



***And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water,  
That bringeth forth his fruit in his season;  
His leaf also shall not wither;  
And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.  
Psalms 1:3***

## **Producing Fruit in Season**

*From Pastor's Desk*

The theme verse describes the man who delights in the law of the LORD, meditating on Scripture day and night. He is not drawn into this world, but instead lives a life that is pleasing to God. He ponders on the Word of God, and makes it a continual feast.

Let's focus on the fruit. "He is like a tree...that yields fruit in its season." Most trees do not bear fruit year-round but have seasons for fruitfulness. Humans who walk with God have the potential to bear fruit in different seasons of their life. Some seasons are tough and challenging but through his strength we can produce fruit that will bring glory to God.

When you go through intense seasons, allow God to produce the fruit he is desiring in you. When you abide and delight in the Word, God will plant you. Those nutrients will get into you and you will become fruitful.

Meditating God's Word is very powerful, the Word of God is life-giving. As you meditate like a tall, powerful tree planted in the ground, know that God is not going to cut you down, but gives you sustenance so you may be strengthened.

As Psalm 1 describes, the righteous are firmly planted trees by water. That water must be God's Word. The wicked and sinners are not rooted deeply. They are dry. They can't last when the wind and storms come. They are like a withered tree in the middle of a desert.

Remember his Work of Salvation for Creation. Remember his Son Jesus. Rest in Christ, God's true Word. Stand firm in Christ's works. Think about them when you wake up and go to sleep, when you rise up and when you fall down, when you work and when you come home, when you eat and when you clean, and when you rest. Meditate on his promises, it brings life, peace and joy in all areas of your life.

## **Rooted In Christ**

*By Sherin Thomas*

The Scripture in Psalms 1:3 compares a child of God to a tree that is planted by the riverbank. Examining a tree reveals that its vitality relies on the health of its roots; weak roots lead to a weak tree, a dull trunk, and withering leaves. This analogy highlights the significance of a strong foundation. Let's consider how a child of God can develop deep roots to become a sturdy tree.

### **1. Examine the condition of our hearts and take ownership of our current spiritual status.**

The absorption of water and essential minerals from the soil is the primary function of roots, enabling the growth of trees. When a seed is planted, it aims to establish a taproot that reaches deep into the ground in search of water. Similarly, when we are planted by God, we also develop a taproot that seeks nourishment. It is crucial to determine whether this taproot is drawing sustenance from the Holy Spirit or from worldly influences. The depth to which roots can grow is also influenced by the texture and compactness of the soil. In loose and easily diggable soil, roots can penetrate deeper into the ground. However, in dense and hard soil, roots face a more challenging task as they struggle to push through the compacted layers. In Matthew chapter 13, good soil represents a receptive heart that can produce a fruitful harvest when the word of God is sown into it. Just like the good soil, our hearts need to be cultivated and prepared to receive the word of God, allowing it to take root and grow within us. We should assess whether our hearts are enriched with the word of God and the Holy Spirit or if they have become hardened and unyielding like hard soil.

### **2. You need to learn to place your trust and confidence in God.**

Building a strong foundation in Christ is imperative for spiritual stability and growth, akin to how a tree requires a well-developed root system for longevity and strong anchorage. Trusting God involves developing a close relationship with Him, like spending time with a best friend. By developing a personal and intimate relationship with God through prayer, meditation on His word, and consistent communication, to build a foundation of trust. In Jeremiah 17:7-8, it is emphasized that those who trust in the Lord and have confidence in Him are blessed, and they are like a tree planted by the water. This analogy signifies the importance of placing trust and confidence in God, as it leads to a fruitful life.

### **3. Being filled & anointed by the Holy spirit.**

The scripture advises us to emulate a tree that is firmly rooted by the water and extends its roots towards the stream. The tree's roots naturally gravitate towards the nearest water source, seeking nourishment and sustenance. Therefore, I ask you, in which direction have your roots been growing? Are they deeply entangled in the

world's desires and temptations, or are they securely grounded in the word of God? The Holy Spirit serves as a constant counselor, offering guidance and strength. By seeking the Holy Spirit's counsel daily and prioritizing a connection with Him, individuals can navigate

life's challenges and maintain unwavering faith. To succeed in both worldly matters and spiritual growth, it is vital to be filled with the Holy Spirit daily. As we embark on the new year, may we strive to be like a tree deeply rooted in Christ. Regardless of the varying seasons that trees endure - summer, fall, winter, autumn, and spring - if we remain steadfast in our faith, establish our foundation in Christ and allow the Holy Spirit to nurture us, we will flourish and yield abundant fruit in due time.

## **Rooted In God**

*By Soumya Saji*

The instruction that God has set for us is written in Psalms 1:1 & 2. He says we are blessed when we follow God's law and not walk in the ways of the world. As many of us have come to know, living in this world as a child of God is not an easy task. When the world follows one path, we are called to follow another that contradicts the path of the world. In many situations this can lead us to feeling isolated and vulnerable. Psalms 1:3 is the promise of God that gives us hope. In the first part of Psalms 1:3 we are compared to a tree. God does not compare us to any regular tree, but a tree that is planted by the rivers of water, which means the tree's roots have more access to water and the tree itself is rooted in nourished soil. This is important because water is an essential element to the tree that helps the tree carry out its life giving processes such as photosynthesis and transpiration, in simpler terms water is what gives life to the trees.

This accurately depicts our relationship with the Lord. When we follow his word, we stand on nourished soil and we get our essential elements from our God that gives us life. Additionally, a nourished tree is a strong tree that can withstand many climates such as winds and storms. Just like trees near streams have more access to elements needed for its life; we need to be near God to have more access to the elements needed for our life. Being near God does not mean our problems would go away but it means that we have the essential elements in us to combat our trials and tribulations with peace.

The second part of the verse shows the tree being prosperous by bearing fruit and the leaves not withering, which also describes the prosperity we will have when we follow God. The rest of Psalms 1: 4-6 describes the path of the wicked that leads to destruction. On earth the path of the wicked may seem easier to follow, but our end goal is not accomplishing everything on earth but it is accomplishing the will of God and meeting our father in heaven. In Matthew 7:13-14 Jesus himself says to choose the narrow gate because it's the path that leads to life. It is a rougher path and many times can lead to disapproval from friends and colleagues but it's a path worth taking because our source is God who is not scarce but is abundant and essential like water.

Weekly Meetings		
Date	Time	Location
Tuesday	7:00 PM - 8:00 PM	@ Zoom
Friday	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	@ Zoom
Saturday	7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	@ Church
Mark Your Calendar		
Event	Date	Location
Lady's Meeting	March 9	@Church
Leadership Fasting Prayer	March 16	@Church
Youth Gathering	March 23	@ Don Knabes Park
Fasting Prayer	March 29-31	@ Church
Baptism Service	March 31	@ Church

Pray For Nations		
Country	Capital	Population est.
French Guiana	Cayenne	294,900
Gabon	Libreville	2,349,000
Gambia	Banjul	3,041,000
Georgia	Tbilisi	3,809,000
Germany	Berlin	86,303,000

