

Rooted

Younger Generation Church • December 12, 2009

Where do you find strength and shelter? A family, like a firmly rooted tree, offers much of what we need in the seasons of life, and we especially seek it during the holidays. Where are you rooted in love?

What Kind of Tree am I Part of?

Especially during the holidays, I'm drawn to idealistic visions of family, and sometimes it feels like I don't measure up. I have felt at times like I don't belong.

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. – Ephesians 3:14-15 [NIV]

I'm part of GOD's family tree.

Becoming a Strong Tree

Each ring reflects a season of life for the tree. Each season brings its joys, its challenges, fostering another tree ring—adding to the strength of the tree.

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. – Ephesians 3:16-17a [NIV]

The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God. They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green, proclaiming, "The LORD is upright; he is my Rock, and there is no wickedness in him." – Psalm 92:12-15 [NIV]

In every season, I draw strength and power from the spirit of Christ flowing through me.

Becoming a Sheltering Tree

If you want to know the true strength of a tree, examine its roots.

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. – Ephesians 3:17b-19 [NIV]

Some churches are rooted in tradition, others in style, however it is the church that is rooted and established in Jesus Christ that exhibits well His love and the fullness of GOD beyond knowledge.

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. – Colossians 2:6-7 [NIV]

I'm rooted in Jesus Christ, the love of GOD that knows no measure.

Conclusion

Regardless of the season of life that you are experiencing, whether stormy weather or harvest time, balmy summer days or bleak winter nights, may you find Arlington to be that righteous rooted tree, planted in the house of the Lord, flourishing in the courts of our GOD.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. – Ephesians 3:20-21

Going Further

A Long Obedience in the Same Direction by Eugene Peterson

Connections by Steve Case

Searching for A God to Love by Chris Blake

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