

## The Normal Christian Life

### The Cross and the Soul Life

- The work of the Cross has **two consequences**:
  - Issued in the **release of His life** that it may find **expression in us** through the indwelling Spirit.
  - It has made possible what we speak of as “**bearing the cross**”.
    - Our cooperation in the **daily inworking of His death** which brings the “natural man” progressively into **subjection to the Holy Spirit**.

### The True Nature of the Fall

- The Bible makes it clear that what **God desires** above all things is **a man**—a man who will be after His own heart.
- Adam was created a **living soul**, with a **spirit** inside to commune with God, and with a **body** outside to have contact with the material world.
- Adam was created **perfect**, but he was not yet **perfected**.
  - God was moving towards the fulfillment of His **purpose** in creating man, a purpose which went beyond man himself, for it had in view the securing to God of all His rights in the universe through man.
- Adam was created **neutral**.
  - As man, Adam was not **orientated**; he had powers of **choice**.
  - If Adam were to receive the tree of life, choosing **dependence** upon God, God would then have that life in **union with men**; He would have realized “sonship”.
  - If Adam turned to the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, he would be “free” to **develop himself** on his own **apart from God**.
    - Adam would put beyond his reach the attaining of his God-appointed goal.

### The Root Question: The Human Soul

- Because Adam chose the fruit of the tree of knowledge.
  - Man became **over-developed** in his soul.
    - The **emotion** was touched because the fruit made man “desire”.
    - The **mind** was developed for man was “made wise”.
    - The **will** was strengthened so that man can decide which way to go.

- The whole fruit ministered to the expansion and full development of the soul, so that not only was the man a **living soul**, but from henceforth man will *live by the soul*.
- God intends that **we should have a soul** such as He gave to Adam.
  - But there is something in man today which is **not just having a soul** but constitutes living by the soul.
- To remedy this does not mean that we are going to cross out the soul altogether.
  - What God is now doing is the **pruning work of the vinedresser**.
  - There are two things before us to which our eyes must be opened.
    - God is seeking to bring us to the place where we **live by the life of His Son**.
    - He is doing a **direct work** in our hearts to **undo** that other natural resource that is the result of the fruit of knowledge.
  - Every day we are learning two lessons
    - A **rising up** of the **life of this One**
    - A **checking and a handing over to death** of that other **soul-life**.
- When we come to know the Lord, we **lose** the power to **act in ourselves**. The Lord cuts it off and we can no longer act on our own initiative. We must **live by the life of Another**; we have to draw **everything** from Him.

(The Normal Christian Life – Chapter 12)