

Planted by the Waters

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

I had the privilege of performing a very special wedding. The groom said beautiful vows that came from his heart. He was very broken as he spoke about the ring with such intensity. This ceremony marked an amazing victory, since this couple had been divorced from each other and now were being remarried. I was so thankful to see the Word of God work in their lives.

These two people were reconciled because they submitted to the guidance of the Word of God. The more they heard the Word, the stronger they became in their faith. Likewise, the more available we are to hear the Word of God, the stronger we will grow in Him for each specific day.

Our days will be according to the strength we get from the Word of God (see Deuteronomy 33:25). When Christians fail, it is a failure in the areas where they have not been planted in the Lord. They may have heard the Word of God.

They may have heard the doctrine. But, they have not been planted with it. Consequently they fail, and sometimes they go down hard.

A plant represents a category of doctrine from the Word of God. As we will see in this booklet, every plant that is not planted by the Lord shall be rooted up (Matthew 15:13), and every category not precisely planted by the Lord shall not take root.

Chapter One

LET THE ROOTS GO DEEP

“Then came his disciples, and said unto [Jesus], Knowest thou that the Pharisees were offended, after they heard this saying?

“But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up” (Matthew 15:12-13*b*).

There isn’t a single person—pastors included—who has all the categories planted, firmly established in his soul. All of us are in the planting process, and many plants have been planted; but in the omniscience and omnipresence of God, there hasn’t been a deep enough planting of some plants. All of us have areas that need to be planted and rooted—*deeply* rooted in us.

The flesh can very easily fail, and God could allow a person to fail if he thinks that he has strength apart from God. We need to be firmly planted and rooted. For example, if someone has

a desire to lust, then they need to be planted in purity. Purity that is able to go in deep becomes deeply rooted in the soul. When purity is planted, then lust is dealt with and resolved.

Every plant that isn't planted by the Lord shall be rooted up. I watch as some young people go off to work in places where the schedule causes them to miss church services. I weep, not because they are working, but because there are areas in which they have not yet been planted. The world can slowly begin to creep into the lives of young people who have never been worldly. The love of the world gets in, a little here and a little there. The love of the Father deteriorates and the friendship of the world takes a grip on their souls. Slowly, they become God's enemies, according to James 4:4, and they do not even realize it. They start going after that which passes away (see 1 John 2:15-17).

If they were planted with categories of doctrine so that the Word of God could take root in their lives, this would not happen. Whosoever does the will of God shall never pass away.

Today, some will read this message and become more deeply rooted than they were before they read it, especially if they allow themselves to be Spirit-taught. Every time I study the Word

of God, whatever category I am studying, the roots of that category go deeper.

The Word Was Sent to Heal

I once received a great letter from a woman who had several nervous breakdowns. She began listening to our radio program, started listening to our taped messages, and started watching our videotaped programs. She came to our annual international convention and began to attend every event at our church that she could. She wrote that after having had three nervous breakdowns and having been placed in a psychiatric ward, she now is totally free. For two and a half years she has had no emotional explosions, no reacting to her husband, no blaming other people—and with no medication.

“Every day, I hear the Word of God through radio; every day, I receive the Word of God through tapes; every day, I praise God; every day, I worship Jesus,” she said. “When I began doing that, I became rooted and grounded in God’s love for me.” According to Colossians 2:7, she became established in His love for her.

In time, the Word of God delivered her. Planted in God’s love for herself, eventually that love was reflected in a deep love for her hus-

band. When it came, it was a reflection of loving herself and loving God first. She was planted in love and that planted her in joy—the first fruit of love.

Be Planted with Faith

I talked with another person about a very serious problem she was having. She said, “This makes me ill.”

And I said, “Really, it does? That problem is very small as far as God is concerned.”

“Well, it could all go wrong,” she responded.

“I don’t think so,” I said again. “You are listening to the voices of strangers. You are listening to the voice of Goliath, but you don’t have to do that.”

This very dear Christian was missing something. She missed being planted in trust, because she was not planted in faith. When we are planted in faith, we do not waver (James 1:6-8). When we are planted in faith, we are not double-minded. When we are planted in faith, we do not have to worry (Matthew 6:30). We are rooted and grounded in faith.

