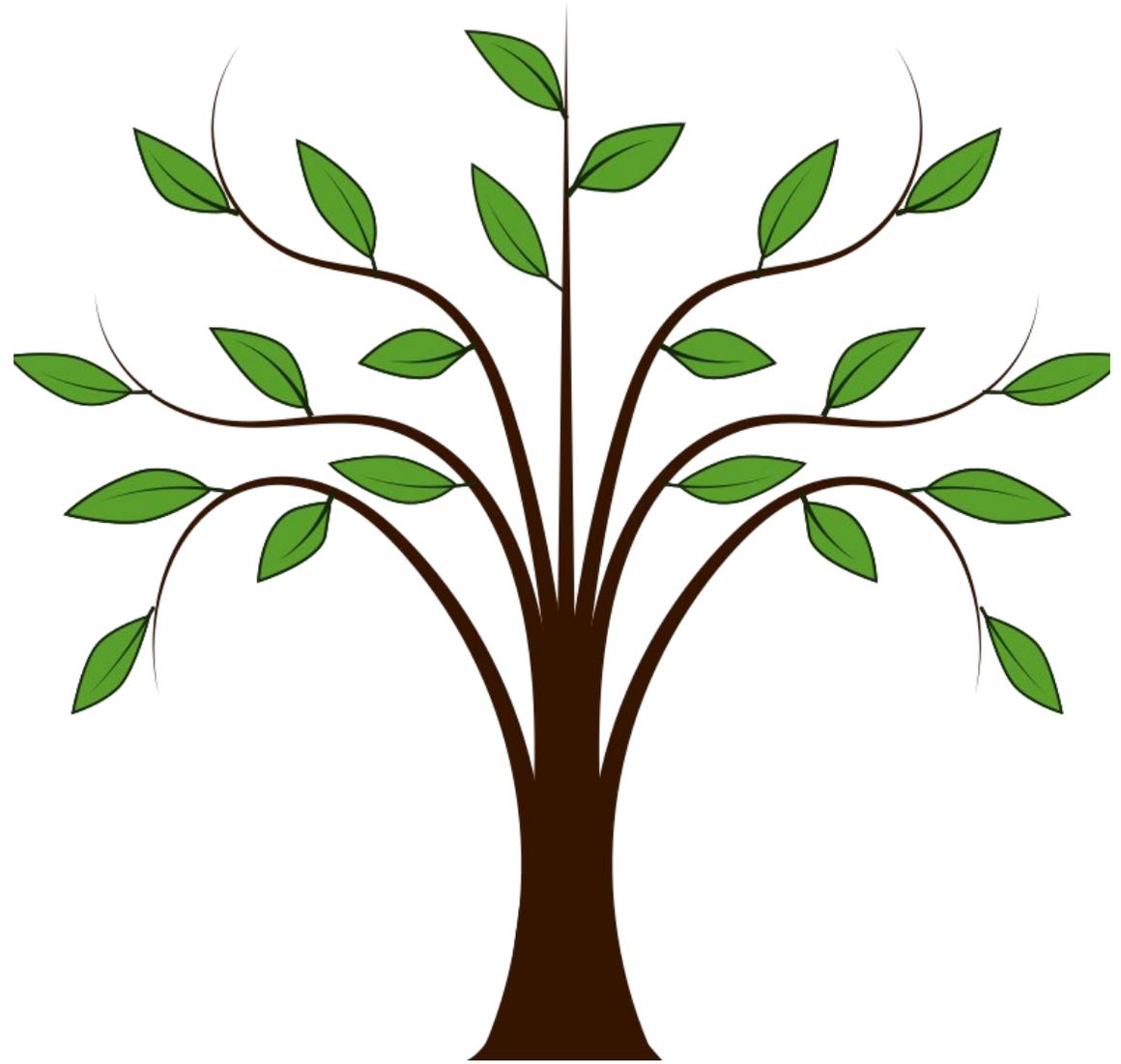
Functions, cont.:

- **Protecting - 2 Kings 6:17**
- **Conveying God's guidance - Gen. 24: 7; Daniel 8:15-16**
- **Delivering from enemies - Gen 19; Daniel 3:18; Acts 5:19 and 12:7**
- **Serving as personal guardian angels - Psalm 34:7; Matt 18:10; Acts 12:25**
- **Destroying enemies - Genesis 19:13; Psalm 78:49; Acts 12:23; 2 Chr. 32:1**
- **Controlling the forces of nature - 2 Samuel 24:14; Matthew 28:2; Rev 7:1, 2, & 16**

