

Putting Roots Down and Bearing Fruit Up

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Psalm 1:1-3.

B. God compares people to trees many times in Scriptures.

II. Roots. (Isaiah 37:31; Colossians 2:7)

A. Roots must grow first.

B. Roots give strength. What happens to Christians during times of storms is determined by their roots. (Colossians 2:7)

C. Roots bring water. Christians must reach out for the life giving source of spiritual water. (Psalm 1)

D. Roots store up food. How much Christians store up during times of plenty determines how well they will last during barren times.

III. Growth.

A. Growth takes place in the light. Christians must remain in the light. (1 John 1:7; John 3:19)

B. Climate determines fruit. Christians cannot produce fruit in a chilly climate. A spiritual climate is determined by the thought life. (Philippians 4:8; Proverbs 4:23)

C. Trees cannot live alone. Christians can only grow together. We need to prop each other up. (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10; 1 Samuel 23:16)

D. Growth is normal and necessary in order to bear fruit. Unless their knowledge of God is growing, Christians will not bear fruit. (Colossians 1:10; Psalm 92:14, 12-15; Hebrews 5:11-14)

E. Younger plants are different in foliage from the older ones. Older Christians should look different than younger ones. (1 Corinthians 13; Hebrews 4:14; 5:14)

IV. Fruit. Fruit is the natural outgrowth of the tree.

A. The Christian's growth will come out of what they are. (Galatians 6:7-8; Luke 6:43-45)

B. Christians should produce the fruit of character and the fruit of other lives. Their fruit should remain. (Galatians 5:22-23; John 15:16)

C. Hindrances to fruit bearing.

1. Minimum daily requirements for growth.

2. Poor soil condition (heart condition), which is determined by the fruit it is producing. (Luke 8; Jeremiah 4:3; Luke 8:15; Numbers 15)

3. Insects, such as disobedience, laziness and business.

4. No pruning. (John 15:2-3)

5. No upkeep.

6. Withering due to a lack of spiritual roots. (Matthew 21:18-19)

V. We must build a good root system, grow and bear fruit. (Psalm 1:2-3)

A. Do I delight in everything God wants you to do? If not, what are some areas of disobedience?

B. Do I meditate day and night on God's Word? If not, how can I?

C. Am I thinking day and night on ways to follow him more closely? If not, how can I remedy this?

Application questions:

1. How does a Christian establish deeper roots?

2. What is your plan for spiritual growth?

3. What grade would you give your spiritual health based on your spiritual fruit? Explain.
