

# Great Thoughts

Strength and power impresses us. In our language, “size, power, and stamina” are all words that create a certain picture that is desirable. We want to be strong. From our youngest days. It carries over into our adulthood. Almost nobody sets out saying “I want to be weak,” or “I like weak or puny things.” In Psalm 1.3 – God uses the image of a tree to describe spiritual strength. This tree is strong, fruitful, and enduring. Withstands all the changing seasons, storms. It is immovable. It’s influence is widely felt. This is a key passage on describing spiritual strength. During January we are looking at things with an eye of self-examination. Am I allowing God to root me as deeply as possible into Christ, who is my life source?

## I. Why is it so important to be deeply rooted?

- A. Weakness hurts the church
  - 1. Can’t get elders or good bible class teachers from weak Christians.
  - 2. Weak Christians are usually unhappy with their spiritual life.
  - 3. How would you define a “weak” Christian?
- B. Well Rooted Christians:
  - 1. Pursue godly living and truth above all else; Live with honesty & integrity.
  - 2. Think little of self and more about others; Are in tune with & in touch with people.
  - 3. Pray; Are comfortable in the Scriptures.
- C. Back to Psalm 1.
  - 1. 1.1: *How happy is the one who does not **walk** in the advice of the wicked or **stand** in the pathway with sinners or **sit** in the company of mockers!*
  - 2. 1.3: *He is like a **tree** planted beside flowing streams that bears its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.*
- D. How do we become strong; fruitful; enduring?

## II. What we think is important.

- A. Our thoughts determine what we do.
  - 1. Mark 7:23: *All these evil things come from **within** and defile a person.*
  - 2. We think...then we act. Problems begin with the mind.
- B. What we think is important:
  - 1. Proverbs 4:23: **Guard** your heart above all else, for it is the source of life.
  - 2. Colossians 3:2: **Set** your minds on things above, not on earthly things.
  - 3. Psalm 1:2: *Instead, his **delight** is in the Lord’s instruction, and he **meditates** on it day and night.*

## III. How does a Christian think good thoughts?

- A. Fill your mind with Scripture
  - 1. Colossians 3:16: *Let the word of Christ dwell richly among you, in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another through psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.*
- B. Take every thought captive
  - 1. 2 Corinthians 10:5: *...we take **every thought** captive to obey Christ.*

## IV. As We Close...

- A. All of us need to commit to becoming spiritually strong. When we do, we’ll have strong families.
- B. Spend an entire week of thinking good. On right things. On positive things.
- C. What do you think about?