

On Immortality

When Adam was told that if he disobeyed God and ate of the forbidden fruit, he would surely die, this meant *death of the soul, so far as its future progress in receiving the divine essence of the Father's Love was concerned*. It did not mean physical death or death of the body, as after his doom was pronounced, Adam lived in the flesh for many more years.

At creation, Adam wasn't immortal but possessed *soul potentialities* which, if properly exercised, would have brought him to a *unison with the Father that would have made his nature divine*. The death meant the loss of the privilege of *becoming immortal* – that is, of being in condition to obtain that *soul progress which would enable him to become one with and a part of the Father in His Love and affections*.

Those who lived on earth between Adam's fall and Jesus' coming and revelation of the truth of redemption did not have this potentiality. Hence they could only live as mortals and spirits with the natural love. They were never admitted into the Father's heavenly kingdom because that would have required soul development in the Divine Love.

With Jesus coming to earth, God sent the truth of human redemption, as well as conferring upon humankind again the privilege of receiving His Divine Love and essence. Thus everything that was lost by Adam's Fall was restored by Jesus' coming, and it embraced every spirit who had ever lived as mortal and every mortal who would live thereafter.

The tree of the knowledge of good and evil represented knowledge that God had reserved for Himself. If known to Adam, it would have subjected him to temptations that would destroy this soul potentiality to become immortal by becoming one with God. When Adam disobeyed and ate of the forbidden fruit, God took away that potentiality.

As far as the tree of life, Adam was already the recipient of what it represented – namely that attribute of the soul which could, by proper development, make him like the “gods” – those who possessed the Divine nature of the Father. There was just one God, and all other beings in the spirit world only possessed God-like qualities of love and obedience.

Regarding man being made a little lower than the angels, it meant that while angels had that Divine nature perfected to a smaller or greater degree, man had

only the potentiality of soul that would enable him to obtain that development which would perfect him so that he could become an angel.

Since Jesus' coming and restoring to all humans, either as spirits or mortals, the soul quality or potentiality for becoming immortal, this will continue until the great day of judgment. At that time, those who have not perfected their souls by acquiring the divine nature through the Divine Love will be forever deprived of the privilege of receiving the great gift of immortality. After that time, these individuals will be able to live merely as spirits enjoying their natural love – just as Adam after his Fall, and all spirits and humans who lived between that time and Jesus' coming. This is the *second death*. Adam's was the first, and the great day of judgment will declare the second. After that, humans will never again have the opportunity of partaking of the divine essence of the Father and becoming "as one of the gods."

The opportunity is now given and will be for some time in the future for all humans and spirits to become *the children of the Father, in the angelic and divine sense*. If they refuse to do so, they will have no grounds for accusation the Father of injustice. God will still be the Father of those who may not accept His great gift, and they will, in their natural love, be comparatively happy. However, they will not partake of the Father's heavenly Kingdom.

Ultimately, all will be saved from sin and error, and sin and error will be destroyed entirely. Humans and spirits will live in comparative happiness, but they will live in death and not in life, so far as the life of the soul, with its possibilities of becoming divine and of enjoying the great happiness which the Divine Love of the Father bestows, is concerned.

In summary, immortality does not pertain to the physical body, spirit body, or even unqualifiedly to the soul, but to those qualities of the soul which make it possible for the soul to become divine in its nature. Also, immortality does not mean a mere continuous existence, because every spirit and every soul may live through eternity in their individualized form. Rather, it means living forever in the Father's Kingdom, possessing divine nature and the great and true life which is found only in that Kingdom.

Reference: <https://new-birth.net/padgetts-messages/true-gospel-revealed-anew-by-jesus-volume-2/jesus-the-meaning-of-immortality-vol-2-pg68/>