



Root to Fruit Part 2 - Up: Growth has a Direction

Overview

God's timing is intentional, and growth requires all of us heading in the same direction. When we treat faith like a grocery store—bouncing around to consume what we like—we stall. But when we choose to root deep in Christ and community, we move from being **consumers** to **contributors** who bear lasting fruit for others.

Part 1: Icebreaker & Welcome

1. What is one product or grocery item where you feel completely overwhelmed by the number of options available?
2. Looking back at this past week, what is one thing you are **abounding in thanksgiving** for right now?

Part 2: The Core Message

Colossians 2:6–7

"Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving."

1. **Grocery Store vs. Grove:** The sermon made the distinction that *"Church isn't a grocery store; it's a grove."*
 - What does a "consumer mindset" look like when it comes to church or faith?
 - How does viewing the church as a **grove** (a family rooted together) change how we show up each week?
2. **Growth Has a Direction:** Colossians mentions being "rooted and built **UP**." Moving toward fruit means moving away from something else.
 - What are some things we often have to leave behind (e.g., comfort, self-reliance, past habits) in order to keep growing upward and outward?

Part 3: Alignment & Unity

Ephesians 4:11–16 & John 15:1–8

1. **The Trunk & Alignment:** A tree's trunk grows in one direction and keeps the entire organism united. In our church, our mission keeps us aligned:

We exist to help people find and follow Jesus by doing three things:

Gather - We gather into Gospel-centered community

Scatter - We scatter to serve our church, city and world

Multiply - We multiply by making disciples who become disciple makers

- Why is alignment and unity so vital for a church family? What happens to a tree—or a church—when different parts try to grow in completely opposite directions?
- 1. **Contributing vs. Consuming:** Read **John 15:2, 8**. Jesus makes it clear that God expects our lives to bear fruit.
 - How would you define "spiritual fruit" in your everyday life?
 - Gavin asked: "*Who will be in heaven because of you?*" How does that question challenge or encourage the way you live out your faith daily?

Part 4: Personal Application & Action

1. **Identify Your Next Step:** Where do you currently feel you are on this spectrum?
 - **Rooting:** Getting deeper into God's Word and authentic community.
 - **Building Up:** Maturing in faith and aligning with the mission.
 - **Bearing Fruit:** Serving, giving, and reaching others.
2. **Jumping In:** Growth happens when we move from spectator to participant.
 - What is one specific area (such as joining a Serve Team, reaching out to a neighbor, or committing to a small group) where God is prompting you to stop consuming and start contributing?

Prayer Focus

- **Thankfulness:** Thank God for His perfect timing and for placing you in community.
- **Rootedness:** Ask the Holy Spirit to root everyone deeper in Christ and in authentic fellowship.
- **Fruitfulness:** Pray for opportunities this week to share the Gospel and serve others, trusting God to produce lasting fruit through your lives.