Tree of Life – Jesus’ View of Our Battle

Ephesians 6:12

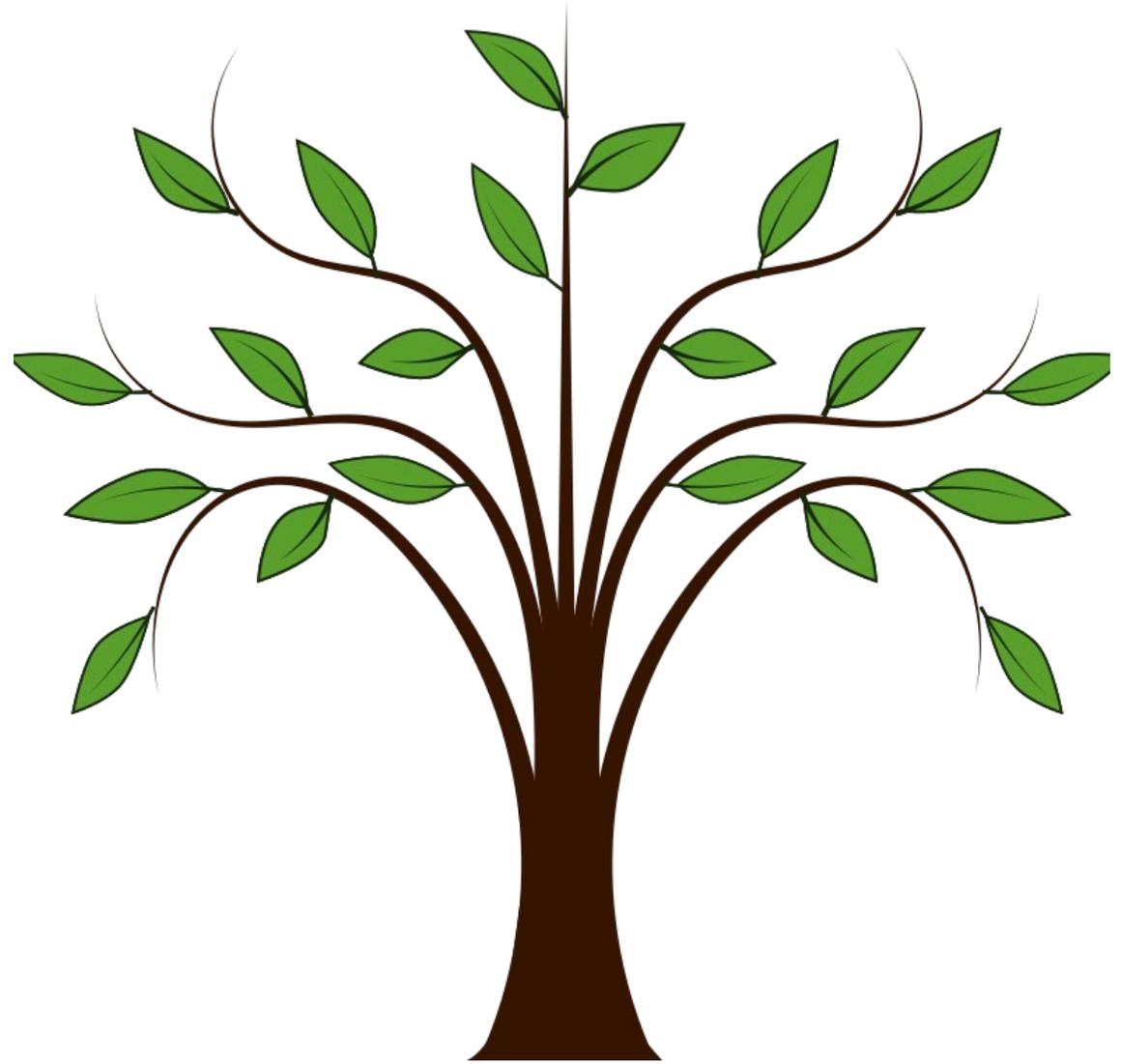
- “For we are not wrestling with flesh and blood [contending only with physical opponents], but against the despotisms, against the powers, against [the master spirits who are] the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spirit forces of wickedness in the heavenly supernatural) sphere.”



Tree of Life – Jesus’ View of Authority and Power

Luke 10:19 (AMP)

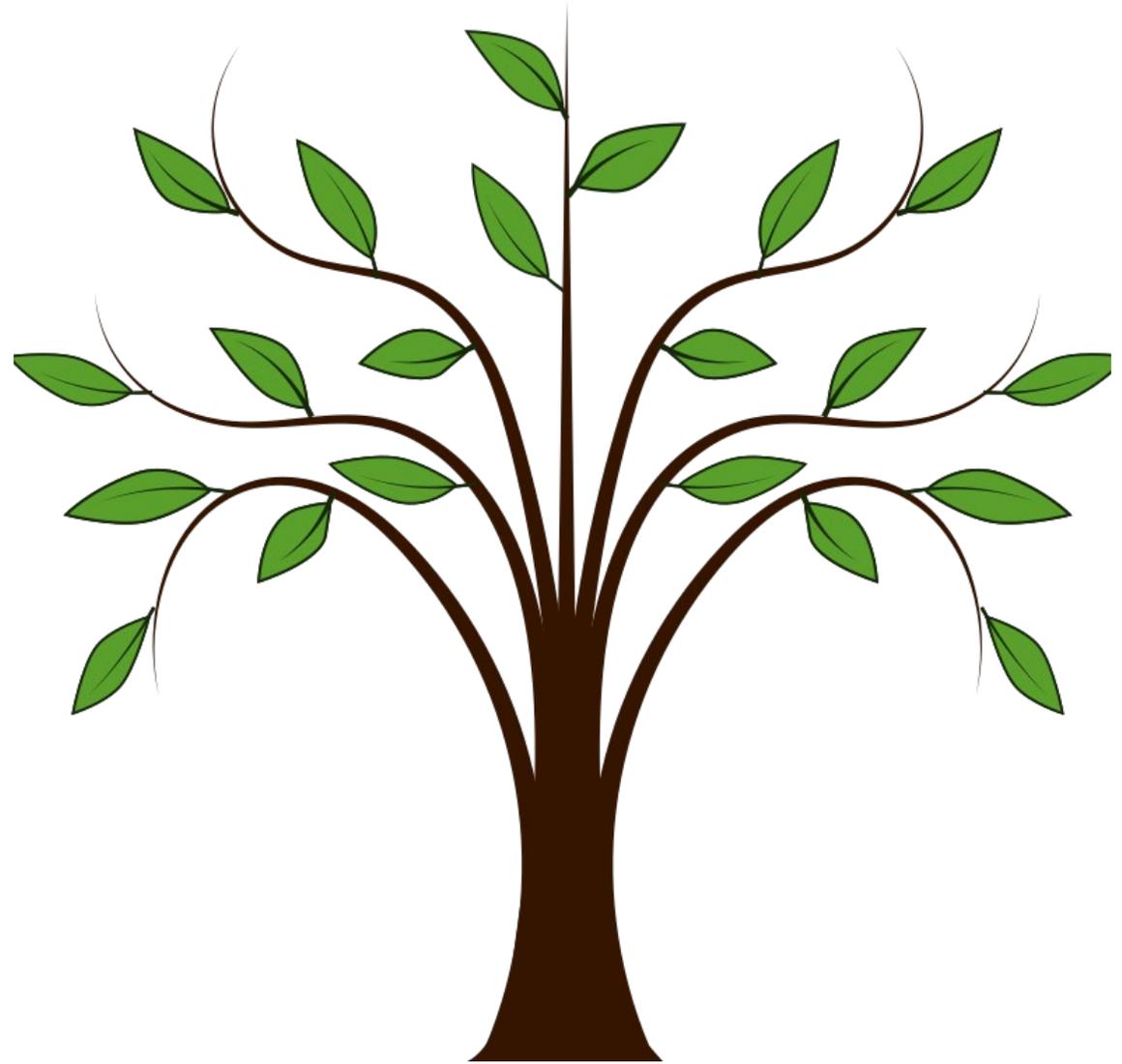
- “Behold! I have given you authority and power to trample upon serpents and scorpions, and [physical and mental strength and ability] over all the power that the enemy [possesses]; and nothing shall in any way harm you.”



