

“One Tree”

Using a Spiritual Strategy that Guarantees Spiritual Victory

Dr. Chris Williamson / February 28, 2024

Opening Thought: As we finish out our “One Thing” Bible study, we are going to look at a spiritual strategy called “**ONE TREE.**” But first, why is it important for a boxer, a runner, a soldier, a businesswoman, or a leader to have a strategy?

Christians should not rely on spiritual formulas, but we should be mindful of spiritual strategies. In the wilderness temptations, Satan used a strategy against Jesus. What was that strategy? However, Jesus countered with a strategy and resisted the devil. What was that strategy?

The devil used a similar strategy in the garden of Eden against Adam and Eve that played on the lust of their eyes, the lust of their flesh, and the pride of life. Adam and Eve obviously fell into temptation and sinned against God, but things could have been different if they had a strategy. In a real sense, things can be different for us if we utilize a spiritual strategy to give us victory.

1) What Did God Do?

- God gave us every tree at creation (**Genesis 1:11, 12, 29, 30**).
- God gave us every tree in the Garden of Eden (**Genesis 2:8 – 9**).
- Where was the “Tree of Life” located (**Genesis 2:9**)?
- Where was the “Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil” located? Wherever it was, it was not in the middle and not in center. It was not the focal point. It was off to the side.
- God told Adam what he was **FREE** to do before He told Adam what he could not do and what the consequences would be if he disobeyed (**Genesis 2:15 – 17**).

2) What Did The Serpent, a.k.a., The Devil Do?

- The serpent disrespected order by going to the woman instead of the man first (**Gen 3:1**)
- The serpent questioned the word of God (**Genesis 3:1**).
- The serpent questioned the goodness and fairness of God (**Genesis 3:1**).
- The serpent lied and minimized the consequences of disobedience (**Genesis 3:4**).
- The serpent tempted Eve to be like God (**Genesis 3:5**). Independent, sovereign
- The serpent took Eve and Adam to the one tree they couldn’t have, didn’t need, and would kill them (**Genesis 3:1 – 5**).

- If you focus on the one thing in your life that is not going right or the one thing in your life that is not producing fruit or the one prayer that hasn't been answered yet— the devil has you right where he wants you.

3) What Should Adam and Eve Have Done?

- They should not have focused on the side tree, but on the middle tree.
- They should have taken the devil to all the other trees in the garden which were fruitful and which they were free to eat from.
- When we focus on what we don't have, we take for granted what we do have.

4) What Should We Do?

- Take the devil to all the trees in your life that are fruitful (**Genesis 1:12, 29, 30; 2:9**).
- Take the devil to the **ONE TREE** Jesus died on, giving you the victory (**Genesis 3:15; Colossians 2:15 NIV; Revelation 12:11**).
- The cross of Christ was called a "tree" in scripture (**Acts 5:30, 10:39, 13:29**).
- Which cross did Jesus die on (**Matthew 27:38; Mark 15:27; Luke 23:33; John 19:18**)?

5) What Will God Do?

- God will allow us to enjoy the Tree of Life when we get to glory (**Revelation 22:1 – 2**).
- Where was the Tree of Life located (**Revelation 22:2**)?

Final Thought: What is the spiritual strategy you can utilize that guarantees spiritual victory?

- Whenever the devil tempts you to focus on the one tree you can't have, don't need, or will kill you or the one thing in your life not going right or the one prayer that has not been answered— take him to the countless trees in your garden that are bearing fruit.

Above all, take him to the **ONE TREE** on Calvary that Jesus died on that defeated him once and for all! And with that knowledge you can now take every thought captive and make it obedient to Jesus Christ (**II Corinthians 10:3 – 6**)!

Discipleship Discussion Questions:

1. Name a tree, a person, or a thing that you tend to focus on that distracts from focusing on Jesus.
2. How can you apply what you learned from this Bible study?