Paul prayed that Christ would dwell in our hearts by faith, and that we would be rooted and grounded in love (Ephesians 3:17). That is our

prayer. Be planted in faith. Be planted in trusting God. Be planted, then be rooted.

Chapter Two
CATEGORIES IN ACTION

Every time we hear a subject on faith, the purpose of the message is to cause us to be planted and then to be more deeply rooted in the category of faith. The world cannot root it up, the devil cannot root it up, because we are planted. The “plant,” or the category, is now deep in the streams of our consciousness. It goes deep into the memory center, and we are planted.

When the Word of God starts dwelling richly in us, that is when we speak with psalms, and hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with grace in our hearts to God (Colossians 3:16). That is when we are finally planted and rooted in faith.

Too many Christians think about what they need instead of thinking about God’s trustworthiness. Their minds are on circumstances and not on the Creator. Their minds are on self and

not on Christ. Their minds are filled with anxiety, not contentment, because they have not been planted.

God will show you the areas in which you are not yet planted. It can be seen in how easily you react with anxiety, discontentment, fear, and insecurity. Yet, all these can be overcome by being planted in faith. Be planted in purity. Be planted in Christ's hatred for the world's system. Be planted in peace. Not just peace that the world offers, but the peace that the Word of God says comes from Christ Himself (John 14:27). Have godliness with contentment (1 Timothy 6:6), and be content in whatsoever state you are in (Philippians 4:11) by being planted in peace. Be planted in longsuffering, planted in gentleness, planted in divine goodness, planted in faithfulness, planted in meekness, planted in self-control.

The most magnificent thing takes place when you are planted. The roots go very deep in the human spirit, the human soul, the human will. You don't get disturbed, you don't get upset. You completely trust God, who sticks closer to you than a brother (Proverbs 18:24).

Real Forgiveness

How many believers are established in forgiveness? Some are, I'm sure. Many Christians are taught about forgiveness. But if we are not planted in forgiveness, we cannot experience forgiveness. This forgiveness is mentioned in Matthew 6:14: "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you."

For example, suppose I were to hear that someone said something that was false against me. Still, if I am planted in a timeless forgiveness, the moment I hear of it, my attitude is one of complete forgiveness without even asking about it. When I see that person, I have already forgiven and forgotten, so I can go to him and embrace him.

He was talking about me, but I am heaping coals of fire upon his head. Why? I don't have to ask him about it because his failure isn't the issue. The love of God is between us. The joy of God is also between us. Planted in forgiveness, I have God's peace, so that no root of bitterness can spring up, whereby I could use my tongue to defile and trouble many.

Real Benefits

Every category is like a plant that needs to be planted so it can take root. If I have heard five categories of doctrine, and if they have been rooted in my soul, then I have been established in five ways to think with God, absolutely and dogmatically. I go to classes and study; I prepare and minister. I have fellowship around the Word of God. We all grow together, including the pastor and teachers. Then, I will be planted in a sixth category of doctrine; then a seventh; and on it goes.

“For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith” (1 John 5:4). As a result of being planted, we live longer. Our health is better. Our energy level is higher. The aging process is repudiated. Someone who is seventy-five is more like fifty-five, because Jesus Christ sent the Word to heal us (Psalm 107:20). We receive all these benefits because of being planted.

Many others are planted by bitterness and mistrust. They are planted in doubt, planted in fear, planted in retaliation and reaction. The reason that negative cycles are repeated again and

again in their lives is because they have been planted in those sins.

I counseled a man who was having problems with women.

“I haven’t committed adultery,” he said to me.

I told him that I did not ask about adultery. “What I am saying is that you are running out of time with your weakness. Go to your study and read over and over again what God says about sexual sins—which include adultery and pornography. Even if it is only mental, and you do not act on your lust, you need to be planted with hatred toward that sin, which is your weakness.”

More hell and shame come from adultery. And, if the Lord doesn’t do the planting by the Holy Spirit teaching us, the devil roots up the right things with temptations from the world, from the flesh, and from himself; and he plants the wrong things.

Chapter Three

THE VITALITY OF BEING SPIRIT-TAUGHT

“Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD.

“For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited.

“Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is.

“For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit” (Jeremiah 17:5-8).

