

SERMON DESCRIPTION

Ensure that your life is firmly planted in the love of God and that you are grounded in Christ by faith.

SERMON QUESTIONS & OBJECTIVES

1. What do they need to know?
 - God has rooted and grounded you for His glory, for His good pleasure and for His joy.
2. Why do they need to know it?
 - God is working in us mightily by His Spirit.
3. How should we apply it?
 - Allow your roots to go down deeper and be grounded in the firm foundation of Christ and His word.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SERMON

In the book of Isaiah, the prophet refers to the people of God as trees of righteousness that have been planted of the Lord. The purpose of the planting is to bring glory and pleasure to God and His great name.

The concept of being planted, grounded, and rooted is a theme that runs through the entire Bible. The idea of God's people being firmly gripped and established in God, in faith, and rooted in His love is essential for spiritual maturity.

It is interesting to note that there are internal and external plants/trees. The plants that are external are on the outside and they are planted in the earth. This means that they are exposed to the external elements such as rain, sun, storms, and so forth. Interestingly, it is also these elements that help them grow and develop. They are nourished by the nutrients of the earth, sustained by rain and sun. Furthermore, they live according to the changing of the seasons and all that is associated with the transition of time. The growth of these types of plants/trees are not limited since they are planted in the earth. Their roots can continue to grow and spread.

Internal plants, on the other hand, are very different. They grow within a controlled environment; they may even be planted in hot houses where they are not subjected to harsh elements of the environment. Perhaps, they are in a much safer surrounding and usually are planted within pots or planters. The downside of this is that their enlargement is very limited. They may sprout and even grow flowers and fruit, but it is limited. In other words, their roots cannot go beyond the container that they have been planted. Therefore, their safety and comfort become their limitation.

But the trees of righteousness that are planted of the Lord are unlimited in their growth potential. They grow, then enlarge, and they expand on every side. Spiritually speaking, they draw their life from the Son, the rain of the Spirit falls upon them as they enjoy the showers (blessings) of heaven. They are fed and nourished from the earth of God's word, and they are strengthened to blossom and grow fruit. In other words, they are exposed to the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, and their roots grow deeper, and their foundation is built on solid ground.

CENTRAL TRUTH

The children of God are planted by God, they like trees that blossom, they are planted to glorify God.

MAIN PASSAGE

Isaiah 61:3

To console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; ***that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.***"

Prayer for Spiritual Strength

Ephesians 3:14-21 (NKJV)

¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, ¹⁶ that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, ¹⁷ that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height— ¹⁹ to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, ²¹ to Him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 3:14-21 (The Message)

¹⁴⁻¹⁹ My response is to get down on my knees before the Father, this magnificent Father who parcels out all heaven and earth. I ask him to strengthen you by his Spirit—not a brute strength but a glorious inner strength—that Christ will live in you as you open the door and invite him in. And I ask him that with both feet planted firmly on love, you'll be able to take in with all followers of Jesus the extravagant dimensions of Christ's love. Reach out and experience the breadth! Test its length! Plumb the depths! Rise to the heights! Live full lives, full in the fullness of God.

²⁰⁻²¹ God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us.

Glory to God in the church!

Glory to God in the Messiah, in Jesus!

Glory down all the generations!

Glory through all millennia! Oh, yes!

TRANSITION STATEMENT

God desires us to be planted, in other words, to be rooted and grounded in Him, in His word, His truth and His love. However, sometimes we would rather be planted in a pot or a planter within the safety of indoors.

MAIN POINTS

- God plants His children for His own purposes, pleasure, and glory
- The greater our exposure to Christ, the deeper our roots.

Prayer for Spiritual Strength

Ephesians 3:14-16

¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, ¹⁶ that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, ...

1. The strength of the Lord is GRANTED:
 - a. It is by His grace
 - b. It is by His favor
 - c. It is of His mercy
 - d. Strength is a gift that is granted by the Lord
 - e. The believer is strengthened by God in the “inner man”
 - On the inside – the soul and the spirit of an individual
 - Thayer definition:
 - 2) within
 - 2a) the internal inner man
 - 2b) the soul, conscience
 - f. To be strengthened by God
 - Not by some active might but by His spirit, His glorious power
 - A glorious power that works within the believer
 - God does not bully or push us around but rather He works by His Spirit in gentleness and with grace, His loving kindness leads us into all truth
 - Instability is a result of not being grounded in truth
 - You are strong because the strong One lives in you
 - God is the source of your strength.

