(Slide 1) ROOTED: GROWING DEEP IN CHRIST

Week 1 — Rooted in Christ
Main Text: Colossians 2:6–7 (ESV) **6** Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, **7** rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.
Big Idea: We cannot produce lasting spiritual fruit unless our lives are firmly rooted in Jesus Christ.
Question: Are we simply growing in religious activity, or are we growing deeper in our relationship with Jesus?

(Slide 2) INTRODUCTION — WHAT YOU DON'T SEE MATTERS MOST
Illustration: A tree in the storm

- What makes the difference between a tree that stands through a storm and one that falls?
- The answer is often found beneath the surface.
- **(Slide 3)** We see the trunk, branches, leaves, and fruit, but the roots provide stability and nourishment.

(Slide 4) What we don't see matter most! Application to our faith:

- We can attend church, sing the songs, know Scripture, and serve in ministry.
- But what happens when:
    - Our prayers aren't answered the way we hoped?
    - Someone hurts or disappoints us?
    - Temptation comes?
    - Life doesn't go according to plan?

Transition:

- Our storms reveal the depth of our roots.
- In our previous series, *Faith That Works*, we learned that genuine faith must be lived out.
- Now we begin *Rooted: Growing Deep in Christ*.
- Before our faith can consistently produce fruit, it must be rooted in the right place.

Key thought: There is a difference between being busy for God and being deeply rooted in God.

(Slide 5) I. OUR ROOTS MUST BE IN THE RIGHT PLACE

Main Scripture: Colossians 2:6–7

"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."

A. We must be rooted in who Jesus is.

- Jesus is more than a good teacher or moral example.
- He is our Savior, our Lord, and the foundation of our faith.
- Acts 4:12 And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."
- Salvation is found in no one else.
- We don't build our faith on popular opinion, cultural trends, or changing ideas.
- We build our faith on Jesus Christ.

Pentecostal emphasis:

- The Holy Spirit empowers us to live holy lives, witness, and serve.
- The Spirit helps us become more like Christ and carry out His mission.

(Slide 6) B. We must be rooted in what God says about us.

- The world tells us who we should be.
- Our past reminds us of who we used to be.
- Our failures may make us believe we can never change.
- But in Christ, we have a new identity.

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. We are a new creation in Christ.

Application:

- We are not defined by our worst mistake.
- We are not defined by someone else's opinion.
- We serve God because we belong to Him, not to earn a place in His family.

Question: What have you been using to establish your identity? Is it Jesus, or something that could change tomorrow?

Key thought: When our lives are rooted in Christ, our circumstances may change without changing whose we are.

(Slide 7) II. ROOTS GROW BEFORE FRUIT APPEARS

A. Spiritual growth begins in the hidden places.

- A tree develops roots before it produces fruit.
- We often want God to produce immediate results in our lives.
- We want more faith, patience, wisdom, and spiritual influence.
- But sometimes we focus more on what God can do through us than what He wants to do within us.

Scripture: Matthew 6 — Jesus teaches us to seek God sincerely rather than to impress people.

Personal application:

- Are we praying when nobody is listening?
- Are we reading Scripture when nobody is watching?
- Are we repenting when the Holy Spirit reveals sin?
- Are we forgiving people even when bitterness feels justified?

Key thought: Activity is not the same as spiritual maturity.

(Slide 8) B. Our roots determine how we respond when life gets difficult.

Scripture: Matthew 13 — The seed that lacks deep roots withers when trouble comes.

- It is possible to start strong but lack spiritual depth.
- We may feel close to God when worship is powerful and prayers are answered.
- But what happens when the music stops, the answer is delayed, or following Jesus costs us something?

Illustration:

You don't strengthen a tree's roots when the hurricane arrives. You strengthen them before the storm.

Application:

- Don't wait until a marriage is struggling to learn to pray.
- Don't wait until temptation overwhelms you to establish boundaries.
- Don't wait until a crisis comes to discover whether you trust God's Word.

Encouragement: Being rooted in Christ doesn't mean we will never struggle, grieve, or experience doubt. It means we have a Savior who remains faithful through it all.

Key thought: Don't neglect the roots while you're waiting for the fruit.

(Slide 9) III. WE MUST KEEP GROWING IN CHRIST

Main Scripture: Colossians 2:7 rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

Paul describes believers as being rooted, built up in Christ, and established in the faith.

- Rooted means grounded in Jesus.
- Built up means continuing to grow.
- Established means becoming stronger and more secure in our faith.

Scripture: Hebrews 5:12–14 — God desires spiritual maturity, not perpetual infancy.

A. Growth requires intentionality.

- Nobody accidentally becomes spiritually mature.
- We don't automatically develop a deeper prayer life by attending church for twenty years.

We grow as we:

1. Spend time in God's Word.
2. Develop a consistent prayer life.
3. Worship privately and corporately.
4. Participate in Christian community.
5. Practice obedience, even when it is difficult.
6. Respond to the conviction and leading of the Holy Spirit.

Scripture: Philippians 2:12–13 — We pursue God while recognizing that God is working in us.

Key thought: These practices don't earn God's love; they make room for His transforming work in us.

(Slide 10) B. Growth means allowing God to change us.

- Sometimes we want God to change our circumstances more than our character.
- “Lord, change my spouse.”
- “Lord, change my boss.”
- “Lord, change that person who frustrates me.”
- “Lord, get me out of this situation.”

But sometimes God wants to do a work in us.