Tree of Life – Jesus' View of Our Victory

John 14:12 (AMP)

- “I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, if anyone steadfastly believes in Me, he will himself be able to do the things that I do; and he will do even greater things than these, because I go to the Father.”



Reality Check

- **Soldiers who are in the battlefield but are not fighting can not expect to win.**
- **We wage war by walking in righteousness, peace, prayer, worship, and by believing the Word.**
- **Because we are made in His image, and have Holy Spirit living in us, we have infinitely more power than the whole satanic kingdom.**

Jesus' Authority

- Jesus knew His authority came from His father. John 5:30
- "I can do nothing on my own authority. I am not trying to do what I want, but only what He who sent me wants." John 5:30
- "I do nothing on my own authority, but I say only what the Father has instructed me to say. The One who sent me is with me: he's never left me because I always do things that please him." John 8:28-29
- "This is my own dear Son, with whom I am pleased." Matt 2:18; 17:3
- Those words were spoken right after Jesus was baptized by John. These are the next verses from *The Source*:
 - "Then the Spirit led Jesus into the desert to be put through an ordeal by Slanderer-Liar. After He had fasted for 40 days and nights He got hungry. Adversary, who was putting Him through the trial said, "If you really are the Son of God, then order these stones to turn into bread!"

Jesus' Authority

- Jesus answered, "The Scriptures say, Humans won't live just on bread alone. They will live on every word that comes out of God's mouth."
- Then Slanderer-Liar took him to the sacred city and put him on the very top of the Temple. "Come on then!," he said. If you're the Son of God, jump off! The Scriptures say, "He will assign his Messengers to protect you. They will catch you so that you won't so much as hit your foot on a stone!"
- Jesus answered, "The Scriptures say, "How dare you provoke the Lord your God!"
- Next Slanderer-Liar took him along to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. "I'll give you all this -- all you have to do is fall down and worship me!"
- "Get lost, Adversary," said Jesus. The Scriptures say, "You will worship the Lord our God! He is the only one you must serve."
- Then Slanderer-Liar left, and Messengers turned up and provided for Jesus.

ANALYSIS

Is this an example of high level warfare?

What were Jesus' weapons?

What was Slanderer-Liar's goal?

Has either changed?

When Jesus started to minister with authority, the people were amazed and the religious leaders were threatened. He was doing what they should have been doing! They agreed with satan and opposed Jesus.

Jesus' Disciples

Jesus' disciples worked under His authority while He was alive, though there were mishaps along the road, followed by the expedition of the joy-filled 70!

Jesus was excited they had cast out demons and healed the sick, but He wanted them to know that it was more important that their names were written in the Lamb's book of life.

He promised those disciples that He would send the Holy Spirit to them - the gift God promised them.

He then commissioned them to use it to change the world.

Proverbs 8:27-31

²⁷ When he hung the tapestry of the heavens
and stretched out the horizon of the earth,
²⁸ when the clouds and skies were set in place
and the subterranean fountains began to flow strong,
I was already there.

²⁹ When he set in place the pillars of the earth
and spoke the decrees of the seas,
commanding the waves

so that they wouldn't overstep their boundaries,

³⁰ I was there, close to the Creator's side^[a] as his master artist.^[r]

Daily he was filled with delight in me
as I playfully rejoiced before him.^[s]

³¹ I laughed and played,
so happy with what he had made,
while finding my delight in the children of men."^[t]

Proverbs 8:32-36

³² “So listen, my sons and daughters, to everything I tell you,
for nothing will bring you more joy than following my ways.

³³ Listen to my counsel,
for my instruction will enlighten you.
You’ll be wise not to ignore it.

³⁴ If you wait at wisdom’s doorway,^[u]
longing to hear a word for every day,

joy will break forth within you as you listen for what I’ll say.

³⁵ For the fountain of life pours into you every time that you find me,
and this is the secret of growing in the delight
and the favor of the Lord.

³⁶ But those who stumble and miss me will be sorry they did!
For ignoring what I have to say will bring harm to your own soul.
Those who hate me are simply flirting with death!”^[v]

God's 8-Point Strategy

We were created for second place - in His image, only a little lower than God.

We are redeemed! We are His masterpieces. Nothing else claims this position.

We are children of God! His kids. We get to call Him "Abba". We're part of His family.

We have the Holy Spirit. Within us lives God Himself. That power is within us and the very presence of God permanently comes from within. We are seated in the Heavens with Him! What a view!!!

We are united with God. Jesus is still one of us and will be for eternity!

