

Declaring the whole counsel of God
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GETTING TO THE ROOT

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Jesus wants to be at the very root of our lives. The root is where we grow from. The root supports us and supplies everything we need for growth, vitality and fruitfulness.

A Warning

God warns us in **Deuteronomy 29:18-19**, *“that there may not be a man or woman or family or tribe, whose heart turns away today from Yahweh our God, to go and serve the gods of these nations, and that there may not be among you a root bearing bitterness or wormwood; and so it may not happen...that he blessed himself in his heart, saying, ‘I shall have peace, even though I follow the dictates of my heart’”*

We are warned to not allow a bitter root to develop. The bitter root is one that thinks it is fine to do whatever you want and that God will be happy with you. It is a rebellious heart couched in religious sentiment. It teaches that grace is a license to sin and do whatever I want knowing that “God loves me” anyway.

In the New Testament the warning is the same, ***“Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no-one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled”*** Hebrews 12:14-15. This bitter root causes us to fall short of the grace of God. It defiles others around us and is the opposite of pursuing peace and holiness. Make no provision for the flesh to fulfil its lusts! (**Rom.13:14**). Guard against bitter roots springing up. Guard against wrong attitudes towards others in the Body, especially those who are called as elders and leaders in the Body. It will defile many. The root of our lives is so important.

A righteous root

Those who believe in Jesus have been made righteous and so we have a root in our lives that is righteous. ***“A man is not established by wickedness, but the root of the righteous cannot be moved”*** Proverbs 12:3. When we live by wickedness we will never be established. Every plant that our heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted (**Matt.15:13**).

The righteous take root in the earth and are established, being immovable. We are to be ***“steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord,***

knowing that our labour is not in vain in the Lord” 1 Corinthians 15:58. If we stay in righteousness, the righteousness of God by faith (**Phil.3:9**), we will have a root that cannot be moved no matter what persecution or storms come our way.

Taking Root

Those who have shallow roots will easily fall away when things get tough. ***“But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the Word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no root in himself but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the Word, immediately he stumbles”***Matthew 13:20-21.

We need to take the time to develop roots. We are to have the foundations laid mentioned in **Hebrews 6:1-3**. These foundations cause us to be ***“rooted and built up in Christ”*** Colossians 2:6-7. Then we can be like the good soil of the parable, where the seed fell on the good ground. These types of people are those ***“who having heard the Word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience”*** Luke 8:15. We need *patience* to allow the Word to take root in our lives. Then ***“the root of the righteous yields fruit”*** Proverbs 12:12.

Rooted in Christ

Paul the apostle tells us that as we ***“have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith...”*** Colossians 2:6-7. When we receive Jesus, we are born again and begin the journey of living in and with Christ. To ***walk in Him*** we need to be ***rooted in Him***. This is being ***established in the faith***. This is having our foundations fully rooted into Christ. Many have their foundations in other things, even “Christian” things, but not ***in Christ***.

Like a tree being planted we need to take time to be established. Jeremiah said, ***“Blessed is the man who trusts in Yahweh, and whose hope is Yahweh, for he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river”*** Jeremiah 17:7-8. We need to be planted near the River. The River is where the Spirit-empowered Word of God flows. It comes from the Throne (**Rev.22:1**). When we are planted where the Word is flowing by His Spirit into our lives, we ***“will not fear when heat comes; but its leaf will be green, and will not be anxious in the year of drought, nor will cease yielding fruit”*** Jeremiah 17:8b.

When Christ comes to dwell in our hearts through faith, we can then be ***“rooted and grounded in love...able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height – to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge”*** Ephesians 3:17-19. Our roots determine our identity and security. When our roots are in Christ, we know we are loved and secure in Him and find our place in the family of God. We know the love of Christ, comprehending it with all the saints!

There are things that need to be rooted out

On the journey in Christ, we need to allow the Word and the Spirit of God to work in us. Jeremiah was commissioned as a prophet to ***“root out and to pull down, to destroy and to throw down, to build and to plant”*** Jeremiah 1:10. We have been given the mighty power of God ***“for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God”*** 2 Corinthians 10:4-5.

One of the evil roots that is necessary for us all to be delivered from is the ***“love of money”***, ***“for the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness”*** 1 Timothy 6:10. People who are rich or in poverty can be taken by the ***love of money***. To gain money they are willing to do all sorts of evil things. Even ministers can end up endlessly preaching for offerings, even exercising manipulative tactics, false promises, and witchcraft to try and get people to give more!

Do not allow yourself to be taken by this ***“root of all kinds of evil”***. Learn to ***“let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you’”*** Hebrews 13:5. Allow the Holy Spirit to work in you to root out what you have based your life upon that is not Christ.

The Root we need

There is a ***Root*** that is to be established in our life. This Root is to be the Root of our life. ***“There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots”*** Isaiah 11:1. There is Someone who will come from Jesse, the father of David, who will also grow out of the roots of Jesse. This means Someone who gives stability to the lineage of Jesse and who will also come forth from that lineage. ***“I, Jesus...I Am the Root and Offspring of David...”*** Revelation 22:16.

Jesus is the Root and Offspring of David, the Messiah, the One who is the Root of our lives, the Eternal One, the great I AM.

Isaiah prophesied further about Him saying, ***“And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, who shall stand as a banner to the people; for the Gentiles shall seek Him, and His resting place shall be glorious”*** Isaiah 11:10. This Root of Jesse will be a banner. We can all rally to Him and find victory as He is the fulfilment of Yahweh Nissi, our Banner (Ex.17:15). He is the ***“Root of David”*** who prevailed to open the scroll, the mystery of God (Rev.5:5).

The nations will seek Him! **This Root is for all nations.** We no longer need to remain part of the wrong tree! We can find our Root in the Messiah. He is the holy Root of the Olive Tree that we as the nations/Gentiles are grafted into (**Romans**

11:16-17). He is for all nations! This Root wants to find a resting place in you! When He finds a place to rest in you, you will become glorious; *a glorious resting place, “Christ in you, the hope of glory”* Colossians 1:27.

Fill the earth with fruit

When we are rooted and grounded into the Root Himself, we will bear much fruit! Prophetically Isaiah saw this when he prophesied, *“Those who come He shall cause to take root in Jacob; Israel shall blossom and bud, and the fill the face of the world with fruit”* Isaiah 27:6. The earth is to be filled with the fruit of the gospel, the fruit of being in Christ!

The fruit we are to bear is sons to glory (**Heb.2:10**). The face of the world is to be filled with this fruit! We are fruitful if we are connected properly to the Root and growing up in Him!

What is the root of your life? What are you founded on? Let Christ Jesus be the Root! Be grafted into Him and partake of the root and fatness, anointing, and life that is in Him!

Come to know Christ Jesus as the Root and be rooted and grounded in Him, bearing much fruit!

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