

*Don't Live Outside
of the Garden*

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

The Garden of Eden was a perfect place: no striving, no strains, no struggles. But then Adam and Eve failed the volitional test as they partook from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil and were driven from Eden. Work was now the order. Tilling the ground and making a living came with toil and sweat. Thorns and thistles made Adam's labor more difficult and he ate his bread in sorrow.

While we cannot journey back to Eden in the physical sense, we can abide there mentally and emotionally. Thanks to the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, we can let our thoughts and words be governed by the Holy Spirit. And when we receive doctrine daily—as Adam and Eve did in Eden—our lives will be operating in the Truth.

Living inside the Garden represents personal daily fellowship with God. This booklet will show that this way of living is a relaxed, confident expression of God's grace.

Chapter One

HAVING A WRONG RAPPORT

“And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

“And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

“And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself....

“Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.

“So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life” (Genesis 3:8-10, 23-24).

Eve had a great lust for knowledge. She had a perfect marriage and was living in a perfect

place. But in Genesis 3:6, faced with Satan's temptation at the Tree of Knowledge, she revealed an amazing lust to know what good would be and what evil with self-consciousness would be. Beguiled and deceived, she became spiritually dead.

Adam was beside her, still perfect at that point. But for him to continue his relationship with Eve, Adam *had* to partake of the fruit himself. When he did this, all the Bible doctrine he had learned was not being applied.

We know God taught Adam and Eve doctrine every day. In Genesis 3:8, when the Bible says that "they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day," the tenses in the Hebrew text signify that He had been coming to meet with them in the past and would continue coming to them.

Consider that in order to have any relationship with his wife after she ate of the Tree of Knowledge, Adam had to partake of the forbidden fruit also. He had to violate doctrine. After Eve fell, she became very seductive in her appearance and behavior. Mentally, she had traded away her virtue, her spiritual integrity, and her values, which depended upon God and living inside the Garden. So, to maintain their relation-

ship, Adam had to trade away his values too. He, who was given headship by God, now would let Eve lead him. To have rapport with Eve would lead Adam to leave doctrine. And now, everything in his life would be experienced *outside* the Garden.

The Substitute: Human Virtue

Recently I heard an interview with a popular singer who is saved. He has sold millions of records and is famous throughout the world. Yet this man said that more than anything, he wants to be a husband who won't fail his wife, a great father, and a good son to his parents. At one point in his career, he admitted to being unfaithful to his wife. Stating that he was actually afraid of the effects of his success, he quit touring for several years to improve his marriage.

All of that is very noble in the human virtue sense. In this case, however, though he now has a good family, he is existing totally outside the Garden, completely untaught. And, though he vaguely testifies of a love and desire for God in one or two of his songs, he will not publicly say that Jesus Christ is his Savior. Why? Because he has established a worldly rapport that is outside the Garden.

There are two kinds of fellowship: that which is *inside* the Garden and that which is *outside* the Garden. The problem with divisions between believers is that their fellowship is outside the Garden. Some Christians would marry someone who lives outside of the Garden without a second thought. But because they are still saved, they have the same convictions that they had inside the Garden. Therefore, except for isolated moments, they cannot be happy outside of God's will. That singer said he *needs* to struggle—to fight something—in order to satisfy himself. He said, "I'm almost happy being *unhappy*." When a person is saved, they cannot be truly happy while living in sin.

Chapter Two

THE LEADER BECOMES
A FOLLOWER

After eating from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, the only rapport Adam and Eve had was outside of God, outside of His Word, and outside of His will. Everything about their lives was now outside of the perfect environment they had always known. There they were, outside the Garden—two adults with brilliant minds but living in spiritual death. They knew what they were missing because they now had a conscience, but they didn't understand how to be free. There are so many individuals who live in this kind of rapport, outside of the Garden.

Adam and Eve's rapport after eating from the Tree of Knowledge was now based upon spiritual death. No one can willfully sin unless it is based upon spiritual death and the needs of the flesh. Adam, the leader, was now led by the

woman. Divine authority was ignored. Human volition would not honor and reinforce divine authority, and human responsibility was misplaced.

First, Eve had to misplace her values. Then, she lost her virtue of integrity. Next, Adam misplaced his values. So, there they were, hiding in spiritually dead rapport and refusing to go to doctrine class. God came at the same time He had been coming every day to teach both of them. God came, but they were not there because their values had changed. Their spiritual integrity was gone. Every thought they now had was outside of the Garden, outside of God's will, and based upon misplaced values.