He may be:

- Developing patience.
- Confronting pride.

- Exposing bitterness.
- Teaching us to trust Him instead of controlling every outcome.
- Helping us respond through the character of Christ rather than our wounds.

Application:

- Jesus cannot be Lord of only the parts of our lives we choose to surrender.
- He must have our relationships, attitudes, decisions, and desires.

Key thought: If Jesus is Lord, He is Lord over all of us.

(Slide 11) C. The Holy Spirit empowers our growth.

Scriptures: Galatians 5:16–25 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. **17** For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. **18** But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. **19** Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, **20** idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, **21** envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. **22** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. **24** And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

- Spiritual growth is more than self-improvement.
- The Holy Spirit transforms our character and empowers us for ministry.
- The fruit of the Spirit includes love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
- The Spirit also empowers us to witness and serve.

Key thought: We need both the transforming work of the Spirit in our character and His empowering presence as we serve God's mission.

Application: The evidence of spiritual growth isn't simply knowing more about God. It is becoming more like Jesus and more faithful in the work He has given us.

(Slide 12) IV. DEEP ROOTS PRODUCE LASTING FRUIT

Main Scripture: Colossians 2:7

Notice the progression:

- Rooted.
- Built up.
- Established in the faith.
- Abounding in thanksgiving.

A. The fruit should be visible.

Scripture: John 15:5 — Those who abide in Christ bear much fruit.

- A branch produces fruit by remaining connected to the vine.
- We become Christlike by remaining in Christ and allowing His Word and Spirit to shape us.
- A genuine relationship with Jesus leads to obedience, service, and love.
-

Connection to our previous series:

- *Faith That Works* taught us to put our faith into action.
- *Rooted* teaches us what makes that faith sustainable.

Application to Harvest Assembly:

- If we want a church that reaches people, we must be rooted in Christ.
- If we want families that reflect the love of Jesus, we must be rooted in Christ.
- If we want to disciple children and young people, we must be rooted in Christ.
- If we want to serve our community with compassion and integrity, we must be rooted in Christ.

Programs and ministry opportunities matter, but they cannot replace a living, growing relationship with Jesus.

(Slide 13) B. Deep roots help us endure changing seasons.

Scriptures: Ecclesiastes 3

Jeremiah 17:7–8 “Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. **8** He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream,

and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, or it does not cease to bear fruit."

- Life has seasons of celebration and seasons of grief.
- There are seasons of growth and seasons when progress seems slow.
- There are times when we feel strong and times when we barely feel able to stand.

Deep roots don't prevent every storm, but they give us a foundation that doesn't depend on every season being easy.

We must remain faithful:

- When the church is growing and when it is struggling.
- When prayers are answered quickly and when answers take time.
- When we feel encouraged and when we feel discouraged.
- When people appreciate us and when they misunderstand us.
- When life makes sense and when we have more questions than answers.

Key thought: Our faith is not ultimately rooted in what God gives us. Our faith is rooted in who God is.

The goal isn't to build a life where storms never come. The goal is to remain anchored in Jesus when they do.

(Slide 14) V. HOW DO WE BECOME MORE DEEPLY ROOTED?

Make it practical. Four commitments.

1. Establish a daily time with God.

- Read Scripture.
- Pray honestly.
- Listen for how God wants you to respond.
- Make it about knowing Jesus, not checking a box.

2. Identify what is competing with Christ.

- Ask the Holy Spirit to examine your heart.
- Is it worry, bitterness, entertainment, ambition, a relationship, or the need to control everything?
- Bring anything that pulls you away from obedience to Christ before Him.

3. Connect with other believers.

- Get involved in Sunday School, Bible study, small groups, or ministry.
- God did not design us to grow alone.

- We need people who encourage us, challenge us, pray with us, and help us remain faithful.

4. Practice obedience in one specific area.

Ask yourself: "What am I going to do because of what God has shown me?"

- If God is calling you to forgive, take a step toward forgiveness.
- If He is prompting you to serve, respond.
- If you need to repent, repent.
- If you need a difficult but loving conversation, take that step prayerfully.

Key thought: Spiritual roots grow deeper as we respond to the truth God has already given us.

(Slide 15) CONCLUSION — WHERE ARE YOUR ROOTS?

Return to the opening illustration.

Picture the tree again:

- The wind is blowing.
- The storm is moving through.
- The branches are bending.
- Nearby, another tree has fallen.

From the outside, the two trees may have looked similar. But what was happening beneath the surface made the difference.

We will all face seasons we didn't choose:

- Disappointment.
- Grief.
- Family struggles.
- Temptation.
- Unanswered questions.
- Times when God seems silent.

In those moments, we need more than religious habits. We need more than a faith that depends on everything going our way.

We need to be rooted in Jesus.

(Slide 16) Closing challenge

1. Have I been busy doing things for God while neglecting my relationship with Him?
2. Are there areas of my heart I have been unwilling to surrender?
3. Have life's storms revealed that my roots need to grow deeper?
4. Have I truly surrendered my life to Jesus as Savior and Lord?

Invitation:

- Come to Jesus, not just for a moment of encouragement, but to build your life on Him.
- His grace is sufficient.
- His Word is true.
- His Spirit empowers us to live faithfully.

Final statement:

“Church, let's stop being satisfied with shallow roots and start pursuing a deeper walk with God. Because when our roots go deep in Christ, our faith can stand firm, our character can grow, and our lives can bear fruit that brings glory to God.”