

CCC Roots P2

When God wants to make a mushroom he takes 6 hours.
When God wants to make an oak tree He takes 60 years...
The question is do you want to be a mushroom or do you want to be an oak tree.

I have been a Christian for close to 30 yrs now and for the last 25 of those 30 yrs I have mentored and taught many Christian, those who desire to a follower of Christ, those who have surrender their life to Christ. I what I always have shared is this: See, I can teach you how to grow a healthy balance relationship with Christ. But, I cannot teach you how to do it quickly. It is impossible it takes time to develop roots just like the oak tree unless you want to be a mushroom Christian.

Calvary is a church that continues to grow year after year after year... in the 9 years we have been here we have

had over 400 people give their life to Christ and be Baptized. We have more small groups functioning this year then ever before and have others in the wings ready to start soon. How do we do this year after year with all the adversities we have had come against us... and the answer is roots. We don't put our faith in our building, in our programs, in our appearance list of do's and don'ts...

Now when we say 400 people have made a faith statement of desiring to want to be a Christian and have been baptized. You look around and say where they are and that's a good question... Let me share with you something you can try and figure this Christianity all out on your own, you can try and figure out **what you want** to call being a follower of Christ is or **what you want** to say surrendering your life to Christ is and figure it all out on your own. But let me tell you we have 2000 of history and an instruction

manual called God word the bible to teach us and show us and there is no other way. In other words you can try and figure it all out on your own or you can learn from others who came before... It wise to learn from experience but it's wiser to learn from the experiences of others also... and learning from others is a lot less painful. That's why we have God's word, the bible, we can learn from the Apostles and 2000 years of church history, from those who have gone before us or you can try and work it all out on your own like ½ of those 400 people tried and tell me where are they? You can try that...

If you ever want to read a good book read Rick Warrens book "The Purpose Driven Life" and look at the front cover it is a picture of an Oak tree with roots running down into the soil deep.

Because that what it's about building roots. Here is a simple Christian saying that goes like this: No roots, No fruits. We talk and try all kind of things here we try and use the latest technology, the latest fads, skits, testimonies that's all good ... We were one of the first churches to host a Celebrate Recovery 12 step meeting in the State of Maryland and actually we are the oldest still running meeting in the state of Maryland now and were still functioning. I want to give those people a round of appreciation, would you join me.

The point I am trying to make here it's great to have all the latest updated what's happening things... But without them being root in Christ they are nothing. You want to know why we have the oldest Celebrate recovery in the state of Maryland it's rooted into Jesus Christ, not the steps, not the program, but rooted in Christ.

Today we're going to talk about building spiritual roots in your life.

You have to have roots and they have to go down.

Read with me aloud if you will Col. 2:6-7 (NLT)

“Just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to live in obedience to him. Let your roots grow down into him and draw up nourishment from him” Circle the word obedience and the word root. Next week we're going to talk about obedience. But, you have to have roots and they have to go down. To be a follower of Christ, to be someone who surrenders their life to Christ is to be rooted in Christ, is to be rooted in His word, to be rooted in love. And last week we saw that this love that that Jesus talked about included forgiveness for all, when he said, “Love your enemies.” To be a follower of Christ, to be someone who surrenders their life to Christ is to be rooted in Christ,

is to be rooted in His word, to be rooted in His love. Listen when you're rooted... you can be like Calvary no matter what hits you to can last 9 years, you can be like Calvary no matter what comes into your life you can stay the course.

I want you to get this point also... Listen there is absolutely no correlation between the time you have been a Christian, to the depth of your roots. You can be an old flabby Christian or you can be an old strong deep rooted Christian, you can be a young flabby Christian or a young strong rooted Christian, older isn't better, younger isn't better, better is better, healthy is better, rooted is better...

The issue for the 21st Century church is not church growth it is church health, because all living things grow if they're healthy. See I am not concerned about Calvary growth I am concerned about its health. And why I say that is if you're

rooted you will grow and live... why because you're rooted. That's true for you personally and us as a church.

Now God's word, the bible says... look at this next verse, **(Read Twice)** Eph. 3:17-19 (NLT) "*May your roots go down deep into the soil of God's marvelous love. This is my prayer for each of you. And may you have the power to understand ...how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love really is. His four dimensional love is... May you experience the love of Christ, though it is so great you will never fully understand it. This is like an ant understanding the workings of a compute. THEN you will be filled with the fullness of life and power that comes from God.*"

(Read Twice)

This morning I read this verse in my quiet time seems as God has been having me focus on this scripture a lot

during my quiet time. 2 Timothy chapter 3... "*...in the last days there will be difficult times. For people will be lovers of themselves and lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy without love, unforgiving, slanders, without self control. They will be cruel and hate what is good, Lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, Having a form of godliness, but denying its power.*"

The problem I see today is many Christians have the form of godliness... but they deny the power. (There is no changed life) Because there is no power in their lives, there no power in their words, there no power in their actions. How do you get the power? That verse we just looked at: "*THEN you will be filled with the fullness of life and power that comes from God.*" How do you get power, Through ROOTS! Rooted in Christ, rooted in the God's word,

rooted in love. Do you realize that every single problem in your life comes from not being rooted in God's love.