God's 8-Point Strategy

We are children of the King. That gives us special rights and privileges, including coming into His presence at any time.

Wow -- We only resonate to the Truth of who God says we are.....period! We are saved, adopted, given position and empowered by Holy Spirit.

We are entrusted with divine authority. He gave us the Holy Spirit and told us we would be doing even greater works than Jesus. We are part of and in the Kingdom.

We are inseparable from our spiritual authority. It is part of the inheritance we have as believers.

So, is there warfare today and are we affected by it? You bet!

What should a “normal Christian life” look like if we walk in authority and power?

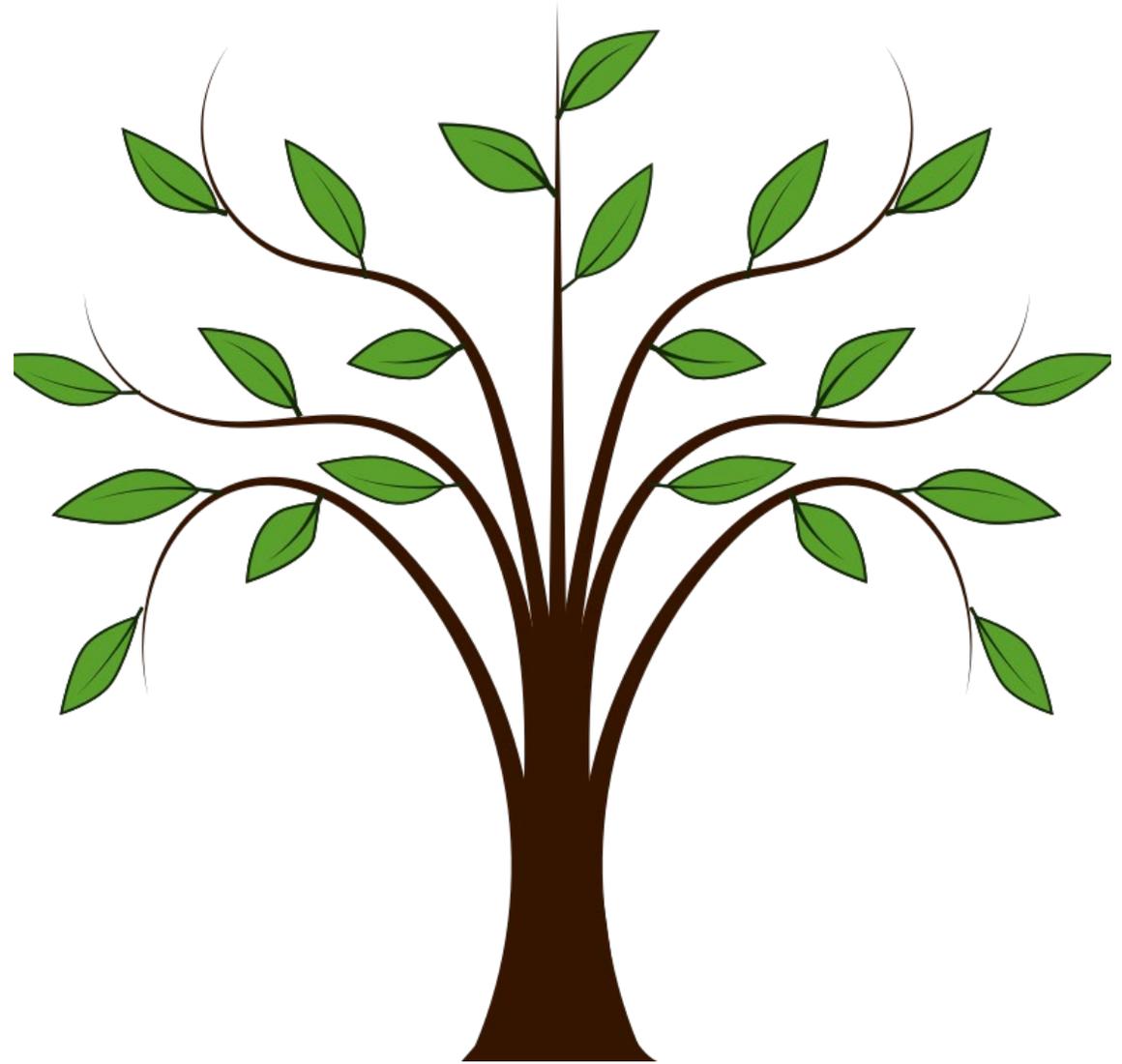
What happens to our joy/shalom life when we walk in authority and power?

Should we have an inborn hunger to see the impossible around us bow to the name of Jesus?

Have we been chosen to be alive at what appears to be the end of the age?

The Master's Card

We get to charge to Jesus' account in this world. He will back up the answer with power, as long as our request is one He approves. What a way to be launched into a ministry of love, power and authority, to do what He did - and even more! That is what the Bible says! (What does your worldview say about that?) (Remember - He did those miracles as a man!)



An Important Question

Do we sometimes forget we have God's authority, or even refuse to use it?

Oh, how God wants us to walk as those who know Him, understand our position in Christ and advance His Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven!

Tree of Life Keys to Using the Card

We line up with Father's will and then speak on His behalf, speaking authoritatively to correct the situation.

There is a spirit world, and it is always listening!

The spirit world cannot ignore what we are saying, as long as it lines up with God's will!

How about that for a Biblical Worldview? Is this Jesus' worldview?

What Jesus Said About Power and Authority

Mathew 28:18 – “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth.”

Luke 10:19 – “I have given you (the disciples) authority so that you can - overcome all the power of the enemy.”

Luke 9:1-2 – He defined authority as the "power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases.”

That is Jesus' worldview!

Jesus' Instruction and Promise

Jesus' Instruction: Teach others to obey everything He had commanded them.

