

GROWTH OF THE SOUL

Ge. 2:7 (KJV) And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

God created mankind just as He created other animals, on the sixth day of God's creation (the universe). Apparently, one universe's day is the time it takes for the universe to make one complete rotation about its axis, and is greater than earth's day by a very large order of magnitude.

Towards the end of the universe's sixth day of existence:

Ge. 1:26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

God singled out mankind from among the animals and elevated mankind to the level of spirit beings, by breathing into mankind His Spirit. Mankind became a living soul. "Living soul" means that the soul of man can grow and can also decay or decrease, just like a living thing.

Ps. 8:3 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,

Ps. 8:4 what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?

Ps. 8:5 You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.

Ps. 8:6 You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet.

God raised the human soul to a level that is a little lower than angels. Unfortunately, the elevation of mankind to the image of God created a big problem in God's kingdom. One third of God's angels rebelled against God because of the elevation of mankind. God made mankind a little lower than angels and also gave mankind the capacity to grow or to decrease. This means that some human beings can actually surpass some angels.

Ge. 2:8 Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed.

Ge. 2:9 And the LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground — trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Having made mankind to become a living soul, God made a garden for mankind. This garden contained all sorts of plants that produce fruits that nourish the human body. In the middle of the garden were two trees that produce fruits that the soul could feed on. Since the soul is a spiritual entity, the trees that produce fruits that it could eat are also spiritual entities. The tree of life is God and His fruit is His word. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil is Satan and his fruit is his word. Therefore, the food that the soul feeds on are spiritual words.

Ge. 2:16 And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden;

Ge. 2:17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.”

The tree of life yielded His fruit to mankind, warning mankind to never eat the fruit of Satan, or else mankind would die.

Ge. 3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?”

Ge. 3:4 “You will not surely die,” the serpent said to the woman.

Ge. 3:5 “For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

The tree of the knowledge of good and evil also yielded his fruit to mankind, telling mankind that the way for the human soul to grow to the same level as God is by eating his fruit. From Satan’s word, it is clear that his interest is to prevent the human soul from growing. Unfortunately, mankind chose to eat the fruit of Satan. Immediately, the spiritual potential (measure of divinity) of the human soul crashed down. That is the fall of man.

Can the Human soul rise again?

He. 2:6 But there is a place where someone has testified: “What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?”

He. 2:7 You made him a little lower than the angels; you crowned him with glory and honour

He. 2:8 and put everything under his feet.” [Psalm 8:4-6] In putting everything under him, God left nothing that is not subject to him. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to him.

He. 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

Even though in the beginning, God did not exclude anything on earth from being subject to mankind, presently, we do not see everything subject to mankind. For example, nature is not subject to the wishes of mankind; evil spirits are not subject to mankind. But then, Jesus Christ, an Adam, was made a little lower than angels, just like the first Adam, and not only was everything subject to him, he is now crowned with glory and honor because he laid down his life for the redemption of mankind.

Ph. 2:5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

Ph. 2:6 Who, being in very nature [Or in the form of] God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,

Ph. 2:7 but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

Ph. 2:8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death — even death on a cross!

Ph. 2:9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name.

Ro. 5:18 Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men.

The disobedience of the first Adam to God's word brought sin and death to all mankind. Jesus Christ, the new Adam, quite unlike the first Adam, did not follow Satan to grasp at equality with God by rebellion. Instead, Jesus Christ humbled himself and obeyed God even to the extent of dying on the cross. Today, Jesus Christ is seated on the throne in heaven with God—equality with God. Satan and Adam can never sit on the throne in heaven.

By reason of Jesus' sacrifice of atonement for the sins of mankind, God has forgiven mankind the sin of eating the fruit of Satan and mankind is now free to eat the fruit of God that gives eternal life. In order to be able to eat the fruit of God, one needs to be baptized into Jesus Christ—water baptism. It is only in Jesus Christ that one could eat the fruit of God. Once a person has been baptized into Jesus Christ, the person can pray or be prayed for God to give him the Holy Spirit, which is the fruit of the tree of life. As soon as the soul receives the Holy Spirit, it is reborn. It is now like a new born baby. It needs to continue to feed and grow so that it could rise to the level of God. Satan hates to see a soul grow towards being like God though and so will stage a serious fight.

Ro. 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

Ro. 8:37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

Feeding the soul

Now that we are in Christ Jesus, how do we feed the soul with the fruit of the tree of life? I have stated that the fruit of the tree of life is the word of God and I have also stated that the fruit of the tree of life is the Holy Spirit. Is there a contradiction? No, there isn't. The word of God is spirit (Jn. 6:63).

We feed the soul by speaking God's word. By speaking the word of God, we are operating in the divine power. It is the divine power that builds up the soul; it builds up our spiritual potential. It is by speaking words of God that we build up the spiritual potential of the soul.

Jo. 1:8 Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

Jn. 3:34 For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit.

God's word is made up of the commandments and the promises. We are meant to perfectly obey God's commandments so that God will fulfill His promises to us. Unfortunately, the commandments cannot be perfectly obeyed by human power or human might, but by the Spirit or power of God (Zec. 4:6). Jo. 1:8 says that continual speaking of God's commandments and continual meditation on them enables one to keep all the commandments of God. Jn. 3:34 says if a person speaks words of God, God gives the Spirit without limit. What God gives is power to fulfill His word.

When I pray, I say words like these:

By your grace O God, I shall be holy even as you, our heavenly Father, are holy (Mt. 5:48).

By your grace, glorious Father, I shall not worry about what I shall eat or what I shall drink, or what I shall wear; I will seek first your kingdom and your righteousness, for I know that you will, along with the kingdom, freely give me all things.

By your grace O god, I shall not sin my heart by looking at the opposite sex lustfully.

Praise be to you, everlasting Father, for you supply all my needs according to your glorious riches in Christ.

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Always agree with God's words.

2Co. 4:13 It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." [Psalm 116:10] With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak.

Re. 12:11 They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.

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