

January 30

Psalm 52:8 (NIV) ⁸But I am like an olive tree flourishing in the house of God; I trust in God's unfailing love for ever and ever.

As I was reading my morning devotions, this was one of the passages listed. At first, I read over it before stopping because the imagery caught my attention. There is much debate today about the accuracy, authority, and reliability of God's Word. Even within the church, we will find numerous debates centering around whether one should take the Bible as the literal word of God or as a guidebook that can adapt with time. I, for one, believe the Bible is God's word to us and is meant to be studied, understood, and obeyed. Thus, I found today's verse captivating because God could have used any tree to describe us as we flourish in His house. So, I wondered why He compared us to an olive tree.

Olive trees can live for thousands of years. They have a shallow root system that spreads out just below the surface to give it stability and a deep tap root that goes deep into the ground so it can draw water in times of drought. They do not even need to be watered. It produces prolific amounts of fruit. Some trees, dated to be over 1500 years old still produce abundant crops. The fruit is incredibly healthy. Olive trees are evergreen, which means their foliage remains green all year long. Finally, olive trees are virtually indestructible. Because of its robust root system, olive trees are able to regenerate themselves even if the above-ground structure is destroyed by fire, frost, or disease. What a beautiful image God chose to describe our lives in Him. Jesus enables us to be fruitful, to be strong, to be resilient, to withstand the persecutions of this world, and to share our fruit with everyone. That is the Word of God.