When people get angry, that anger is based upon spiritual death. When they become proud and refuse to draw near to the Body of Christ as humble members-in-particular, they are living in spiritual death. The only way to have a relationship with them is to live in spiritual death.

Many people are saved and know how to say spiritual things; they know how they ought to live. But, they are living outside of the Garden, and they have a limited eternal purpose.

Surrendering Headship

When it comes to making decisions, if there is someone I like, Satan may try to use this person's influence and personality to stimulate a rapport that is outside of the Cross. This person may be very nice, someone who is saved and does not live in overt sins, but the moment I cross over the line and there is no cross between us, I am outside of God's purpose and God's will. Now, my rapport is with this person, instead of having a rapport with Bible doctrine. I am being led by a person instead of Bible doctrine. My relationship has become my leader.

Chapter Three

THE JOY THAT BRINGS STRENGTH

After the Fall, Adam and Eve no longer had what I call “*plus-joy*,” which is the joy of the Lord that strengthens us (Nehemiah 8:10*b*). Any marital happiness Adam had now came from Eve, and any marital happiness Eve had now came from Adam. If Eve did everything to please Adam, and if Adam did everything to please Eve, all they would ever have is a rapport of human happiness that had nothing to do with God.

Plus-joy is so fulfilling! The joy of the Lord is our strength. Jesus said, “These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full” (John 15:11). When we are under attack, under pressure, or under temptation, overwhelmed by stress, we need to get back into the Garden where we can live in *plus-joy*.

Are you covering someone or uncovering them with your words? If you are uncovering someone, what is your motive, when you are not perfect yourself? Ephesians 4:32 says “be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.” And from Colossians 3, we see that kindness characterizes people who live inside the Garden.

Is what you have to say true? Is it kind? Is it necessary? Of course, it is never necessary to uncover anyone—whether he is right or wrong—in front of others. That comes from living outside the Garden. I have to have rapport with the accuser of the brethren to do something like that. I have to have rapport with Satan to go after anyone in the presence of others.

Inside the Garden, we walk in truth and fellowship with truth. People who live inside of the Garden are kind. Every day while they lived in Eden, Adam and Eve heard Bible doctrine. And in the Garden they always enjoyed perfect sex with each other, though it was only one expression of love. But outside the Garden, sex would not be as perfect because of the imperfections of life, unless it was through redemption.

Furthermore, when they lived inside the

garden, Adam and Eve never worried. Do you realize that we have to go outside of the Garden to worry? As long as we are in the Garden, our value system, our faith, and our virtue keep us from worrying. We have to step out of the Garden of grace to be impure, or to lust for knowledge or anything else.

Whatever problems or pressures we face, we can live in *plus-joy*. Even if we were to be martyred—even if we are killed for Christ’s sake—we can live in *plus-joy*—the joy God gives to make us full. When you get stressed out, you are outside the Garden. Don’t condemn yourself. Just say, “I am going right back into the Garden to get my joy back—*plus-joy!*”

Misplaced Motivations

The problem in America today is that instead of God, greed and fear motivate so many decisions. Greed and fear come from a relationship with the flesh outside the Garden, which motivates wrong decisions. Outside of the garden, our view of people is not of faith. Outside of the Garden, our prayers for people are not of faith. Outside of the Garden, our expectations are not of faith.

Imagine a marriage of two unsaved people

who live in spiritual death. They can have a wonderful marriage without God. They can have happy lives together, but then they die and go to hell. They may have a marriage that is better than that of many Christians because they agree and are compatible in their souls while they live in spiritual death outside the Garden.

In 1 Corinthians 15:22, the Bible says that “in *Adam*, all die.” Romans 5:12a says, referring to Adam, “Wherefore, as by one *man* sin entered into the world....” It doesn’t say, “In Eve....” Eve had a human volition, and she was responsible for her choice to sin. But, she was deceived. Adam deliberately made his choice to sin. Some scholars believe Eve’s sensuality and the seductive appearance she took on after her fall really got to him. For the first time, she was exhibiting a fallen nature. Many scholars agree that Eve’s fall was from a lust for knowledge and that Adam’s fall was from the lust of the flesh for sex.

