



GOAT, PART 2: ROOTS

In the Christian life, we never stand still—we either go forward or gradually slip backward. “Let us go on to maturity!” is the call we must obey (Heb. 6:1, literal translation). The Christian who is not making spiritual progress is an open target for the enemy to attack and destroy.

BIG IDEA: **Roots of Truth Build Lives of Thankfulness.**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some reasons why believers seem to stop growing spiritually and lose their vitality in their walk with Christ?
2. What are some of the consequences of being spiritually stagnant?
3. In our culture, we hear things like, “Follow Your Heart” and “Do What Makes You Happy” or “Find Your Truth”. What do all of these comments have in common?

Woven into the fabric of each of these ways of thinking is the idea that we openly accept each one and never speak a word of dislike or disapproval, because we may offend someone. We’re so busy trying not to offend every thought, word and action of our culture and society that we don’t truly stand for ANYTHING, because we’re told to accept EVERYTHING. The church at Colossae didn’t stand for anything, because they were accepting of every thought and belief system.

4. With your Bible or YouVersion, read Colossians 2:

I am telling you this so no one will deceive you with well-crafted arguments. ⁵ For though I am far away from you, my heart is with you. And I rejoice that you are living as you should and that your faith in Christ is strong. And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. ⁷ Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness. Don’t let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ. ⁹ For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body. ¹⁰ So you also are complete through your union with Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority.

Colossians 2:4-10 (NLT)

5. What pictures of spiritual progress did Paul use in this section? What principle does each picture teach?
6. How can we recognize in practical ways each of these criteria for progress in our own lives?
7. What spiritual perils did Paul point out to the Colossians?
8. What connection is there between these perils and Paul’s emphasis in the preceding verses on making spiritual progress?”



9. What tangible evidence can others observe that Christ is real to you and that you are seeking to make Him first in your life?
10. Paul's first comment in this section is a bold statement. He writes, "I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments" (Col. 2:4). Why do you think he makes such a statement?
11. Choose one verse or phrase from Colossians 2:4–15 that stands out to you. This could be something you're intrigued by, something that makes you uncomfortable, something that puzzles you, something that resonates with you, or just something you want to examine further. Write that here. What strikes you about this verse?
12. Paul encourages the Colossians to stay on course by saying that he is "present with [them] in spirit." When we're confused about what's right and what's not, how can connections with fellow believers help? Why is it tempting to try to figure things out on our own, rather than building consistent relationships with fellow believers?
13. In verse 6, the Christian life is compared to a pilgrimage, and believers must learn to walk. Paul had already encouraged his readers to "walk worthy of the Lord" (Col. 1:10), and later he used this image again (Colossians 3:7; 4:5). In the Ephesian epistle, the companion letter to the Colossian epistle, Paul used the image at least seven times (Ephesians 2:2, 10; 4:1, 17; 5:2, 8, 15).
14. Paul uses the word "rooted" to describe the believer's condition (2:7). What does he mean by "rooted"? How is this imagery of particular significance for Christians facing attacks or dealing with questionable doctrine? How can a person walk (that is, keep moving) and still be rooted?
15. Which of the pictures of spiritual progress in this passage best describes what you want to be like this week? How can you help make it a reality?

MOVING FORWARD

How many times have you ever left your time on social media or from spending time with others who think differently than you feeling THANKFUL? We usually come away from those experiences feeling "less than" and "not enough." Don't miss the fact that when we have roots that grow deep in Him—we build our lives on truth and we will OVERFLOW with thankfulness.

Overflowing thankfulness cannot be contained; it spills out on those around us. It makes a difference in our life and in the lives of those we interact with.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness. *Colossians 2:7 (NLT)*

