

“LIKE A TREE” - pt.2 - Roots, Shoots, and Fruits

Jer. 17:5-7

⁵ Thus says the Lord:

“Cursed *is* the man who **trusts** in **man**
And makes **flesh** his **strength**,
Whose heart departs from the Lord. -

⁶ For he shall be like a **shrub** in the **desert**,
And shall **not** see when **good** comes,
But shall **inhabit** the **parched** places in the **wilderness**,
In a salt land which is not inhabited.

⁷ “**Blessed** *is* the **man** who **trusts** in the **Lord**,
And whose **hope** is the **Lord.** -
For he shall be like a tree planted by the (Living) Waters,
Which **spreads** out its **ROOTS** by the river,
And 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** from **yielding FRUIT** -

Google/Wiki Answers: "How do I make my fruit tree bear fruit.?"

“You Can not force a fruit tree bear fruit, But with the Proper Care,
Your tree will soon grow fruit.”

3 IMPORTANT PARTS OF A FRUIT TREE

1. ROOTS

2. SHOOTS

3. FRUITS

1. ROOTS

Prov. 12:3

A man is not established (made firm) by ungodliness,
But the root (deep root) of the righteous cannot be moved.
12:12 But the root(deep root) of the righteous yields *fruit*.

**** Foundation, Most Important part of the Tree

**** The Root structure ALONE determines how tall the Tree can grow and how far it can branch out..

3 different kinds of ROOTS in the Bible

1. Root of **Bitterness**
2. Root of **Gods Love**
3. Root of **Faith in Jesus**

Heb. 12:14

Pursue peace with all *people*, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: ¹⁵ 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; -

///→ 1st kind of ROOT = Bitterness

1. Something **disagreeable** that **distresses** the **mind** causing **painful** or **unpleasant emotions**

→ Something **felt** or **experienced** in a **strong** and **unpleasant** way
•something that is **difficult** or **painful** to **accept**.

3 : angry or **unhappy** because of **feelings** of **unfairness** or **disagreement**.

4 : feeling or showing **animosity**, cynicism (**contemptuously distrustful** of human **nature** and **motives**) or **anger**

--> When **bitterness** comes, **OFFENSE** follows

Luke 17:1-2

Then He said to the disciples, "It is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe *to him* through whom they do come! ² It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea,

Defiled =

To make unclean, unpure, and to corrupt. To contaminate, to infect by **contact** or association <bacteria *contaminated* the wound>

Matt. 18:15

¹⁵“If another believer* sins against you,* go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back. ¹⁶But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go back again, so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the person still refuses to listen, take your case to the church.-

2nd Kind of Root = **Gods Love**

Eph 3:17

that *Christ may dwell in your hearts* through faith; that you, being ***rooted*** and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height— ¹⁹ to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. -

NLT

Your **roots** will grow down into ***God's love*** and keep you strong. ¹⁸ And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. ¹⁹ May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God. -

3rd Kind of Root = Faith in Jesus

Col.2:6

As you **therefore** have **received** Christ **Jesus** the Lord, so ***walk*** in Him, ⁷ ***rooted*** and built up in Him ***and*** established (secured by the **roots**) ***of your faith***, as you have been taught, abounding in it with ***thanksgiving***.

GOOD ROOTS = GOOD TREE

BAD ROOTS = BAD TREE

**** SO, **how** do I get **rid** of the **Root** of ***Bitterness***??

→ With the roots of **Gods Love** and **Faith in Jesus**, which is held together by ***THANKSGIVING***

**** **Bitterness** and **Offense** are the easy route, the path of least resistance

that sends **hard & shallow** offshoots in all directions.

Bitterness can **only** poison the **water** in the **soil** and **prevent** **love** and **grace** from **soaking** in

-->The only way **FORWARD** is by going **DEEPER**,

//→ **REMEMBER** - “(Roots) protect the **soil** from **erosion**.”

Shoots

→ If a **tree** is healthy, it is **constantly** producing **new** shoots and branches.