Matthew 28:20 - “. . .teaching them to observe everything that I have commanded you, and behold, I am with you all the days (perpetually, uniformly, and on every occasion), to the [very] close *and* consummation of the age. Amen (so let it be).

Jesus' Promise: That anyone who believes will do the same works He has done.

John 14:12 “I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, if anyone steadfastly believes in Me, he will himself be able to do the things that I do; and he will do even greater things than these, because I go to the Father.”

Opportunity to Use the Master's Card

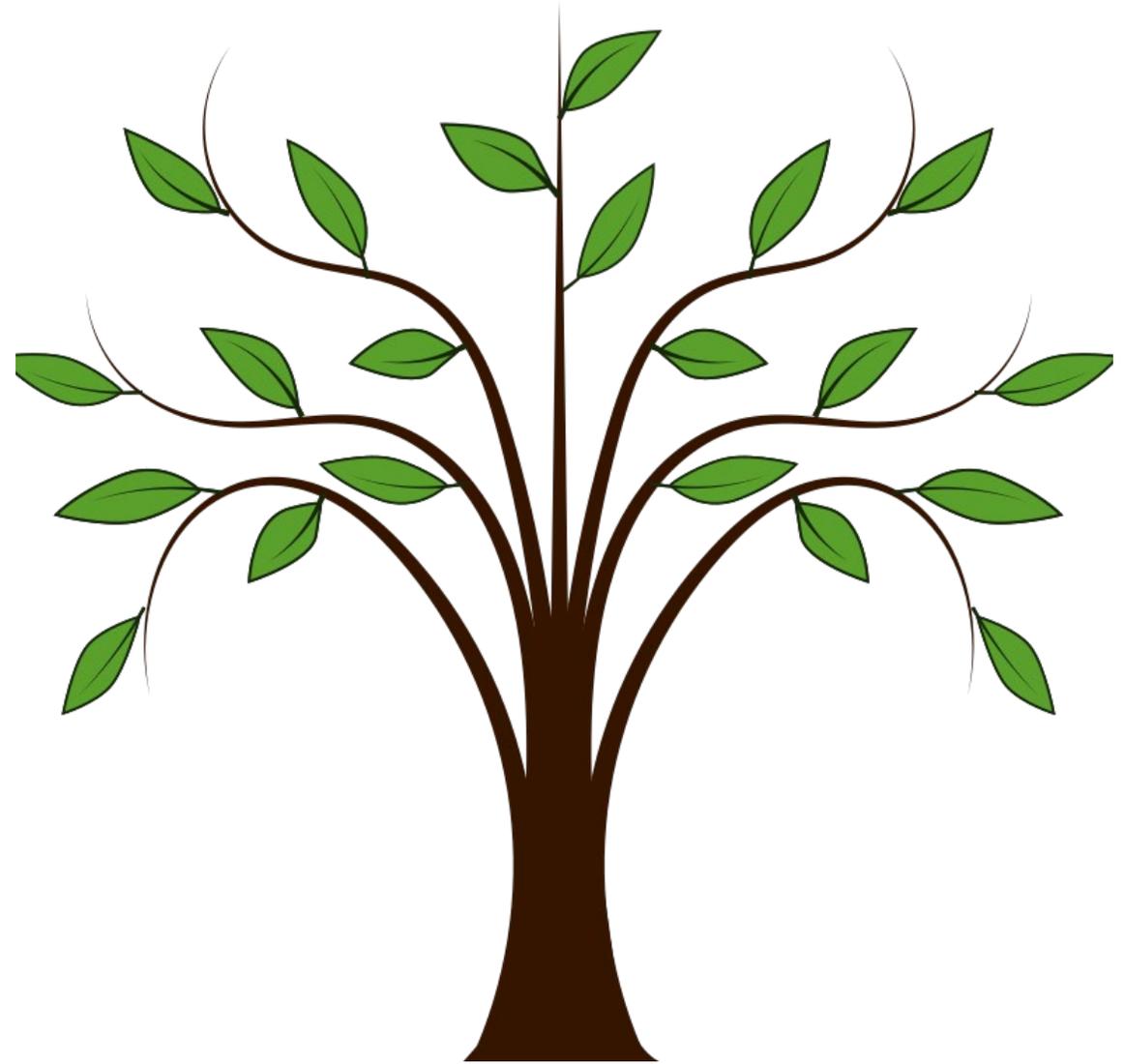
So we have the opportunity to minister as Jesus did - in sickness, death, blessing, deliverance from demons, granting forgiveness (John 20:23), teaching and, above all, loving! He gave gifts to us to make this all possible (Ephesians 4:8).

He commanded the person to be well (Luke 4:39, 5:13), or for demons to leave (Luke 4:35), or the winds and waves to be still (Luke 8:24), or the person being healed to do something in faith (Luke 5:24).

He gave the authority to the disciples to do these things in Luke 9 - and then gave the same instructions to the 70 in Luke 10. Did He ever rescind that authority?

