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Ever since the episode in the Garden of Eden when men and women lost their right to live in harmony with God and His creation, man has been searching for a way to regain what he has lost. In Eden, the Lord God (YHWH Elohim) provided everything that was needed. According to the Book of Genesis:

And the Lord God planted a Garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.
(Genesis 2:8-9)

The only thing man had to do to continue to live in the Garden was to obey God. It seemed like a pretty simple task. Everything in the entire Garden could be eaten except for the fruit that came from one tree, the tree of knowledge of good and evil:

And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.
(Genesis 2:16-17)

The LORD was asking the man to trust Him. He said He would let the man, whom He called Adam, freely eat of every tree of the Garden, except one. The tree that God told the man not to eat was one that contained a certain kind of knowledge. In Hebrew, the word is da`ath.

Strong's Number: 1847

Transliterated: da`ath

Phonetic: dah'-ath

Text: from 3045; knowledge: -cunning, norantly, know(-ledge), awares (wittingly).

In Latin, the word is scientiae, and is the basis for the modern English word, SCIENCE. In Greek, the word is yvwoic, or gnosis. **To put the command of God into modern English, He did not want man to eat of the tree that contained a certain kind of SCIENCE, GNOSIS, OR KNOWLEDGE. It was His will that man be limited in that certain knowledge. That kind of knowledge was reserved for God and was not for man.**

But there was a great temptation given to the woman to eat of the forbidden tree. That temptation was to have her eyes opened, or to be **enlightened**. But the cost was great. They descended into a fallen state. Because Adam had listened to his wife and disobeyed God, he was destined to till the ground and was removed from the presence of the tree of life that, should he also eat of it, would give him everlasting life:

“And the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:

Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.”
(Genesis 3:22-23)

If man had both the knowledge of good and evil and everlasting life, then he would indeed compete directly with God forever. It was unacceptable to God to let the fallen man live forever. Because of disobedience to His Word, God sent man out of the place of perfect order. Ever since, mankind has been trying to get back to that state of order on his own terms, without God. Using enlightened reason, being like a god in the sense of knowing good from evil, man is still trying to get back to the Garden. He is trying to create his own Garden, his own heaven on earth, where all things are in perfect order!

While Men Slept....A Biblical and Historical Account of the New Universal Christianity
Kerby F. Fannin, Ph.D. Pages 127-129

Sincerely,

Walter