

August 31, 2018



Ministry Jottings: Taproots

"You can't find firm footing in a swamp, but life rooted in God stands firm." – Proverbs 12:3 [The Message]

The art of raising miniature trees, known as bonsai, was developed by the Japanese. To create a miniature tree, the taproot is cut, forcing the tree to live on only the nourishment provided by the little roots growing along the surface of the soil. The tree lives, but it does not grow. Trees dwarfed in this way reach a height of only twelve to eighteen inches.

The taproot of a tree is the part of the root system that goes deep into the soil to absorb essential minerals and large quantities of water. In the dry areas of our region, the taproot will go far below the surface. When I was a young minister I volunteered to remove a seventy year old lilac bush which needed to come out of the yard of the small church in Olathe, Colorado where I was pastor. Let me just say the bush won, and those longtime farmers had a good laugh over my attempts.

The root system is a good analogy for the Christian life. Richard J. Foster wrote, "Superficiality is the curse of our age . . . The desperate need today is not for a greater number of intelligent people, or gifted people, but for deep people."

How do Christians grow deep in their spiritual life? The same way a taproot grows deep – in search of nourishment that will cause it to grow. Christians have to seek out spiritual food that will result in spiritual maturity. Regular times of prayer, meditation, study, worship, fellowship, and/or serving others are just some of the ways Christians can grow deep roots.

May you seek the Lord daily, so you can grow a deep taproot in your faith and avoid the swamp or bonsai effect.

In Christ's grace,
Pastor Deb