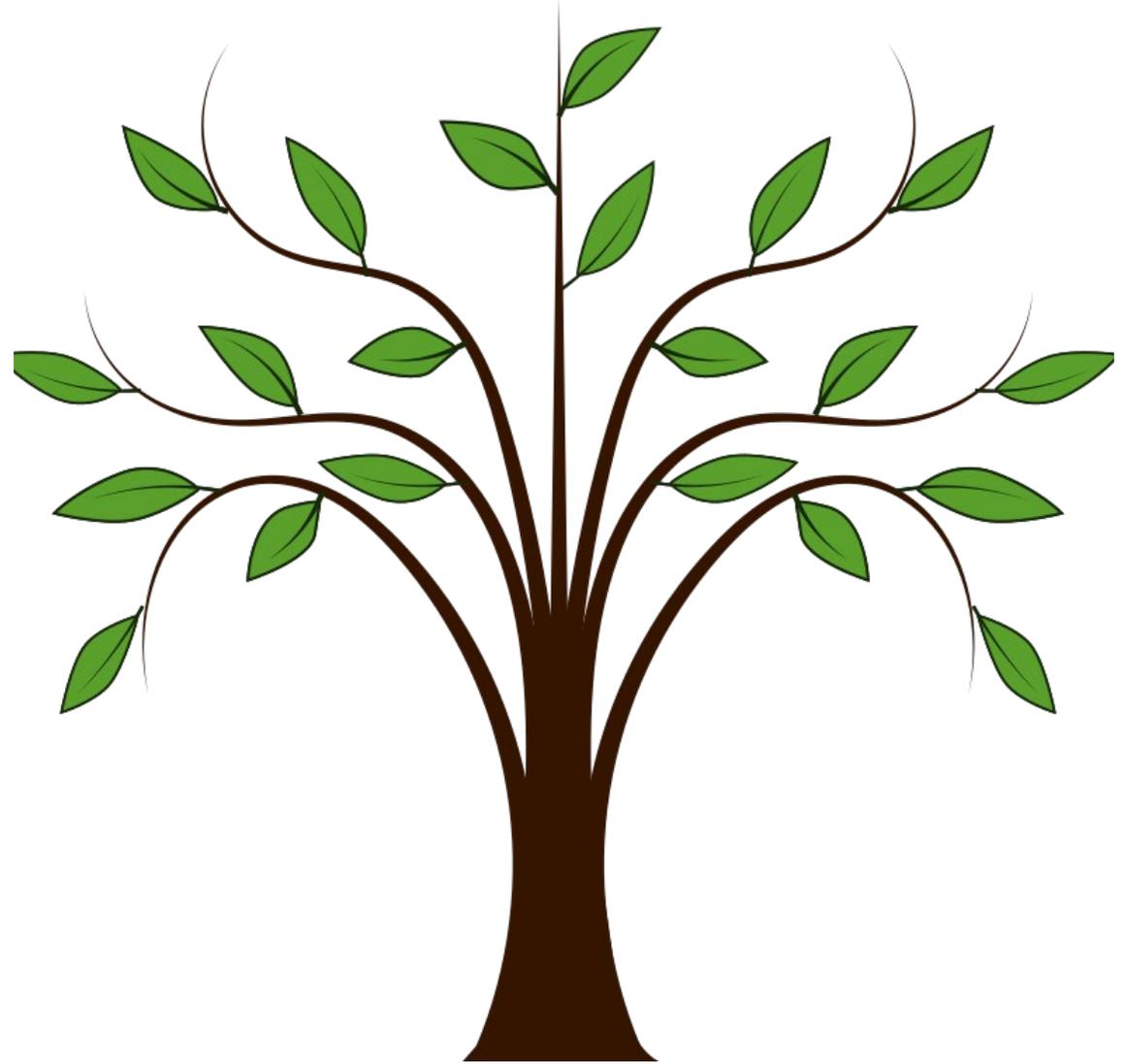
Authority to Bless People

- Bless with shalom, grace, joy and with a scriptural promise.
- Bless with a scriptural promise.
- Praying for broken hearts to be healed.
- Praying for blessings of healing, strength.
- A blessing to a person's spirit!
- Expect things to happen when we bless.
- Blessing food!



Authority to Bind and Loose

- Jesus used the plural “you”, extending authority to the group and to all His followers down the centuries:
- Matthew 18:18 – “What you prohibit on earth will be prohibited in heaven and what you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven.” (Some translations say “bind” and “loose”.)
- Close relationship between what happens on earth and what goes on in heaven.
- He has given us amazing authority and power by using words.



We'd Better do the Same as Jesus!

We must demonstrate the character of Jesus in the way we use authority.

If it is not loving, it is not Jesus.

We are to exercise authority in humility.