**** **REMEMBER** - **Trees** receive an **estimated** **90%** of their **nutrition** from the **atmosphere** and only **10%** from the **soil**.

**** Your **Shoots** and **branches** can **only** grow when your **roots** are healthy and **inward growth** is **happening**

Discipleship

Discipleship is the **process** of **learning** about the **teachings** of **Jesus**, **internalizing** them and then **acting** upon them, through **hands on** experience, **group studies** and the **help** of other **believers**.

Branch = .A secondary outgrowth or subdivision of a main axis, a limb.

1. A limited part of a larger or more complex unit or system, especially:
 - a. An area of specialized skill or knowledge, especially academic or vocational, that is related to but separate from other areas: the judicial branch of government; ex.- the branch of medicine called neurology

1 Thes. 5:11

¹¹ So encourage each **other** and build each other **up**,

**** **Jesus** was the **Ultimate Discipler**, He called the **12** to **Relationship** with **Him** before He called them to **action**.....

A Decipler (Christian Mentor)

FIRST they are submitted to the **Lordship** of **JESUS**, they point you to **HIM**, **not THEM**....

--> **SECOND** they have some **track** record of **success**

--> **THIRDLY** - They have **went** through **Discipleship themselves**, & are **walking** as a **disciple** of **Jesus**.

**** Being **Discipled** is a **CHOICE**.....

2 Tim 3:10

....you have **carefully followed** my **doctrine**, **manner of life**, **purpose**, **faith**, **longsuffering**, **love**, **perseverance**, **persecutions**, **afflictions**,

3 Purposes of Tree Branches

1. PRODUCE

*** The **main trunk** just gets **thicker** each year, but the **shoots** and **branches** are how you can **really** tell the **tree** is **healthy** and **growing**.

Jer 17:7

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For **he shall be Like A TREE** planted by the **(Living) Waters**,
Which spreads out its **ROOTS** by the river, And will **not fear** when **heat** comes;
But its **LEAF will be green**, And will **not** be **anxious** in the year of **drought**, And
it will **never** cease from **yielding FRUIT**.

Heb 13:7

Remember your leaders who taught you the word of God. Think of all the good that has come from their lives, and follow the example of their faith.

***** **Areas** of **DISCIPLESHIP** are the **BRANCHES** of your **TREE**

1. **TRUNK = Relationship w/ Jesus**
 2. **Marriage**
 3. **Relationships**
 4. **Character**
 5. **Vocation**
 6. **Giftings/Calling**
 7. **Family**
 8. **Christian Disciplines**
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2. PROVIDE

***** **Shoots** and **Branches** are the **main** source of **PROVISION** for the **tree**.

***** **REMEMBER =** **Trees** receive an **estimated 90%** of their **nutrition** from the **atmosphere** and only **10%** from the **soil**.

**** **There are 2 Factors that effect the growth of a tree branch:**

1. Light

2. Wind

--> In our **Spiritual Trees**, through **DISCIPLESHIP**, we experience **Spiritual Growth** through drawing **Closer** to the **light** of **Jesus**...

--> It's **interesting** that **branches can't share food**, but **disease** will **spread** to the **entire tree** and **all the branches** if not removed **immediately**.

***** You **can't rely** on your **work** in **one area** of **Discipleship** to just **take care** of the **others**.....you need **Gods light** in **EVERY AREA** of your **life**.....

3. PRUNED

John 15:1 - "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; **and every branch that bears fruit He prunes**, that it may bear **more fruit**. ³

You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

⁵ "I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered

It's only **EVERY BRANCH THAT BEARS FRUIT that is PRUNED**

→ **SO** it may bear **MORE FRUIT!**

Proper **pruning (training)** of young trees is **critical**. **Waiting** to **prune** a tree until it is **mature** can **create** the **need** for **larger cuts** that the tree **cannot** easily **close**.

→ All inward facing **shoots** must be removed.

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- 2. PROVIDE**
- 3. PRUNED**