

The Two Perspectives of Life

We have the choice to see through the:

1. The Tree of Life

2. The Tree of Knowledge

Knowing God	Knowing God
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. is by knowing a person - Jesus. He is the only way to know God. Jn. 14:6; 17:3 b. I have knowledge of Christ. 1 Jn. 4:17; 2 Pet 3:18 c. Christ is my life, He is in control of My weakness. Gal. 2:20; Col. 3:3,4; Phil.2:13; 2 Cor. 12:9 d. I have knowledge of Christ - who I am. 1 Jn. 3:2 e. I have no ability to be good or right. Rom. 7:19,20 f. Christ is the "way" in my life, I have no other life but Him. Jn. 14:6; Phil. 1:21 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. means knowing right from wrong - law, principles b. I can know God through my knowledge, wisdom, His revelation in scripture. Gen. 3:5; 2 Tim. 3:16 (J.I.Packer, Knowing God) c. I am in control - choose to sin or not. Deut. 30:19 d. I have knowledge of choice - good and evil. Jms. 4:17 e. I have the ability to be good through obedience. I "trust and obey". Is.50:10 f. I can direct my own steps, live by principals. (Getz, "1500 Principles to live by")

Sin	Sin
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. is missing the opportunity to be the glory of God. Rom. 2:23 b. I paid the price of sin by dying with Jesus. Rom. 6:6 c. I am cleansed, living in the light, I cannot sin. 1 Jn. 1:7; 3:9 d. I have no consciousness of sin. Heb. 9:14; 10:2 e. I am set free in grace (Jesus). Gal.5:1 f. I am dead to sin. Rom. 6:11 g. I am perfect in Christ - living as Him. Col.2:10; 3:3,4 h. I live in freedom from accusation. Rom. 8:1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. is transgression of God's laws. 1 Jn. 3:4 b. I am a sinner - trying to be "like" God, but always falling short. Rom. 3.23 c. I must often seek forgiveness and cleansing for my sins. 1 Jn 1:9 d. I am aware of my sins and sin nature. Gal.5:17 e. All are confined in sin, death. Gal. 3:21,22; Rom. 7:14 f. I try not to sin. Rom. 7:15ff g. I will be perfect only after death. 1 Cor. 15:22 h. I live in guilt and shame. Dan. 9:8

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. My flesh has been crucified. Gal.5:24 j. In Christ I am the glory of God. Rom.7:23; 2 Cor. 3:18 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. I must crucify my flesh. Rom. 8:13 j. I am a sinner, saved by grace. 2 Cor. 15:10
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<p>Salvation</p>	<p>Salvation</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. is a person. Jn. 1:12 b. is accepting someone else's life instead of mine - Jesus. Rom. 5:10 c. Fear is the motivation to faith and His love. 1 Jn.4:17 d. I cannot be saved, I am saved. Eph. 2:4 e. Christ has become me. 2 Cor. 5:21 f. I am perfect in Christ - living as Him. Col.2:10; 3:3,4 g. Is union with Christ. Rom. 5:10 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. is the gift of eternal life. Jn. 3:16 b. Is repentance, asking forgiveness, receiving mercy, grace. Acts 2:38 c. I must have a reverent fear of God to be saved. Phil. 2:12 d. A reward for my faith. Heb.11:6 e. Enables me to be like Jesus. 1 Pet.2:21 f. I will be perfect only after death. 1 Cor. 15:22 g. Looking forward to being with Jesus. Phil. 1:23

<p>Eternal life</p>	<p>Eternal Life</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Eternal life is true life - 1 Jn. 5:12 b. It's a knowing of God - Jn.17:3; Where God resides. Jn. 14:20. c. Our home is in the Father - Jn. 14:3-4 d. Jesus connected us with the Father through Himself. He is the way. Jn. 14.6 e. God's home (heaven) is in us. Jn. 14:19; Eph.3:17,19 f. Eternal life is the Father in Christ seen in us. Jesus living as us. 1 Jn.3:2, 4:17 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Eternal Life is going to heaven (Nicene theology) b. It's a reward - getting to live forever. c. Our home is heaven ("This earth is not my home, I'm just a' passing through..") d. Jesus is preparing a place, a mansion for me. Jn. 14:2 e. The way to heaven is by getting your "get-out-of-hell-card" - repentance, forgiveness of sins. f. Eternal life is living with God forever in the next life.