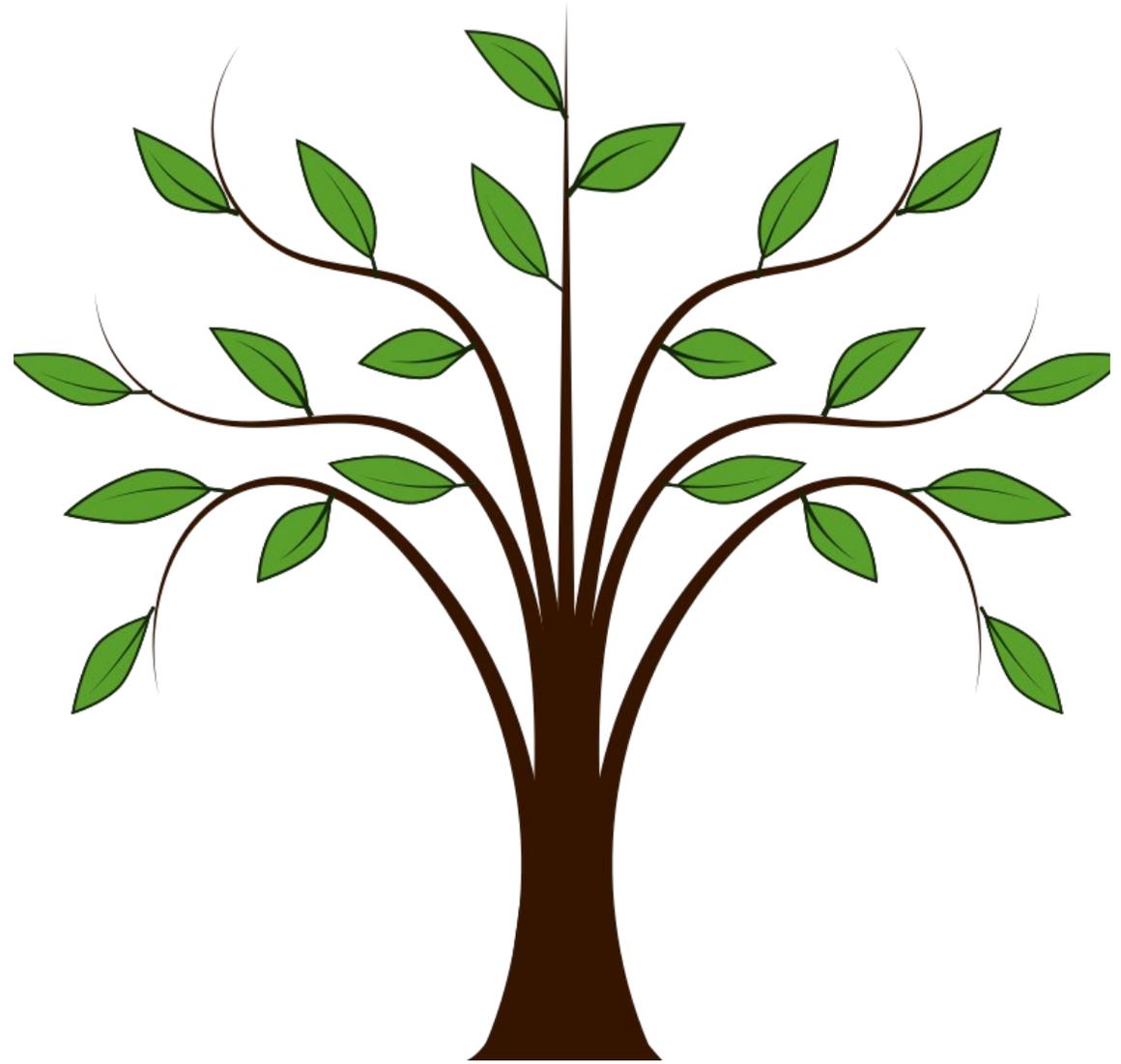
We are to exercise this delegated authority with the same kind of security as Jesus.

We know who we are, who God is and what the source of the authority is.

That should set us free from the spirit of control, demand, abuse!

Our Task – Climb Back in the Tree of Life

To line up our will with His Father's and His, so we can use that authority. How does that happen? By spending time in prayer and fellowship with God in private, to get His instructions. Then we receive from God the necessary power and authority for the task ahead.



And Who are We According to Jesus' Worldview?

- First, we are to be those eating from the tree of life, walking in faith.
- We are His Ekklesia. Jesus only used the word church 3 times. All His other references to His people was the term Ekklesia.
- Ecclesia was in both Roman and Greek times a secular institution that operated in the marketplace in a governmental capacity. It had authority in the natural realm and so Jesus meant for His Ekklesia to have authority in the natural and spiritual realm.
- The New Testament Ekklesia always referred to people and not to a building.
- It met from house to house and was meant to be a transforming agent for people and society.
- The capacity for growth was so dynamic that 2 years after Paul planted the Ekklesia in Ephesus, "all who lived in the Roman province of Asia heard the word of the Lord." A million people lived there.

And Who are We According to Jesus' Worldview?

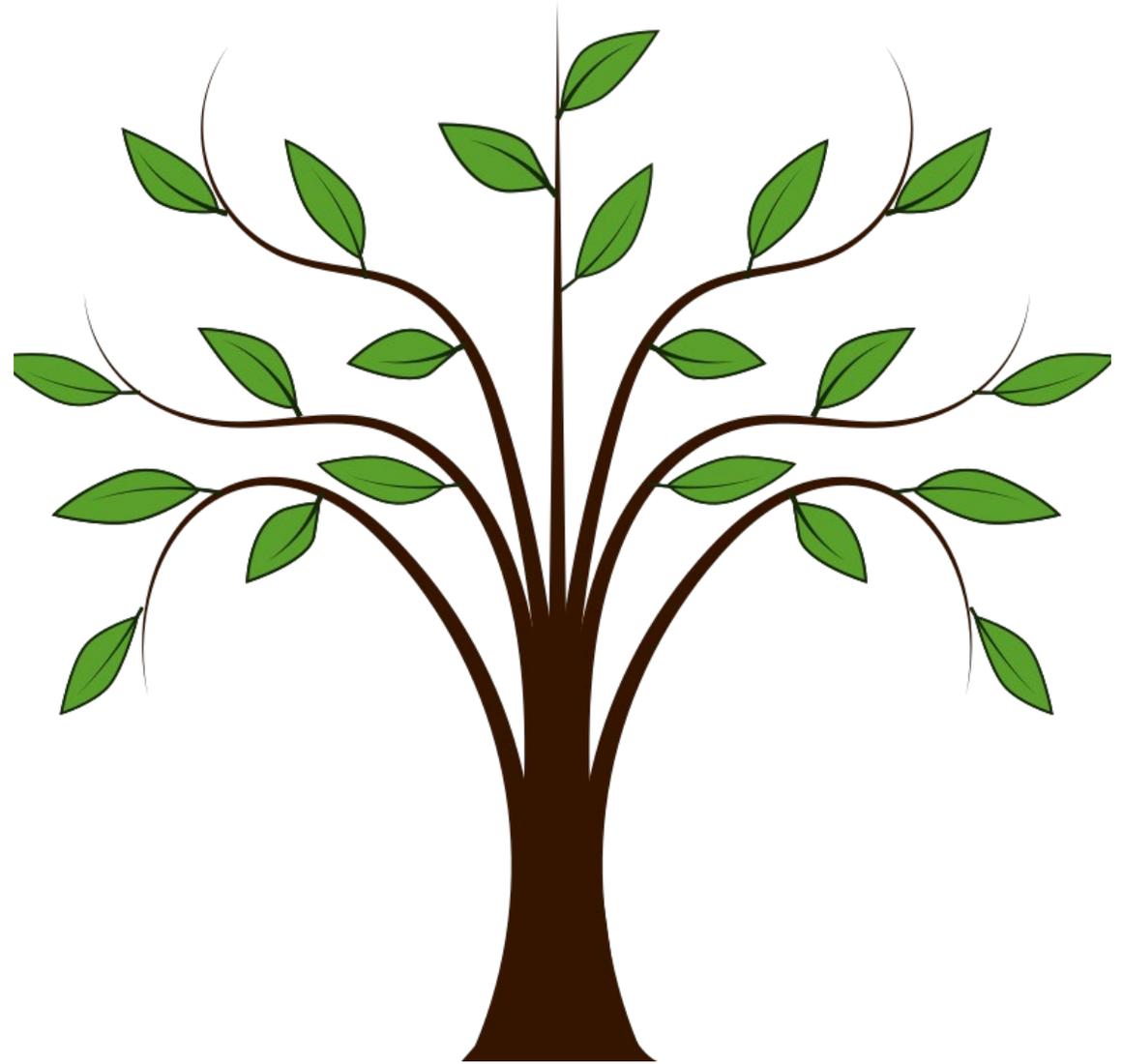
- Not long afterward, Paul was able to state an area of 300,000 square miles had heard the gospel. No military, no governmental support.
- This Ekklesia was a massive people movement that swept region after region victoriously as the counterculture to the existing status quo. There were no seminaries or full-time staff.
- And in Roman culture, 2 or 3 Romans had the full authority of the empire.
- Jesus did not come to build a church but an Ekklesia, which is to legislate, to rule and reign in both the visible and invisible realms so that the Gates of Hades could not prevail in either realm.

