

# Stems

## Isaiah 11:1- 4 (NLT)

1 Out of the stump of David's family will grow a shoot— yes, a new Branch bearing fruit from the old root. 2 And the Spirit of the LORD will rest on high — the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. 3 He will delight in obeying the LORD. He will not judge by appearance nor make a decision based on hearsay. 4 He will give justice to the poor and make fair decisions for the exploited. The earth will shake at the force of his word, and one breath from his mouth will destroy the wicked.

Tonight, I want to speak to you for the next few moments on the subject of “Stems”. Let's pray together.

Story about moving (where the plants were placed)

I made a secret bet with all the guys that were helping us load, that those plants in the back of the car wouldn't last the journey from Columbus, Ga. to West Monroe. The branches of the plants were being stressed and forced into small places, they would be in extreme heat, and my doubting list went on and on. After the long journey, much to my surprise, when we unloaded all of the plants, everyone of those plants survived the journey.

They did look somewhat withered and bent out of shape, but their survival wasn't based upon their outward appearance, or the condition of the limbs after that long journey in an unusually cramped environment. Matter of fact, their sustainability wasn't proven by how they looked at the end of the journey. As long as their **stems** were in tact and continued to supply them with water, they would live!

I simply want to be an echo of the prophet Isaiah tonight and tell you that God wants to place a stem without you, a shoot, a new branch that will bear fruit from the old root. There should be a God-stem within you that produces wisdom, understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. And as long as that stem is

supplying you with living water, YOU SHALL LIVE AND NOT DIE!

Every fruit has a root, and every root has a stem.

### **Galatians 5:22-23 (NLT)**

“But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!”

Each of these have a stem!

Tonight, I want to focus on the first 3 fruits of the spirit. Love, joy, and peace.

What are the stems of Love?

### **1 Corinthians 13:1-7 (NLT)**

“If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn’t love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. **2** If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God’s secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn’t love others, I would be nothing. **3** If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it;<sup>[a]</sup> but if I didn’t love others, I would have gained nothing.

**4** Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud **5** or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. **6** It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. **7** Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.”

The 1st thing I want you to know about the stem of love is:

**The stem of love has conditions.**

The 2nd thing I want you to know about the stem of love is:

**The stem of love produces a culture.**

The 3rd thing I want you to know about the stem of love is:

**The stem of love is continuous.**

### **Hebrews 12:1-2 (NLT)**

1 "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. 2 We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne."

The 1st thing I want you to know about the stem of joy is:

**The stem of joy has a posture.**

The 2nd thing I want you to know about the stem of joy is:

**The stem of joy has a position.**

The 3rd thing I want you to know about the stem of joy is:

**The stem of joy has a perspective.**

### **Proverbs 22:24-25 (NLT)**

24 Don't befriend angry people or associate with hot-tempered people, 25 or you will learn to be like them and endanger your soul.

### **Isaiah 32:17-18**

17 “And this righteousness will bring peace. Yes, it will bring quietness and confidence forever. 18 My people will live in safety, quietly at home. They will be at rest. 19 Even if the forest should be destroyed and the city torn down, 20 the LORD will greatly bless his people. Wherever they plant seed, bountiful crops will spring up.”

I have 3 questions for you about peace tonight. The first question is:

#### **Are you at peace with yourself?**

### **Psalms 4:8**

8 “In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, O LORD, will keep me safe.”

#### **Are you at peace with others?**

23 “So if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, 24 leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God.

#### **Are you at peace with God?**

### **Isaiah 26:3**

3 You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!