



## Rooted Series Part 3

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Please Stand for the Reading of God's Word

Psalm 92:10-15 - <sup>10</sup>But you have exalted my horn like that of the wild ox; you have poured over me fresh oil. <sup>11</sup>My eyes have seen the downfall of my enemies; my ears have heard the doom of my evil assailants. <sup>12</sup>The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon. <sup>13</sup>They are planted in the house of the Lord; they flourish in the courts of our God. <sup>14</sup>They still bear fruit in old age; they are ever full of sap and

green,<sup>15</sup> to declare that the Lord is upright; he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him. (You May Be Seated)

Notice the words of the Psalmist in verses 13, <sup>18</sup>They are planted in the house of the Lord; they flourish in the courts of our God.” They are planted in the House; but if one is planted in the House then that means that they are rooted in the House and it is their roots that establishes their capacity to grow.

Church, the following statement rings true in every arena of life; healthy things grow. And if we are healthy as a Church and as a Christ Follower then we are going to naturally grow. This is why it is imperative that we are Rooted in Christ! Because if we are rooted in Him then we are going to naturally grow in Him. To be Rooted in Christ generates the Fruit of Christ. If we are not Rooted in Him then we will not bear the Fruit of Him.

Jesus said in the Gospel of Saint John 15:1-5, “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.<sup>2</sup> Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.<sup>3</sup> Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you.<sup>4</sup> Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.<sup>5</sup> I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.”

Notice that the goal, as defined by Christ, is to be Fruitful and not Beautiful. To bear fruit and not just bare the signs of being fruitful; not having a form of Godliness but denying the power thereof as Paul discussed with Timothy in 2 Timothy 3:1-5, “But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. <sup>2</sup>For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, <sup>3</sup>heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, <sup>4</sup>treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, <sup>5</sup>having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.” Notice verse 5, Paul gives us an insight here when he said that in the last days, people will have an appearance of godliness but denying its power; they will be religious but not rooted in a true religious expression therefore denying the power thereof. They will be more concerned about their appearance to others, in hopes that people will perceive them as being godly and good, but in actuality they are more consumed with their perception of being religious than their purpose of being powerful.

The purpose of being Fruitful in Christ is to lend credence to your Gifting in Christ; the Gifts of the Holy Spirit being made manifest, found in 1 Corinthians chapter 12 through chapter 14, are only impactful if the Fruit of the Holy Spirit, found in Galatians 5 are manifested as well.

But far too many want to manifest the Gifts of the Spirit without bearing the Fruit of the Spirit. But bottom line, the Fruit and the Gifts are both birthed in our lives by being Rooted in Christ and the Spirit of God operating in our daily lives.

Roots are important for life, stability, and fruitfulness of the Tree and if trees have to be rooted in the soil to be alive, to be stable, and to manifest fruit then how much more should we, as Christians, be Rooted in Christ to be alive, to be stable, and to manifest fruit. Remember, Jesus told us that He is the Vine and we are the Branches; if we are not rooted in Him then we will never be fruitful.

Remember verses 4 and 5 of the Gospel of Saint John chapter 15, “<sup>4</sup>Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.” And Church, if we want to be fruitful and powerful then we must be rooted deeply into the Vine; we need to be deeply rooted in Christ.

So let's talk about the Requisites of Roots, point #1:

### 1. Roots have a way of turning Barriers into Anchors

- a. Our roots in Christ wields the Power to turn our History into His Story.

- b. Have you ever thought back over your life with all the bad decisions, mistakes, moments of weakness and thought to yourself, “How did I even make it this far in light of the messes and the mistakes and the mishaps and missteps of my life?”
- c. But now, looking back, as the southern gospel song declared, “I wouldn’t take nothing for my journey now!” And it is those barriers that turn into anchors because we can look back and declare by faith that if He is able to see me through that then He can see me through this! If He was faithful then, He will be faithful now! If He was a way maker then, He’s a way maker now. If He was a healer then, He’s a healer now. If He was a bondage breaker then, He’s a bondage breaker now.
- d. Just because my circumstances change does not mean that His character has; According to Hebrews 13:8, my Bible tells me that He is the same yesterday, today and forever more! Hallelujah!
- e. The Barriers of life that we have all encountered are testimonies to others but they are realities for us. They are a part of our story and He has the Power to turn our History into His Story!

f. 2 Corinthians 3 in the New King James Version declares in verses 1-3, “Do we begin again to commend ourselves? Or do we need, as some *others*, epistles of commendation to you or *letters* of commendation from you? <sup>2</sup>You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men; <sup>3</sup> clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, *that is*, of the heart.”

g. Christian, the world is reading the story of the Gospel in real time when they read His Story in Your Story! When they see His Life in Your Life! When they see His Character in Your Character. We are Living Epistles known and read of all men! And Christ has a way of turning the Barriers of our Past into the Anchors of our Faith that gives us Hope for the Future!

h. But not only do our Roots have a way of turning Barriers into Anchors, Point #2...

