

Speak up

Romans 10:14 – *But how are they to call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?*

Roots

Lord Jesus, Help us to speak up for others' sake. Give us lips to sing Thy glory, tongues Thy mercy to proclaim, throats that shout the hope that fills us and mouths to speak Thy holy name. Amen.

I loved my grandpa, God rest his soul. He was a great man. He could fix just about anything with duct tape and bailing wire. He could do a one-handed push-up until he was in his mid-seventies. And he could not hear a thing. No, he wasn't legally deaf or anything like that, but he needed hearing aids, and he needed them bad! One of his favorite phrases with me was, "Speak up, boy!" Now that was usually followed by a, "Stop yer mumbling," and a wink. But, there was always a, "Speak up boy!"

Sadly we live in a culture where it can be difficult for Christians to speak up. Instead all too often we hear, "Be quiet." Or, "Don't make a fuss." But, when I read Paul's words there in Romans 10, I always think of my Grandpa's, "Speak up, boy!" We should raise our voices, but not for our own sake. We don't need to speak up in order to defend our beliefs or to justify ourselves. God does that for us. Rather, Paul reminds us that we speak up for others, so that they might hear the Good News of Jesus Christ and receive life through the Holy Spirit working in our words. So, speak up boys and girls. Men and women, speak up and be heard, that others may live.

Be Vocal

After that devotion, I really do want you guys to speak up. I know it has only been a few weeks, but I want to know what you think of *Roots*, and anything else that you have on your mind. I am always more than happy to receive advice or ideas from you guys and gals. If you don't like something, I won't ever know if you don't tell me. If you ever have anything that you want me to address with either roots or a Bible Study, let me know. If you don't speak up, I won't know what you're thinking or about your great ideas.

Now, for your homework. I want you to go home and think about something you love about Tree of Life and let me know what it is and why you love it. It can be anything, a specific ministry, the color of the carpets, the snacks we have after service, or even just all of the smiling faces we have to greet you on a Sunday morning. Once you have the thing you want to tell me about, email it to me at treepastor@gmail.com.

Now, may the Lord bless you with tongues that drip with the sweet words of the Gospel and mouths that overflow with love for God and lips that spill forth Jesus' eternal comfort to those in need. Amen.

Pastor *Carl Jh*

