

Roots

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I have heard it said that in order for a tree to grow up and be stable it has to grow its roots out just as deep as its branches grow tall. Likewise, if the tree wants to grow wide the roots have to grow wide. Now I know that not all trees do this, but I also know that those that don't can be uprooted with even the smallest of winds.

I believe that this is a great analogy to the Christian life. If a Christian is on fire and willing and jumps into everything he or she does head first without being rooted in the Word of God, they can easily be challenged and lose faith.

This publication is going to help us at Tree of Life grow our roots deep. In it there will be a scripture reading with a short devotion and a prayer, followed by a word from your pastor. One week you might find out what I think about baseball and the next I might tell you about a new book you may wish to read. In any case, *Roots* is designed to give you an opportunity to take a little time and meditate on God's word for you and then hear about what I am thinking, doing, wishing or otherwise.

Scripture:

Isaiah 25:9 (ESV)

It will be said on that day, "Behold, this is our God; we have waited for Him, that He might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for Him; let us be glad and rejoice in His salvation."

Isaiah here reminds Israel that though they will face a time of great tribulation even to the point of being exiled from the God's holy city, there will come a day when that exile will be reversed and they will return to the city and return to worship their God. Not only would they be returned, but it would be because God saved them.

In our reading, Isaiah tells his people, "Wait." He knows it will be a hard journey, he knows that the Israelites will suffer much. First under the Assyrians and then again under the Babylonians, the Israelites would face exile, slavery, persecution, torment and torture. But, Isaiah reassures them, there would be a day when that would cease and God would rescue the faithful of Israel and return them to their rightful place.

Isaiah's message should also resonate with us today. We suffer much, but Isaiah reminds us also to wait. Wait on Jesus. Through him God has won a victory and is now preparing a place for us. In baptism we have been marked and promised that we are children of God. Now, we wait. Though afflictions befall us, though time drags on, we know that Jesus is returning, and on that day we will say, "Behold, this is our God on whom we have waited. Now He will save us, and we will rejoice in His salvation."

Pastor *Carl J. H.*



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Dear Jesus, you saved us on the cross and promised to return. Help us to wait for the time when you will end death and dry all of our tears. Amen.

Pastor *Carl Jh*