A land that is “not inhabited” speaks of one who trusts in the flesh, yet he doesn’t stay there. He keeps going back there, but he doesn’t inhabit

the sin. It means one might commit the sin, but then he might have victory for three days. He doesn't inhabit the sin.

"Planted by the waters" speaks of the Word of God. It refers to someone who is planted in the Word, near the flow of the streams of the filling of the Spirit, and who will not yield to drought. "Her leaf shall be green," which stands for health in the soul and the body, and "neither shall [she] cease from yielding fruit." Why? It is because of being planted by the waters, planted by the rivers.

But consider what happens when people do not yield to categorical communication. A preacher will plant a category by precisely teaching on a specific doctrine, and in under five hours it is rooted up from the hearts of some people. Why? The hearers did not receive the message in meekness and faith.

Forming Foundations

"That our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth; that our daughters may be as corner stones, polished after the similitude of a palace" (Psalm 144:12).

Our sons need to be planted in such a way that they grow up rooted with the Word of God.

Our daughters need to be polished by the Word as corner stones of palaces, which speaks of fantastic foundations for young people everywhere. This is a tremendous example of what children can become in families that are planted with solid Bible doctrine.

Ezekiel 17:8 refers to a vine “planted in a good soil by great waters, that it might bring forth branches, and that it might bear fruit, that it might be a goodly vine.” It was planted in the house of the Lord (speaking of church attendance), and it flourished in the courts of the Lord (speaking of personal fellowship with God in specific categories (Psalm 92:13).

Song of Solomon 4:12 speaks of a sister who is a garden enclosed, “a spring shut up, a fountain sealed.” If we have been planted in the likeness of Christ’s death, we will be also raised in the likeness of His resurrection (see Romans 6:5).

Thank God for the areas where we are planted. And as we thank God for them, let’s allow God to show us where plants have not yet been rooted in faith, in love, and in good soil—places where we can let the fruit of the Holy Spirit be brought forth in a nine-fold manifestation (Galatians 5:22-23).

Heart Conversions

“The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.

“The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes” (Psalm 19:7-8).

Precise thinking with God brings rejoicing to the heart. Thinking with God is the key, not thinking in your emotions toward a relationship. Do not think in frustration because of disappointments with people who have come against you with wrong decisions. Thinking with God rejoices the heart.

Some have defined the heart simply as the seat of affections. In fact, the heart is the premise of all of our motivational thinking with God. It is the basis for the manifestation of all human behavior through Christ, the supreme center for all communications. It is the arena where all motives and all of our thoughts that control our feelings become our confession. It is where all the decisions in the will are made. For this reason, it is necessary for us to have the application of truth in our hearts, precisely, with every plant becoming a category.

Second Chronicles 20:32-33 describes a people who had not prepared their hearts unto the Lord. This means that though they may have had knowledge about God, they did not receive the Word of God with the life of God through the love of God that produces the Light of God.

Because we have believed and received Christ as our Savior, He has given each of us a new heart (Ezekiel 36:26). That heart needs to be constantly fed with the Word of God by faith, because we belong to Christ.

God desires that our hearts would be planted by the waters, like trees planted by the rivers of the Holy Spirit—the waters of doctrine that flow through the streams of our consciousness. And, as we spread forth our roots, we will not see the heat when it comes. A drought will not bother us, and we will not cease from yielding fruit (Jeremiah 17:8).

CONCLUSION

Our hearts need to have the right premise, the right presuppositions, so that we can come to the right conclusions. If my premise is wrong, then my presupposition is wrong, and my conclusions will be wrong. But if I have a godly premise and a godly presupposition, then I will have a godly conclusion.

Remember, every plant that is not rooted in the Word of God, in its precise power of life, light, and love, will be rooted up by the temptations of the devil, the world, and our own lusts.

There is only one way to develop a divine premise in our hearts, and that is by being planted by God's waters. From Psalm 23, we know that though we may go through storms, His waters are still, meaning they are undisturbed by the circumstances that surround us.

His truth stands firm. He will lead us into all truth, if we will be determined to hear it and receive the Word in meekness and faith. Faith

comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God (Romans 10:17). As we make ourselves available to receive the Word in meekness, we will be enabled to stand with pure hearts of faith.