Outside of the Garden, there is limited eternal purpose. When God clothed Adam and Eve, they were saved by the grace of God. Then, through Bible doctrine, they could have virtue back (spiritual integrity) and values back (putting Christ first, daily Bible doctrine, a relationship with Him). Then, the Word and the

Spirit could lead them (Psalm 119:133; Romans 8:14-15), and they would be back to growing in values and virtues.

People who consistently live in frustration have a value system that is off. Two Ivy League professors have said that the problem with Americans is that their top priority in life is money.

One well-known politician said, “Judeo-Christians are taught to love one another. But we still have racial problems, divorce, and greed because money has replaced love and purpose. Evangelical Christians who execute Judeo-Christians principles have love among themselves.”

Joy in the Garden

When God’s people have *plus-joy*—the joy of the Lord—that joy becomes their strength. We can have busy schedules that seem to leave no time for sleep, and yet we can go on and on. The reason? We have joy inside the Garden. We have a rapport with God and each other inside the Garden. We have the same purpose for life inside the Garden. We possess the same vision, the same values, the same virtues, the same desires, the same hopes, and the same aspirations. If one should fail, we all have the same opportunity for

rebound inside the Garden.

In order to have a marriage that lasts, a marriage that perpetuates love, grace, and happiness, the relationship needs to be in the Garden. Rapport is not outside the Garden; conversations are not outside the Garden. They must abide inside the Garden.

Staying inside the Garden brings lasting friendships that do not decay, spiritually. By staying in the Garden, you can live in a world filled with sin, yet you do not deteriorate morally. The key is staying inside the Garden.

Those who attack others do it completely outside of the Garden. Their conversations and everything about their rapport are outside of grace, outside of love, outside of truth, outside of kindness.

Learn to Discern

Don't let anything take you outside of the Garden—not any individual, not any group of people, not any need through subjectivity or emotionalism. Learn to discern those who would have fellowship outside the Garden. Love them, but don't enter into a rapport with their spiritual death.

Many believers are sweet people who are

growing, but who lack discernment. Jesus did not pray for the Pharisees. He died on the Cross for them, but He didn't like them. He had subjective love for them, but not objective love. There wasn't a thing in their lives He valued.

Worldly entertainment, worldly music, worldly statements, immodest dress, and gambling destroy families. All of these things take people outside of the Garden.

We need to love what Jesus loves and hate what Jesus hates. Jesus isn't neutral about these things. People who live outside the Garden are not *for* some things, but neither are they against them! Remember: We ought to hate what Jesus hates.

Friendships, marriages, families, parents, church leaders—all of those who abide in the Garden are inseparable. Perfect love and perfect unity are in the Garden. The greatest place anyone can be is inside the Garden.

It is so hard for some people to live inside the Garden because they don't have *pleroma* faith. The Greek word *pleroma* speaks of fullness, drinking from a full cup, and the fullness of joy that comes from living inside the Garden (Ephesians 3:19).

No one can have *plus*-joy that fulfills unless

Jesus Christ gives it through the Spirit and the Word. We have to agree with God and walk in the Spirit of the Word inside the Garden.

When your “friends” start to get off doctrinally, don’t get off with them. Don’t leave doctrine. Don’t go outside of the Garden and leave your relationship with God just to satisfy your flesh.

Live inside the Garden. Promise yourself to do what is best for your soul, what is best for God’s will, and what is best for your heart. Do what glorifies God and make decisions that will keep you *inside* of the Garden.”

CONCLUSION

Thousands of people turn out to see that singer I mentioned. They scream as he jumps up and down and rolls through the songs. He doesn't look like a man who wants to give it all up. Still, he tells people, "I love the crowds and my fans, but sometimes I just can't fight the emptiness inside." He is a man stuck outside of the Garden and looking for the way back to that personal fellowship with God.

The way to stay inside the Garden with God is through hearing the Word of God and allowing the Holy Spirit to hide it deep in your heart. Inside the Garden is the only place where we can have pure and eternal fellowship.

Also, it is in the Garden that we find *plus-joy*—the joy that gives us strength to overcome anything Satan and his world system might throw at us. By God's grace, we can enjoy the freedom and victory that was meant to be ours from the beginning. Our minds do not have to remain under the dominion of the Tree of

Knowledge of Good and Evil. We can look to the Cross and be transformed with renewed minds and healthy emotions.