Ephesians 3:17

...that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ...

2. Christ dwells within the believer through faith
 - a. Through invitation Christ is asked to come and dwell. How do we know that He dwells within us? It is by faith! In other words, it is because we believe it to be so. (John 15:1-8 - abide).
 - Faith is the connection point to the source - which is God
 - It is impossible to please God without faith
 - It is through faith that all things are accomplished.
 - b. By faith the elders received a good report (Hebrews 11:1-3)
 - Hebrews 11:1-2
 - ¹ Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. ² For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.
 - God has a testimony of us, He provides His own report
 - A good report is obtained by faith
 - Abel: The gift of sacrifice – the burden of the Lord

- Noah: Moved by godly fear – Noah was moved by the Spirit of God, we need to be spirit-filled, spirit-lead and spirit-motivated
 - Abraham: Obedience in uncertainty
 - Sarah: Judged God, faithful based on His word – the ability to see beyond what is seen
- c. **ROOTED:** To be planted firmly and deeply
- For example: The greater the tree, the greater its roots - they run deep into the earth gripping and strengthening itself with the ground
 - When you are exposed to Christ, your roots will automatically grow
 - Thayer definition:
 - To cause to strike root, to strengthen with roots, to render firm, to fix, establish, cause a person or a thing to be thoroughly grounded.
- d. **Grounded:** To lay a foundation
- The idea of being established and immovable, for example when it said of a person that they are “grounded”, this means that they are solid, balanced, and not easily swayed.
 - They have foundations that are deep and sure
 - They have foundations that are strong
 - They are strong and stable
 - There are so many unstable people because they are simply not grounded in truth
 - Thayer definition:
 - 1) to lay the foundation, to found
 - 2) to make stable, establish.

Ephesians 3:18

...may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— ...

- To know and understand by more than just knowledge but by every sensory of the spirit, in other words, you know that you know that you know.
 - The dimensions (scope and magnitude) of the love of God
 - To comprehend and to know is to experience personally and not in a theoretical form only
 - We grow in the love of God.
3. “COMPRHEND” - G2638 ([Strong](#)) –
- a. Καταλαμβάνω – katalambano - *kat-al-am-ban'-o*
 - b. From [G2596](#) and [G1983](#); to *take eagerly*, that is, *seize, possess*, etc. (literally or figuratively): - apprehend, attain, come upon, comprehend, find, obtain, perceive, (over-) take. (Strong's Concordance)

Ephesians 3:19-20

¹⁹to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, ...

QUOTES

“The Church is a spiritual house that is connected to the source who is God.”

“We are the planting of the Lord.”

“Strength is granted to us...it is a gift.”

“Strength comes because the strong One lives in me.”

“Rooted-when you are exposed to Christ your roots will grow.”

“Today we have so many unstable people because they are not grounded in the truth.”

“You are rooted in the love of God.”

SERMON CONCLUSION

1Peter 5:10-11

¹⁰ But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. ¹¹ To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When it comes to faith, which person of Hebrews 11 would best describe your personal faith walk? Provide a reason and an explanation for your answer.
2. Have you considered the depth of your roots in Christ? Currently, are they strong or are they deep? Are you rooted in His word?
3. Describe the quality of your faith foundation in Christ. What would an inspector say about your foundations?
4. Define the following terms in a deeper manner and apply them to the Christian walk: rooted and grounded.
5. Why does Paul describe the extravagant love of Christ in the dimensions of capacity and length? Is this just poetic language or does he want us to understand something deeper about this love?
6. Define and discuss the term, “to comprehend”. What does Paul want us to know beyond the knowledge of the mind?
7. How does Christ dwell in our hearts by faith? What does this really mean? Is it really that simple? Does Christ simply come into our hearts because of an invitation?
8. Review 1Peter 5:10-11. What does this mean to you? What stands out to you from these words?
9. How is strength granted to us? How is it a gift?