ROOTED
Ephesians 3:14–20; Colossians 2:6-7

Last week we talked about the benefits of being planted in the house of God and committed to fellowship with the people of God. Once we are planted in the house it becomes a place where we can build a foundation of belief, a place to belong, a place to become who Jesus created us to be and a place to live a bigger life in the fellowship of family.

This week I want to talk about what happens after we are planted, after we are set in the house of God and placed among His people. Once we are planted (not potted), we become Rooted (Title Slide), established and built up in Christ. (Read Ephesians 3:14-20)

Colossians 2:6–7 (NLT) And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. 7 Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.

The expectation of anyone who has ever planted a garden, a tree, or flowers it that once they become established and take root; they will grow and produce the desired outcome. It would be ludicrous to till the soil, plant a garden full of seeds and little plants then leave the garden without any expectation of a harvest.

Jesus has given us new life through a new birth and I think it is reasonable to suggest that He expects us to grow, mature and multiply. It is a sad thing when as believers, are no longer striving for a greater revelation of Jesus and His kingdom grace.

As we live and walk out our purpose, we quickly realize that Christian growth is a process. We are saved in an instant when we receive Christ Jesus the Lord, but it takes a lifetime to live out our faith. Our focus should not just be on knowing intellectually, our emphasis must be on growing in intimacy. The Bible links information with transformation - we’re to become what we’ve begun. Truth must be received, perceived and then personalized because biblical belief always leads to action. Faith that does not have an impact on one’s behavior is not true faith.

I. OUR WALK IN HIM

Colossians 2:6 As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,

What does it mean and what does it look like to “walk in Him?” The AMP Bible translates this really well.
Colossians 2:6-7 (AMP) As you have therefore received Christ, [even] Jesus the Lord, [so] walk (regulate your lives and conduct yourselves) in union with and conformity to Him.

When ever the Bible speaks makes reference to our walk, it is always relates to our manner of life, our conduct and our actions. The AMP says to “regulate your lives and conduct, in union and conformity to Him.

If we have accepted Jesus Christ, then to walk “in” Him means we bring every part of our selves, our thinking and our actions into conformity, a total submission to His will. The lie of the devil is to be surrendered to God restrictive and oppressive but paradoxical truth is, nothing else can lead to such empowering freedom. It is in fact the reason we have been saved and that to which we’ve been called:

Romans 8:29 (NKJV) For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

When we receive and declare Jesus Christ as Lord, we have by that declaration, renounced all other gods and all the kingdoms of this world. As we walk in union and communion with Him, we are being transformed, and conformed to His image. Here is a kingdom principle: we become what we worship. Just as bad company can corrupt us, abiding in continual worship of and fellowship with Jesus will transform us.

I John 2:6 says, “He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk [live, conduct himself] just as He [Jesus] walked.” In other words, the Bible repeatedly commands us to live what we are in Christ. Remember our emphasis is not just on knowing, gathering information but on growing, being transformed into the image of our Savior.

It is a change that takes place from the inside out. It is a walk out of darkness into light, a walk out of hate, anger and prejudice into His love, forgiveness and purity. A walk “in” Him is a life of abiding in His presence, a life centered in Christ, clothed with Christ and wholly surrendered to Christ.

II. ROOTED, BUILT AND ESTABLISHED

Colossians 2:6–7 As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.

(NLT) Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught…

1. …rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith,
In this verse Paul gives us three characteristics of what the walk with Jesus will look like. “Rooted” appears in the perfect tense of the Greek expressing “the continuing results of an action completed in the past”.

A plant must have deep roots, in good soil, in order for it to grow. What we see above the ground depends on what is happening below ground. When a person repents and believes on Christ, he is united, bound to Christ. His faith is rooted in Christ – the Greek verb here is passive, indicating that God was the one who did the rooting.

As we think about this imagery, we can see this initial activity is concealed from the view of others. Just as the roots of a tree are hidden below the ground, so the roots of faith are hidden deep in Christ.

Though the faith of every new believing is weak and imperfect, what gives us hope, nourishment and strength is the condition of the soil in which it has been planted. When we are born again, we are rooted into Jesus Himself. In Jesus we find the answer to every dilemma of human existence and everything a new converted person needs in order to grow in grace unto maturity and fruitfulness.

The image in this word recalls Jeremiah's blessing on the one who trusts in the Lord and whose confidence is in him.

**Jeremiah 17:7–8**  “Blessed is the man who trusts in the **LORD**, And whose hope is the **LORD**. 8 For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, Which spreads out its roots by the river, And will not fear when heat comes; But its leaf will be green, And will not be anxious in the year of drought, Nor will cease from yielding fruit.

2. …rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith

Next Paul mixes metaphors, moving from a plant being rooted to a building being constructed in Christ. The root as a plant’s foundation perhaps inspired the merging of the two images. Being “built up in Him,” implies all believers are still under construction. If we have accepted Christ, we are saved, we have been rooted in Christ, and yet we are not a finished product.

Becoming a Christian is something far greater than just making heaven. Our God is building something; He is building place for Him to dwell and abide forever. He is building a holy temple within us through which He intends to shine His glory into all the world.
1 Corinthians 3:9 For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, you are God’s building.

Ephesians 2:19–22 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

3. …rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith

The word "established" refers to being continually strengthened or becoming more solidified in the faith.

“Faith” and “established” combine help us to understand what Paul is referring to by "the faith." It can be used subjectively, referring to our trust in Christ. But here it is quite apparent Paul uses it objectively, referring to the body of truth, which we believe.

As followers of Christ we should be continually seeking to grow in our understanding of divine truth revealed in the Word of God. However, our pursuit is for a greater intimacy with our Savior, not just a greater accumulation of information about Him.

John 5:39–40 You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.

Being established in the faith refers both to an understanding of the principles, doctrines and truths of God’s Word, and a deep, abiding intimacy with our Savior.

As we are deeply rooted, built and established in the faith, we are growing into the likeness of Jesus. That is the purpose of this gospel; that is what true salvation means.

III. ABOUNDING IN THANKSGIVING

Colossians 2:6–7 (ESV) Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

The spiritual fruit of a life that is “rooted, built up and established in Christ” will be an abundant overflow of gratitude and thanksgiving.
The phrase “abounding in thankfulness,” means: the result of God’s action in the lives of Christians, “being rooted, built up and established” should evoke abundant thanksgiving.

When the root system of a plant is healthy and functioning, absorbing and distributing nutrients, as it should, luxuriant green foliage, leaves will be present too. That which is inwardly healthy will always demonstrate an outward sign of a health as well.

Therefore, abundant thanksgiving and unceasing gratitude are the unfailing mark of a healthy spiritual life. Those who bubble over with gratitude for what God has already done are not easy prey to anxiety and doubt. They have no need or desire to look for fulfillment elsewhere and cannot be taken in by false promises, shaken by bigoted detractors or easily uprooted from the source of their life.

Being planted in the house of the Lord afford us a place to believe, belong, become and as we are rooted, built up and established in Christ, the fruit our lives and lips will be an overflow gratitude and thanksgiving.

I live in a house that I love to go home to and spend time in. I live in that house and with people I love to go home to and spend time with them because I love them.

Our God is up to something really good in this house and He has planted us here, in Christ and we are being built together as a holy habitation for Him.

He is filling this house, His house with His life and Spirit, so that through the windows of our lives, He can manifest His love to this world.