## 2. Our Roots have a way of Growing Deeper than the Tree is Tall

- a. Private Devotion Always Leads to Public Demonstration
- b. Jesus gave us tremendous insight into the Power of Private Devotion in the Gospel of Saint Matthew 6:5-6, “<sup>5</sup> And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. <sup>6</sup> But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”
- c. Church Family, we will never be more powerful than our prayer life! Prayer must be a priority or power will be prohibited. If we want the blessing of the Father then we must get alone with the Father; breakthrough falls on bended knees.
- d. And the higher the heights that our Church ascends, the deeper the anchor must go in Christ, in His Word, and in the Flow of His Spirit. We will never ascend in the Purposes of God until we first descend in the Presence of God.



- e. The Apostle Paul declared in the Book of Ephesians 3:15-19, <sup>14</sup>“For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, <sup>15</sup>from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, <sup>16</sup>that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup>so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, <sup>18</sup>may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, <sup>19</sup>and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”
- f. Because Paul was Anchored in Christ, he survived the storms of Crisis; notice the words of Paul in 2 Corinthians 11:21-30, <sup>21</sup>“To my shame, I must say, we were too weak for that! But whatever anyone else dares to boast of—I am speaking as a fool—I also dare to boast of that. <sup>22</sup>Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they offspring of Abraham? So am I. <sup>23</sup>Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one—I am talking like a madman—with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death. <sup>24</sup>Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. <sup>25</sup>Three times I



was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; <sup>26</sup> on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; <sup>27</sup> in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. <sup>28</sup> And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the Churches. <sup>29</sup> Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to fall, and I am not indignant? <sup>30</sup> If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness.”

- g. Because John was Anchored in Christ, he received Revelation in the midst of Reviling; during his banishment to the Isle of Patmos as a death sentence to die in the rock mines of this dreadful island, John's Distress postured him for the Greatest Revelation ever given to man post-resurrection of Christ Himself. Namely, the book of the Revelation.
- h. But far too many Christians want a Testimony without the Trial, want a Word without the Work, want a Breakthrough without the Breaking, want a Miracle without the Measure!

- i. And dear friends, nothing about the building of our faith nor the experience of God is for the faint of Heart nor the weak in Spirit!
- j. But not only do our Roots have a way of Growing Deeper, Point #3...

### 3. Roots have a way of finding Resource in a Barren Place

- a. Our roots in Christ wield the Capacity to find Resource in Uncommon Places
- b. Power from a Staff –
  - i. Exodus 14:15-16, “<sup>15</sup>The Lord said to Moses, “Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. <sup>16</sup>Lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go through the sea on dry ground.”
  - ii. You are not an inanimate object; you are the very creation of God fashioned from the Hands of God.
  - iii. If God can anoint a piece of wood to part oceans, then why would you think that He can’t anoint you to move mountains?
  - iv. But not only can God use a staff to part seas of impossibility, He can cause Water to flow from a Rock;

He can cause a Point of Resource to manifest from an Unsourced Point.

c. Water from a rock -

i. Exodus 17:4-7 - “So Moses cried to the Lord, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.”<sup>5</sup> And the Lord said to Moses, “Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. <sup>6</sup>Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink.” And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel.<sup>7</sup> And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the Lord by saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?””

d. My question for all of us today is simple; Is the Lord among us or not? In the text previously read, the Hebrews were testing the Lord in their hearts but today I am seeking to use this question to test us, not the Lord. Is the Lord among us or not?

- e. The fact that we are still here is testimony enough. The fact that our Church is still standing is testimony enough. The fact that we survived 2020 as a Church family is testimony enough. The Bible says in Revelation 19:10 that the Testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of Prophecy. And if our testimony of Christ, as a Church and as individuals, is the Spirit of Prophecy then His power that He has demonstrated among us in the past year is a prophetic glimpse of our future as a Church and as individuals.
- f. He will see us through, He will show up powerfully, He will bring unity, He will bring correction, He will bring order, He will bring healing, He will bring provision, He will make a way where there seems to be no way. Church family, if our testimony is the record of our past and our testimony is prophetic, prophetic being insight for the future, then we can rest in Him because we are Rooted in Him because the Same God who showed up in our Past is the Same God who is already in our future making a way for us and for His Church. God is not yet done with The Assembly West Monroe! Church family, The Best Is Still Yet To Come!