

Communion is...

Communion is the Tree of Life restored.

Read Genesis 2:8-9 and 15-17, Genesis 3:1-6 and 24, and Matthew 26:26-29

In Genesis 2, God showed Adam and Eve the Tree of Life, telling them they could eat freely of it. This tree gave them access to everything they would ever need to experience LIFE forever in all its abundance! Yes, it was physical food, but it also provided all that they needed spiritually. And yet, later in Genesis 3, we find their access to the Tree of Life was cut off because they chose a different tree, the one God had forbidden. Their choice was the tree of death and for all of time going forward Adam and Eve and their descendants would live with the fruit of that choice... unless God somehow intervened... **and we know that He did, through Jesus!**

Fast forward to one day last summer. The Lord had called me to a new practice of taking communion on a daily basis and I had been enjoying this experience for several weeks when I gathered on this day with my church family for our weekly service, and also communion. So as the worship began and the invite to communion was extended, I like many others made my way forward to get the communion emblems. But, it was on my way back to my seat that I heard the Holy Spirit whisper in my ear, ***"I am going to show you something that is going to blow your mind!"*** Well that certainly got my attention so I leaned in to listen as He went on to say, ***"Communion is the Tree of Life restored,"*** and what He went on to explain certainly did blow my mind!

See it wasn't new news to me that in Christ we now have access to LIFE. I knew that, and I was so grateful for it. But it was new revelation to me that communion is our point of access... that communion is a physical way for us to actually reach for and partake of all that God has for us. Just like Adam and Eve had the choice to pick fruit from the Tree of LIFE and eat of it to be nourished with LIFE, Jesus had given us the choice of something to eat as well... something that connects us to Him, **His body and blood, the source of LIFE!**

That day with my head bowed and holding the juice and bread in my hands, the Holy Spirit took my mind through the pages of my Bible, bringing things to my remembrance and connecting them to the communion experience. He reminded me of the moment when Jesus said, ***"I am the Bread of Life, whoever eats My body and drinks of My blood abides in Me and lives forever"***(John 6). He pointed out Jesus' description of Himself as a Tree when He told His followers, ***"I am the vine, you are the branches..."***(John 15) He repeated several prophecies of Jesus in the Old Testament which liken Him to a tree. And, He showed me Jesus dying, hanging on tree, opening up our access to LIFE!

Wow, just wow! I had taken communion all my life and never had seen any of these things. In this moment my heart was awakened afresh with gratefulness for Christ's sacrifice, and humbled at the richness of the emblems I held in my hand. **My mind was definitely blown away with a new sense of privilege for all we have in Christ.**

Over the months, I've continued to ponder these things... that in partaking of communion, we are accessing the fruit of LIFE. And I've come to realize, that just like in Genesis 2 as God told Adam and Eve they could ***"eat freely of the Tree of Life,"*** Paul also gives us unlimited access too, for he tells us in I Corinthians 11, ***"as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup..."***

For the last two months we have been daily partaking of Jesus, the Tree of Life restored to us... I am so glad you have joined in. And although this **"Experience Communion"** blog is coming to an end today, I pray that your personal practice of communion will not conclude. Communion is the Tree of LIFE restored, **so I pray you will continue to reach for its fruit in Jesus as often as you like... and in Him may you enjoy LIFE abundant!**

Prayer Conversation Starter...

Jesus, thank You for being my access to LIFE! You are truly all I need!