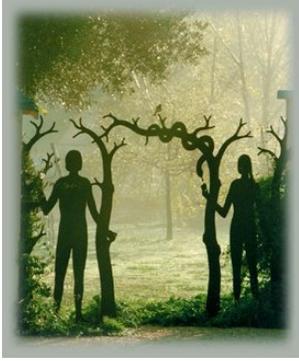


The “Beginning and End” Principle



Genesis 3:1-8

Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.'" The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die! "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was

desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

[Ex. 25:8, 29:42-46; Lev. 26:11-13; Deut. 5:29, 23:14; 1 Kings 6:11-13; 2 Chron. 16:9a; Is. 11:9; Ps. 81:13-14; Jer. 24:7, 31:31-34; Mic. 6:6-8; Hab. 2:14; Zec. 2:10-12; Mt. 18:20; Lk. 17:20-21; Jn. 4:23-24, 14:23; 2 Cor. 6:14 – 7:1; 1 Pet. 2:9]

Acts 5:17-20

But the high priest rose up, along with all his associates (that is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with jealousy. They laid hands on the apostles and put them in a public jail. But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the gates of the prison, and taking them out he said, "**Go, stand and speak to the people in the temple the whole message of this Life.**"



Revelation 21:1-4

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."

Relationship: (noun)

1. A connection, association, or involvement.
2. Connection between persons by blood or marriage.
3. A particular type of connection existing between people related to or having dealings with each other: *the relationship between teachers and students.*

Hindrances to Hearing and Experiencing (Knowing) the Lord

*"This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God,
and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."*

(John 17:3)

1. Disobedience

"Most Christians don't hear God's voice because we've already decided we aren't going to do what He says." - A.W. Tozer

JOH 14:21 "He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him."

2. Distractions / Idols

PSA 86:11 ¶ Teach me Your way, O Lord; I will walk in Your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name.

LUK 10:38-42 Now as they were traveling along, He entered a village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home. She had a sister called Mary, who was seated at the Lord's feet, listening to His word. But Martha was distracted with all her preparations; and she came up to Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me." But the Lord answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; but only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her."

JAM 1:5-8 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

3. Walls

SOL 2:8, 9 "Listen! My beloved! Behold, he is coming, Climbing on the mountains, Leaping on the hills! "My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Behold, he is standing behind our wall, He is looking through the windows, He is peering through the lattice.

REV 3:20 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.

HEB 12:1 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

Guarding Your Heart

Prov. 4:23 **Watch over your heart** with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life.

Mark 4:24 And He was saying to them, "**Take care what you listen to.** By your standard of **measure** it will be measured to you; and more will be given you besides.

Measure: This Greek word means

GEN 2:15 Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and **keep** it.

Keep: This Hebrew word means

1 Cor. 15:33 Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals."

Prov. 20:19 He who goes about as a slanderer reveals secrets, Therefore **do not associate** with a gossip.

Prov. 22:24-25 **Do not associate** with a man given to anger; or go with a hot-tempered man, or you will learn his ways and find a snare for yourself.

Prov. 24:21-22 My son, fear the Lord and the king; **do not associate** with those who are given to **change**, for their calamity will rise suddenly, and who knows the ruin that comes from both of them?

Change:

Luke 11:33-36 "No one, after lighting a lamp, puts it away in a cellar nor under a basket, but on the lampstand, so that those who enter may see the light. The eye is the lamp of your body; when your eye is **clear**, your whole body also is full of light; but when it is **bad**, your body also is full of darkness. Then watch out that the light in you is not darkness. If therefore your whole body is full of light, with no dark part in it, it will be wholly illumined, as when the lamp illumines you with its rays."

Romans 10:17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

Luke 6:45 "The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart.

Guard Your Heart

Areas where my guard is down:

Effects on my spiritual and mental condition:

PSA 101:3 I will set no worthless thing before my eyes; I hate the work of those who fall away; It shall not fasten its grip on me.

Col. 3:1-2 Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

Phil. 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.

I covenant before the Lord today to guard my heart in the following ways: