

# The fall of man

By Randal Stephens



Adam and Eve walked in the Garden of Eden, friends of God, stewards of His creation. And in that garden, trees grew which bore fruit of many kinds; but two were special: the tree of life, the fruit of which Adam and Eve were allowed to eat, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, the fruit of which they were not allowed to eat.

And one day Satan came, clothed as a serpent, and tempted Eve to eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, who in turn tempted her husband to eat. And he did.

They ate and were found out.

And God said man “must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.” (Gen. 3:22; NIV) So they were banished from the Garden forever.

But what if the Bible recorded that Adam had first fed his wife the fruit of the tree of life? And what if she, in turn, had fed him from the tree of life? What if their practice had been to *always* feed one another the fruit of the tree of life? Would the other fruit have looked so appealing?

No one knows. And it’s too late to find out. Or is it?

Though Adam and Eve will never again have that opportunity, you do.

What if every day, you choose to take the fruit from the tree of life and feed it to the one you love? What if your every word, your every touch, your every look, feeds life to the one you love?

And what if the one you love eats of it, and then feeds that life back to you? Will any other fruit look so appealing?

No one knows, except you. And it’s not too late to find out.

Next time the one you love does something you don’t love, don’t feed wrath, feed forgiveness. Don’t feed shame, feed encouragement. Don’t feed regret, feed hope.

If you do, forgiveness, encouragement and hope will be poured out upon you.

Don’t feed death to the one you love because, as Adam and Eve found out, if you feed death and partake of death, you will experience death.

But feed life, and partake of life, and you will have life.

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