

KNOWING YOURSELF PART 4

GARDEN GROWTH

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Gen. 3:14 *And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:*

Gen. 3:15 *And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*

Gen. 3:16 *Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.*

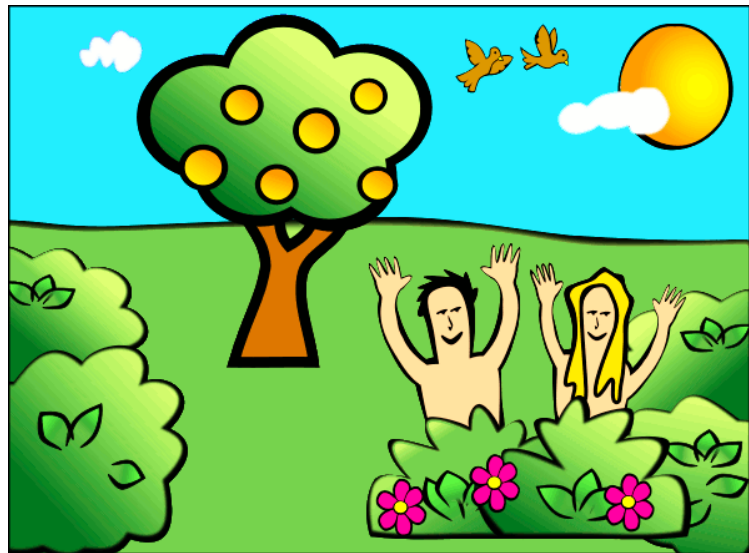
Gen. 3:17 *And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;*

Gen. 3:18 *Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;*

Gen. 3:19 *In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.*

The Garden of Eden

- In the garden, man fell because of man's desire to be as gods. This is a constant fight in our lives today as well. Our desire to be seen, noticed, and admired by others is a temptation of the enemy to cause us to fall. *Prov. 16:18 Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.*
- Though God punished man with death or returning to the ground from which he was created, he created parameters of life to keep man balanced. Pain and suffering for childbirth and working hard for food and shelter. God created a



way to keep man focused on His plan rather than seeking wisdom to rule over others. *1Cor. 10:24 Let no one then seek his own good and advantage and profit, but [rather] each one of the other [let him seek the welfare of his neighbor].*

- The reward of man's hard work is success in this life and the reward of pain and suffering is a precious creation. God decided that we must endure pain and hardship to appreciate His blessings and to keep us trusting and depending on Him. His glorification is essential, and He does not seek to share it with any other god. *Ex. 34:14 For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God:*
- The serpent was cursed, but the man and woman was given orders. Death was the consequence, but life was still provided by God so that we can have it if we follow after His way. So ultimately, we are free from all curses and the punishment in the garden can yield great blessings if we continue in His will. *Rom. 5:17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)*



their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed. This should be the ultimate goal and prayer for all women. It's not a curse but it's a blessing. Woman was created a help meet and then reinstated as one even after the fall. *Gen. 3:16*

Summary - God did not curse us in the garden, but he created a plan that would keep us safe from the enemy. Death was already here, man just chose it through his actions. The

Painful labor

- God's creation roles allow us to choose our occupation, our environment, and our offerings to him. He created us to rule, be fruitful, and to create. We have the ability to create our own families and experience God's joy even in the midst of hardship and a pagan society.
- Labor is essential in our creation roles. By God's command, men must labor to yield food, which gives man the ability to buy and sell. Though God can bless us with various jobs and finances, the law of sowing and reaping is always present. God will not be made a liar, and what you sow, you will reap. *Gal. 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.* This law came as a helper for man when the ground was cursed. You will reap what you sow, but you will always yield more than what is sown thanks to God.
- Though most married woman work outside of their home, God's plan of labor for the women is work in and around the home. *Prov. 31:10* This is why childbearing is called labor. Labor is the creation role job of women and it is painful. But the reward gives a woman true purpose and ministry. Eve desired knowledge of the gods rather than knowledge from God. For this reason, women have sought purpose and fulfillment outside of their creation roles since the beginning.
- Working outside of the home is the choice of a woman, but God's plan is for a woman to make a good home for her husband and children. *Titus 2:4 That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love*

ground and the devil were cursed but not man. When man gained knowledge of good and evil, God had to balance it out so that we can have good times and endure afflictions. Before knowing what affliction was, there was no need for these parameters. If man was to exist without knowledge of good or evil, then he would not need to know which was which. God never said that there was no good and evil before the fall. The serpent's agenda was evil, God mentioned death as consequence to eating of the tree, etc. So, there was always good and evil, man just didn't know the difference. So, it wasn't a curse from God that man received but it was knowledge of the knowledge that man received. In other words, God wanted man to understand what good and evil was all about since he chose to be exposed to it. This tells us that we are not cursed, but we are blessed from God to have His knowledge and wisdom to navigate through our lives and to function as He has created us to function.

Rom. 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Rom. 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Rom. 12:3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.