<p>Obedience</p>	<p>Obedience</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. I am not able to please God. Heb. 11:6; Jms 2:10 b. I am loved without my obedience 1 Jn. 4:10 c. I am obedient in Christ's obedience. Rom. 5:19; Heb. 5:8 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Is the way to please God, find blessing. Dt. 11:26, 27 b. I can prove to God that I love Him. 1 Jn. 5:1-3 c. I must (keep = obey) Christ and His commandments. Dt. 4:1; Jn. 14:15,21

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> d. I live by the Word of Christ working in me. "Let it be to me as you have said." Luke 1:38; Heb.1:3 e. "My Commandment" means the Word that is fulfilled by Christ. Jn. 14:23; Phil.2:13 f. I am godly in Christ 2 Pet. 1:3 g. Works are the product of my faith. Phil. 2:13 h. Abiding in Christ means to see Him as my life, I am already in Him. I need to "remain" in Him. Jn. 15:5; 1 Cor. 1:30 This is faith, not my doing. "keep" (Jn 14:15) is to protect, not do. i. Problems and suffering indicate God's travail in proving His Word in me. Jms 1:2-4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> d. I live by fulfilling the commands of God. "All that the Lord says, we will do." Ex 19:8 e. "My Commandment" means what I have to do. Jn. 15:10,14 f. I must perform to be godly Gal.3.3 g. I must work to show my faith. Jms 2:17 h. Abiding in Christ means to do what He says, to be in Him. Jn. 14.15 "obedience" (which I can't do) i. Problems indicate that I have not obeyed His Word, God is "testing" me. Dt. 8:2
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<p>Hearing God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. We hear God speak as a person - Jn. 1:14 b. The Word comes from within, in my heart and out of the mouth. 1 Jn 2.27; Rom. 10:8 c. I hear the voice of God in my spirit - Rom. 8:15 d. The Word is perceived as Christ in me. Jn.5:38 e. The Bible is not the Word of God -only contains it, Jesus is the Word of God Jn.1:1 f. The Bible is God's revelation of A Life Jn. 5:39 g. The Word is Spirit and life Jn. 6:63; 2 Cor. 3.6, It comes alive in me. It is Jesus. h. The Word brings life and freedom. Jn. 14:6 	<p>Hearing God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. We hear God's voice through scripture or principles. Pr. 2:1-6; Dt. 4:33 b. The Word comes externally, through prophets, scriptures. Heb 1.1; 2 Pet.1:18,21 c. I hear the voice of God with my ears Gen. 3:10 d. The Word is perceived as knowledge, ideas Jn 5:39 e. The Bible is the Word of God (although it never claims to be) f. The Bible is God's instruction for life 2 Tim.3:16 g. The Bible is a letter of bondage Rom. 7.6 h. The Bible brings guilt, accusation Gen.3:10; Rom.3:23
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Conclusion

1. Which tree do you think best represents what God says?
2. Which tree offers the best explanation of life as God intended?
3. What should we do if we still do not see God and yourself in the view of the tree of life?
4. Three actions of faith:
 - a. Believe in your heart - God's Word is in your heart. Rom. 10:10a
 - b. Speak with your mouth - *With the mouth confession is made unto salvation*. Rom. 10:10b. A basic confession: "Jesus, God says that you are my life. Let it be as you have said."
 - c. Give Thanks - Thanks is agreeing with God in all things. "Thank you Father that what you have said is true."