Worry, fear, guilt, bitterness, boredom, depression, anxiety, loneliness, stress. One of Jesus most famous stories comes from the parable of the seed, the parable of the sower, He talks about the damage of **rootless ness**. Then he explains why most people don't have productive lives or ministries in their life because there shallow... their superficial.

Look at this next verse, *"They don't have deep roots, so they don't last very long. As soon as life gets hard or the message gets them in trouble, they give up."*

Matt. 13:21 (CEV) Why am I doing this message today. I will tell you... like I said I have been teaching and mentoring Christian for 25 yrs or more and when I look back at all those people who I did work with and stayed with me and developed deep roots they are living healthy

productive Christians lives... they have healthy productive ministries and when I look at the 400 people who in the last 9 years gave their lives to Christ and were baptized and I can easily say over 1/2 of them have left the faith, they allowed life to burn them out, they got burned out morally, they got tired, they got discouraged, they quit the faith. The reason I am preaching this message is because I don't want the same to happen to you. Because listen carefully... you don't get credit for how you started a race you get it for ending it well. And I am committed to you, I am giving you all of my life to you to help you finish well... And the only way you're going to finish well roots, not fads, not therapies, not management, not all these other things you may hear about... and their all good but you will finish the race well with roots, developing roots.

You want to know how many times I have wanted to give up... You want to know how many times I have wanted to resign in the last 10 yrs... Just every Monday Morning... no actually it's Saturday night when I say oh God surely there are those who can do a much better job at this then this... This is the most foolish bunch of words I have ever read.. You know one of the things I have learned about preaching is I don't have to hit home runs every Sunday... But I can hit singles with God's power... and they build deep roots. See I don't have to be a super star to win people to Christ or hit homer runs every week. If that was the case I wouldn't be win many people to Christ. But see you and I don't have to be... we just need to be rooted.

Let me ask you have you felt like giving up on your faith, on your family, on your life, on your ministry... well

guess what you've come to the right place if you have felt that way before... Because I am Doctor Encouragement...

Let's look at our last scripture:

Are You A Blessed Child Of God

"BLESSED are those who trust in the Lord and have made the Lord their hope and confidence. They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought. Their leaves stay green, and they go right on producing delicious fruit."

Jer. 17:7-8 (NLT)

Let me ask you are you ready to step across the line. Are you tired of waffling? Are you tired wavering? Are you ready to go God's way? If you are I want you to stand with me and read aloud this Declaration of Allegiance with me.

NOTE: I would like this to be on the screen but not till after I have asked them to stand. Thank you

MY DECLARATION OF ALLEGIANCE

“Today I am stepping across the line. I’m tired of waffling, and I’m finished with wavering. I’ve made my choice; the verdict is in; and my decision is irrevocable. I’m going God’s way. There is no turning back. I will live the rest of my life serving God’s purposes with God’s people on God’s planet for God’s glory. I will use my life to celebrate his presence, cultivate his character, participate in his family, demonstrate his love and communicate his Word.

Since my past has been forgiven, and I have a purpose for living and a home awaiting in heaven, I refuse to waste any more time or energy on shallow living, petty thinking, trivial talking, thoughtless doing, useless regretting, hurtful resenting, or faithless worrying. Instead I will magnify God, grow to maturity, serve in ministry, and fulfill my mission in the membership of his family.

Because this life is preparation for the next, I will value worship over wealth, “we” over “me”, character over comfort, service over status and people over possessions, position and pleasure. I know what matters most and I will give it all I’ve got. I will do the best I can with what I have for Jesus Christ today. I won’t be captivated by culture, manipulated by critics, motivated by praise, frustrated by problems, debilitated by temptation, or intimidated by the devil. I’ll keep running my race with my eyes on the goal, not the sidelines or those running by me. When times get tough and I get tired, I won’t back up, back off, back down, back out, or backslide. I’ll just keep moving forward by God’s grace. I’m spirit-led, purpose-driven and mission-focused, so I can’t be bought, I will not be compromised, and I shall not quit until I finish the race.

I _____ am a trophy of God’s amazing grace so I will be gracious to everyone, grateful for every day and generous with everything that God entrusts to me. I am rooted in Christ, rooted in love, and rooted in his Word.

I hereby declare my supreme allegiance to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I say however, whenever, wherever, and whatever

you ask me to do, my answer is yes! I’m ready. Anytime. Anyway. Whatever it takes Lord; whatever it takes! I want to be used by you in such a way that on that final day I’ll hear you say, “Well done, good and faithful one. Come on in and let the eternal party begin!”

If you said this Declaration of Allegiance with me I want to encourage you to contact me or Pastor Joan by phone or by email and let us come up with some ideas how you can grow those deep roots in your life.

Let me give you a suggest where to start...

Read a chapter of Proverbs everyday and read Rick Warrens book The Purpose Driven Life.”

Get involved in a small group.

Don’t miss Sunday Morning Worship

Talk with God all the time