We are the Ekklesia – Set up for Victory!

- **The enemy is always the enemy - "the wicked spiritual forces in the heavenly world" - Ephesians 6:12.**
- **We are to operate authoritatively to advance the Kingdom of God and take back land that satan has had. God gave us uniforms and weapons and has commissioned us to fight.**
- **We know who wins the cosmic battle but there are many battles still to be fought, prisoners to be set free and others to be saved!**

WE MUST KNOW WHO WE ARE!

- **We are children of the King! A royal priesthood! Destined for the throne we can come boldly to it NOW! He loves and trusts us enough to grant us this position and authority and Holy Spirit. We are friends, not slaves. It is our Kingdom as well as His!**
- **And what is that Kingdom? Righteousness, peace, joy and the Holy Spirit! That is our inheritance and where we are to dwell TODAY! Tuned into the Spirit TODAY! Dressed in clothes of righteousness TODAY!**





**Let's Revisit
Truth & the Tree of Life Again!**

What We Know Now . . .

- We recognize that Jesus is the truth, and that the purpose of the truth is not just to gain information. It is aimed at true transformation of our minds
- Truth is based on a relationship. It is based on hearing His voice and believing everything in scripture. Especially about who we are and what we are to do in this life.
- This necessitates a relationship where we hear His voice and are changed from inside out.
- Truth is about learning about the scroll that was written in heaven for each of us.

What We Know Now . . .

- It is about agreeing with that scroll and ridding ourselves of deception, whether that deception is culture or individual. Often that deception has come in a form of wounding which has separated us from His promises and put us in a place of despair or hopelessness. Jesus will heal those wounded places.
- These individual worldviews which affect all of us are complex and deeply held & often never really verbalized. They are there and they form the basis of our reactions, interpretations & realities. We don't think about them. They're like a program running in the background of all we think & do.

Worldviews drive our behavior and are shaped by:

- **Values**- Intertwined with beliefs; might include hard work, dependability, loyalty
- **Assumptions**- on how things work; relationships, family, church, a nation
- **Doctrine** – Often deeply held convictions about the interpretation of the Bible hard to change in one place.
- **Life Experiences**- Set deep often unconscious beliefs in place; rejection, abandonment, betrayal, fear. Transference of this to Father God.

What We Know Now . . .

- Truth is the very presence of God in our lives to provide continuous awareness and discernment of the unseen realities in us and around us, the interpretations of life that allows us to relation to God and other as He intended.
- If we think of truth as just knowing the right answers or how to behave, we lose much of the power to help us transform.
- The more truth is taken into our souls, deep enough to align ourselves with the Kingdom of Heaven and God's perceptions, the more we will be healed and the more growth will come.
- Maturity & growth result from the truth becoming experiential in our lives. How the brain works – testimony – Voice of God rather than counselors.
- God Alone is the author of Truth which changes our lives. It is experiential. It is His very best breaking into the lies that the enemy has fed us individually and collectively. It changes everything about us. It changes the way we live, how we spend our time, how we raise our children, how we spend our money.

Here Are A Few Definitions of Truth & What We Believe:

- **Conversion** – a change from one set of beliefs to another set of beliefs.
- **Deception** – anything that obscures the truth, including; lies, distortions, confusion and repression of the truth
- **Despair** – intense emotion rooted in the belief that something important is hopeless.
- **Disobedience** – acting contrary to a prescribed manner due to a belief that one's interests are better served another way.
- **Obedience to Jesus** – acting on the belief that the One asking me to act holds me in His heart and has my best interest in mind.
- **Sin**- faith in a lie; acting in unbelief aligning with or giving in to mistaken belief.
- **Unbelief** – Belief in a lie; not believing what is true; readiness to act as if a faulty belief is true.

What We Are Talking About

• • •

- **We are talking about Jesus living which is Kingdom living, the Kingdom with us.**
- **It is righteousness, peace and joy, empowered by Holy Spirit.**
- **We are talking about hearing the voice of the creator of the universe. We are talking about an Immanuel lifestyle.**

