

Open: Have you ever gardened and wondered why some plants do better than others? There are many factors that can ensure a plant's success or failure. The roots often determine whether a planting will be successful or not. In Christ. We are no different. Our roots in Christ define the success of our future. Over the next couple of weeks, we are going to do a spiritual check up on our roots to see if they are up for the task of bearing an abundant harvest of fruit.

Key Scripture: John 15:14-16 14You are My friends if you do what I command you. 15No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not understand what his master is doing. But I have called you friends, because everything I have learned from My Father, I have made known to you. 16You did not choose Me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will remain—so that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He will give you. ** Where God sees no fruit, there is no favor. The fruit we produce brings glory to the Son Jesus Christ, which is our mission and purpose.

Key Point: The deeper the roots the greater the fruit. God wants His people to produce a harvest that lasts. To do this we are going to need strong and healthy roots.

1. What do roots do?

- a. Roots secure a plant during Tumultuous weather.

- b. Roots help a plant capture water, even in a drought.
- c. Roots allow the plant to pull valuable minerals from the soil it is planted in.
- d. Roots bring health to the plant and can help revive a tree that is sick.

2. Key Point: Like roots on a tree, the roots of a believer's life are connections to God, his Holy Spirit, the word of God and the people of God. When these connections are not healthy or complete our fruit will lack. Modern Christianity today, has become a shallow, hollow, shell of what Jesus intended it to become. The result is that we have less fruit on the earth today than a generation ago.

3. Key Point: Roots do not spring up overnight, they take time to grow and to mature. A strong and mature root system in our lives will take effort on our part. Christianity is not a spectator religion, but participatory relationship. The roots grow before the leaves, flowers, and fruits. **Do not get discouraged when all you see is dirt at first, breakthrough will come in time.**

4. What are Spiritual Roots?

- a. Your connection to Jesus Christ (The Vine) through the Holy Spirit
- b. Experiences in God throughout your Christian journey

- c. Testimonies of God's working in your life
- d. Scriptural principles that you have gleaned and memorized.
- e. Relationships with mentors, godly people, and people you are pouring into.

5. How is your Connection to Jesus Christ?

- a. Is it healthy, growing, maturing?
- b. How do we know it is healthy? Faith, every relationship is built on trust. Are you trusting Jesus more today than you did at the start of your relationship?
- c. A lack of trust in Jesus is evidenced by increased levels of anxiety, stress, and striving in our own strength.

6. Is your mind full of all that God has done?

- a. Root sickness is caused when we forget all that God has done in our lives.
- b. Spiritual Roots are a good memory. Some of the healthiest Christians are those who journal or take notes in life.
- c. The Holy Spirit will bring back those memories during important times in your life if you will listen. John 14:26
John 14:26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you."

7. The Power of testimony

- a. The conflict between God and His enemies is concerning His “word” “testimony” “Commandment.” Satan tempted Eve in the garden with the words “**Did God really say?**” God’s testimony in the earth is meant to test people in order that He might choose a people who will agree, believe, and obey His words in the earth.
- b. Old Testament “ark of the Covenant or “ark of Testimony”
- c. A testimony stands as a record of witness in a person’s life.
- d. The ark held the law (will) that God spoke to Moses of the Ten Commandments. The testimony of that ark was a living word that spoke to the Children of Israel. To Israel it was a law often that came against them when they broke it.
- e. Remember that the ark of the covenant with the testimony had over it what is called the “Mercy seat” because God desires mercy and not to judge. God will judge but has offered mercy first.
- f. Since your life’s roots are a recorded testimony of God’s working it is important to understand that healthy roots

include a life of abundant, consistent, and living testimonies.

g. We are called recall the works of God in scripture. Deuteronomy 5:15 Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and that the LORD ... God brought you out of there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore, the LORD your God has commanded you to observe the sabbath day.

h. Deuteronomy 8: 2 And you shall remember all the way which the LORD your God has led you in the wilderness these forty years, in order to humble you, putting you to the test, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments (word or testimony) or not.

i. The children of Israel were commanded to keep the testimony (root) of all that God had done for them in every generation so they and their children would not forget.

8. God has Chosen you to keep His Testimony (roots) in the earth.

a. Genesis 18:19 For I have chosen him (literal meaning is “I have known Him,” so that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him.”

- b. Abraham was chosen because God knew that Abraham would obey His word and teach His children the covenant and encourage them to do the same. God knew that Abraham would make sure His kids would know the Lord and understand His precepts. God knew that Abraham would be faithful to cultivate roots for His children.**
- c. Life Lesson: Is the root of God's word being passed on to your children, or have you given up sharing God's working in your life with them? Do not leave them without answers. Tell them what God has done in your life.**
- d. A study of scripture shows that Abraham's children knew of God, but they did not always do what God wanted them to do. Our job is to be the best example we can be to our children. Our kids are listening to our actions.**
- e. Abraham and Isaac Genesis 22:16-18** 16saying, "By Myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your only son, 17I will surely bless you, and I will multiply your descendants like the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will possess the gates of their enemies. **18And through your offspring all nations of the earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.**"

- f. God tests Abraham to see if He will honor God's word, commandment above His own child/promise.**
- g. God is looking for His "testimony" root to continue in the earth through a people that will honor, fear and reverence Him above all other cultural "norms."**
- h. Why was Abraham so abundantly blessed? Because the word of God was remembered among the people of Israel. God favored the children of Israel because they were those who would keep the root of His testimony alive in the earth. Today that mission has been given to the Church to proclaim the gospel of the Kingdom coming.**

Conclusion: If we want to have God's blessing and favor upon our lives, we must be committed to the gospel which is the testimony of Jesus Christ in the earth. The testimony of Jesus being alive in us allows God to bless and favor our life. Our roots in Jesus must be right. Over the next few weeks examine your roots in God

- a. What are the things you believe about God?**
- b. Your willingness to serve God in His Testimony**
- c. How much of your life is dependent on God?**
- d. How are you being like "Abraham" in training your children in righteousness?**
- e. What steps do you need to take to grow your roots deeper in Christ?**