

## *Eating the Leaves of the Tree of Life*

**In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. Revelation 22:2. {UL 224.1}**

Must we wait until we are translated before we eat of the leaves of the tree of life? He who receives into his heart the words of Christ knows what it means to eat the leaves of the tree of life.... {UL 224.2}

The knowledge that comes from God is the bread of life. It is the leaves of the tree of life which are for the healing of the nations. **The current of spiritual life thrills the soul as the words of Christ are believed and practiced.** Thus it is that we are made one with Christ. The experience that was weak and feeble becomes strong. It is eternal life to us if we hold the beginning of our confidence firm unto the end. {UL 224.3}

All truth is to be received as the life of Jesus. **Truth cleanses us from all impurity, and prepares the soul for Christ's presence.** Christ is formed within, the hope of glory.... {UL 224.4}

It is essential that those who pledge themselves to keep God's commandments have an **intelligent knowledge** of the Scriptures. **Thus we learn to deny self and to be strictly honest with God in using His goods.** It was in order that we might understand the divine will that God gave us the Bible. **We cannot obey His commandments until we know what these commandments are.** {UL 224.5}

Parents are without excuse if they fail to obtain a clear understanding of God's will, that they may obey the laws of His kingdom. Only thus can they lead their children to heaven. My brethren and sisters, it is your duty to understand God's requirements. How can you educate your children in the things of God unless you first know yourselves what is right and what is wrong, unless you realize that obedience means eternal life and disobedience eternal death? {UL 224.6}

We must make it our lifework to understand the will of God. Only as we do this can we train our children aright. Your every word and action is to be in accordance with the will of God, irrespective of the opinions and practices of those who refuse to obey God.... {UL 224.7}

"The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul" (Psalm 19:7). **The Lord has kept back nothing that is necessary for the enlightenment of His children. No one can plead in excuse for transgression that he was left in ignorance, that the way to heaven was not clearly marked out.** We have not been left to serve God in a vague, uncertain way.—Manuscript 103, July 29, 1902, "Doing God's Will." {UL 224.8}