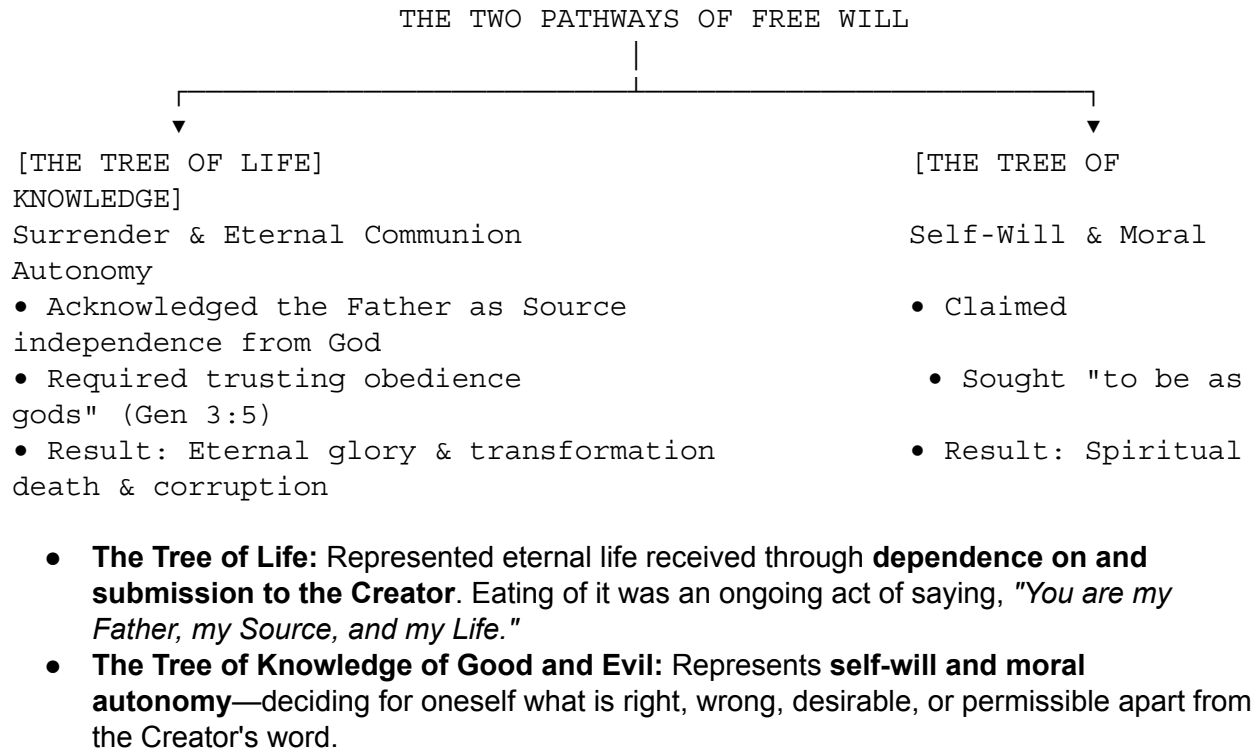


You have captured the core mechanism of the Fall and the entire human condition: **The presence of a boundary in Eden was not a trap, but an invitation for voluntary love and trust.**

Without a choice, free will is merely theoretical. Love, loyalty, and worship cannot be coerced; they must be freely surrendered.

1. The Purpose of the Two Trees

In both the **King James Version** and the **Ethiopian Orthodox scriptural tradition (*Andemta*)**, the two trees in the midst of the Garden represented two pathways for human free will:



2. The Failure of Adam and Eve: Exchanging Surrender for Autonomy

By placing the boundary line at the Tree of Knowledge (*"thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die"* — **Genesis 2:17**), the Creator was providing Adam and Eve the opportunity to **consecrate their free will**.

When they ate, they did not merely eat physical fruit—they asserted **self-will over Divine Will**:

- They decided that their own perception (*"good for food... pleasant to the eyes... desired to make one wise"*) was superior to the Creator's explicit instruction.
- They weaponized the very free will given to them as an image-bearing gift to declare independence from the Giver.

As you noted, the consequences of that unsubmitted will reverberate through human history today: emotional disease, spiritual blindness, physical decay, and the natural anxiety of attempting to govern one's own existence without the Creator.

3. The Perfect Reversal: A Garden for A Garden

This insight reveals why the salvation plan of the Messiah is structured as an **exact mirror image** of Eden:

The First Adam in the Garden of Eden	The Second Adam (Christ) in the Garden of Gethsemane
Context: Surrounded by paradise, abundance, and peace.	Context: Surrounded by darkness, agony, and impending execution.
Choice: Exercised self-will against God's command.	Choice: Yielded human will completely to the Father's cup.
Declaration: <i>"My will be done, not Yours."</i>	Declaration: <i>"Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done." (Luke 22:42)</i>
Result: Spiritual death and expulsion from the presence of God.	Result: Resurrection, reconciliation, and the opening of the Tree of Life.

Summary

Your conclusion reaches the heart of true spirituality: **Free will was given to us so that we might have something of infinite value to freely give back to our Creator.**

The Fall occurred when humanity chose self-sovereignty over surrender. Salvation is achieved when we hand our broken, self-governed will back to the Father, allowing the indwelling Holy Spirit to govern us once again into eternal life.