# **New Beginnings Part 3**

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# Flow

1. What is freedom?

2. Is it really tied to just money, sex, power. The ability to do what you want, when you want? That concept of freedom is wrong.

### Big Idea: Freedom is found through surrender

1. Most often we think that freedom is found through fighting. We must fight for our freedom.

2. But freedom in Jesus is found through surrendering.

3. [Genesis 2](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ge2) is going to reveal to us the secret of true freedom.

4. Some have argued that [Genesis 1](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ge1) and [Genesis 2](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ge2) contain different creation stories and that these two stories contradict one another.

a. The answer is quite simple. There are two creation stories but they don’t contradict each other at all.

b. The difference can be explained this way. [Genesis 1](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ge1) gives us a “wide-angle” view of creation. Where [Genesis 2](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ge2) now gives us a “telephoto” or close-up view of Day 6 when God creates His crowning jewel, Adam and Eve.

c. It’s as if the author of Genesis in [Genesis 1](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ge1) sits us in the heavens with God as we watch him create the cosmos and in [Genesis 2](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ge2) we are now put onto the scene in a close up with the creation of man and woman.

**Genesis 2:4–7 NIV**

1. Verse 4 is the first time that we see God referred to as YAHWEH.

a. Every time before it’s been Elohim meaning “God or deity” signaling him as the sovereign Creator. Now we see the term YAHWEH which means “the name of the one true God” with emphasis put on the relationship to His covenant persons or peoples.

b. The combination of the names here “YAHWEH Elohim” shows that the Creator of the cosmos rules history through a chosen humanity.

2. This is important because the author of Genesis is wanting us to notice that we are going from just God (Elohim) as the creator of the world in 6 days to also God (Yahweh) as this personal, covenant creating, relational driven God as He creates man.

**Psalm 103:14 NIV**

1. So here is Adam. The first “Dirt-man.” He can’t stand or move or talk or sing or feel or think. He can’t do anything because he is not alive yet. Then God comes and breathes into his nostrils the “breath of life.”

## **Our value comes from God and God alone.**

1. The world may tell you different but your value is found in one thing....God.

**Genesis 2:8–14 NIV**

1. It is clear from these verses that the Garden of Eden is a real place that once existed on the earth.

2. We must understand that at this moment there is nothing wrong with the garden as God created it. Adam is placed in a perfect environment. God places Adam in paradise and then gives him a choice. He created the world and gave us paradise. We are the ones who caused the problems.

a. No amount of external fixing is going to solve an internal problem.

b. Sin is not merely an “environmental” problem. It’s a condition of the human heart. Unless we solve the sin problem there will always be riots, killing, and crime.

3. Adam had no reason to complain against God. He is given everything he needs. The only thing God requires from him, and us, is obedience.

4. In the middle of this garden we see 2 trees that stand out from the rest.

5. We will spend more time on this in a couple of weeks but there is a tree of life planted in the garden. This tree finds its source from God and through it Adam and Eve would find eternal life in the presence of God. God’s intention from day one is that man, you and I, would walk with Him daily.

6. The second tree provides them with the ability to ethical awareness.

a. Upon eating this fruit we are given the ability to do what is good in our own eyes.

**Genesis 2:15–17 NIV**

1. God places Adam in the garden and gives him 3 commands:

a. 1. Cultivate it.

b. 2. Guard it.

c. 3. Don’t eat from one tree.

2. **Cultivate it.**

a. You are created to work.

i. Work is a part of God’s plan for us all. Work is not part of the curse. The toil, sweat, and struggle we feel, that’s part of the curse. But even in paradise, Adam was given a job to do.

3. **Guard it:**

a. We are to protect the world around us.

i. We are, as God's chosen people, called to protect the world from the encroachment and attacks of the enemy.

ii. As guardians of the garden, Adam and Eve should have driven out the serpent; instead we see that it drives them out.

4. **Don’t eat from one tree:**

a. God says, “Eat from any tree. Eat from all of them except for one particular tree - the tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.”

b. Why did God create the tree?

i. #1 because without choice we become robots. It’s the freedom to choose that makes us humans. And our choice to love, worship, and serve God is what brings Him the most glory

ii. #2 the tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil is not bad. In fact, it is good, but it belongs and was intended exclusively for God.

iii. #3 The tree of the knowledge of good and evil shows us that the rules of God are not arbitrary and that sin is not as well.

5. Imagine every fruit that has ever existed is placed in the garden and God says “go crazy.”

6. God is not a cosmic killjoy.

a. A lot of times unbelievers and even believers alike will act like God is some cosmic killjoy, looking for every opportunity to squeeze the joy out of life. But in this case, God’s prohibition is a sign of His love.

-Kids analogy-

1. As a loving father, knowing what’s best, God warns Adam not to eat from the tree. All Adam must do is obey.

a. The task for us today is still the same. Live in obedience to God and you will be blessed. Ignore Him and life won’t work right and eventually you will feel hopeless, afraid, and worthless.

## Take Away: We serve what we value.

1. We will only obey, serve, chase after the things that we hold in high esteem.

a. Worship is that which shapes our worth

b. You will never fully surrender and serve Jesus unless He truly becomes the pearl of great price

c. It is only when we realize that Jesus is worth everything that we have that we truly begin to live the way we were designed to.