

Being Planted In The Love Of God

There is something about being planted.

If you look at nature you notice that only those things that are planted grow and flourish. You look at trees and notice that those trees that have a good root system that is well planted in the soil can survive any harsh weather.

We are experiencing a drought right now and if you look around you the things that are green are those that have a firm grounding and a firm rooting. If you look at my lawn you will see a lot of brown patches where the grass has withered but if you look above and around my garden you will see the trees still looking green. So this is not only relevant to things in the natural but also in the spiritual.

The context into which we put ourselves will ultimately give rise to the kind of fruit we want in our lives.

Psalms 92:12-14 Amplified Bible (AMP) This has been one of my favourite scriptures which I choose to live

The righteous will flourish like the date palm [long-lived, upright and useful]; They will grow like a cedar in Lebanon [majestic and stable]. Planted in the house of the Lord, They will flourish in the courts of our God. [Growing in grace] they will still thrive and bear fruit and prosper in old age; They will flourish and be vital and fresh [rich in trust and love and contentment];

Jeremiah 17:5-6 *“Cursed is the man who trusts in man And makes flesh his [a]strength, Whose heart departs from the Lord. 6 For he shall be like a shrub in the desert, And shall not see when good comes, But shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, In a salt land which is not inhabited.*

In other words Jeremiah is saying that the man who depends on his natural senses his natural way of living is like a shrub in the desert and that's like tumbleweed which is not rooted not planted and gets blown away by the wind and this type of life is that of dissatisfaction, of thirst with no stability or staying power but he goes on to say in Vs 7 *“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 [b]fear when heat comes; But its leaf will be green.*

You can see a clear contrast between the man who trusts in himself and one who trusts in God and vs 8 *tells us that such a man is like a tree planted by the rivers, he does not see when the heat comes because he's a blessed man, a fruitful man.*

Psalms 1 tells us that the man who meditates in God's law day and night is like a tree planted by the rivers of water whose leaf does not wither and brings forth fruit in its season and whatsoever he does shall prosper.

How many of us like to be trees looking lush and green? Answer: stay in the word. We are also called trees of righteousness the planting of the Lord in Isaiah 61:3. So we can see that our life is like a tree, like a plant and so what I want to do is show you how you can bear fruit and flourish and have blessing in your life because it is possible. Is that good?

Often in life we can get planted in the wrong situation / soil. We see many a life ruined because they are not planted in good soil.

Whatever your roots go down into is where you draw your nutrients from. If we are rooted in Christ blessing can flow and Paul in *Ephesians 3:17-19* prays this prayer *My response is to get down on my knees before the Father, this magnificent Father who parcels out all heaven and earth. I ask him to strengthen you by his Spirit—not a brute strength but a glorious inner strength—that Christ will live in you as you open the door and invite him in. And I ask him that with both feet planted firmly on love, you'll be able to take in with all followers of Jesus the extravagant dimensions of Christ's love.*

Being planted in the love of God is foundational for every person. Sometimes we can experience the love of God that is overwhelming that is difficult to grasp but is yet so real. Whatever your life is connected to and planted in it will have a profound effect on who you are as a person.

What does it mean to be planted in the love of God? *1Pet 4:7-8 (NIRV)* *The end of all things is near. So be watchful and control yourselves. Then you may pray. 8 Most of all, love one another deeply. Love erases many sins by forgiving them.*

Peter says everything is coming to an end so be watchful and on guard and pray, but above all things love.. one another deeply. Peter here is clearly emphasising the importance of loving one another... it above all things.. the one thing you got to get right is have fervent/ deep love for one another for love covers or erases many sins.

Peter is telling us above all things to take the stretch to love. Let your love for one another be a long stretch. Stretch out with love in your relationships. This is the selfless kind of love (agape) God is love which expresses his nature which is to love.

Love has no effect outside of a relationship, it can only be effective within a relationship. You can't be loving on your own if you have nothing to love on. When we say God is love it describes how Father Son and Holy Spirit relate to each other. Love is a relational term which unites God and Man and Man with man.

Relationships stretch you right? Take two people in love - the most inflexible person to their parents is now extremely flexible when it comes to satisfying the needs of the lover. There is a stretch that comes into the relationship after the honeymoon period. It's a stretch to understand each other and it is a stretch to accommodate the other persons likes and appreciate it.

In relationships we get hurt and mess up but if we confess it the other person has the power to cover it up by forgiving and saying nothing about it. Love covers that mess up.

It is the offended person who covers when he/she decides to forgive, it is covered. *Prov 17:9. 9 Whoever wants to show love forgives a wrong. But those who talk about it separate close friends.* You can be somebody who chooses to cover to restore and to build or you could be somebody who repeats a matter and causes division even amongst the best of friends.

I believe if we are rooted and planted in the love of God that will challenge us to look differently at our relationships and add value to it. In *1John 4:7-8. 7 Dear friends, let us love one another, because love comes from God. Everyone who loves has become a child of God and knows God. 8 Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.*

If love is active in your life where you are genuinely seeking the well being and satisfaction of the other person always, then you have tapped into and are rooted in the love of God - it is a sacrificial love and that is how Christ loved us. It cost him his very life.

If you are someone who is self seeking where your philosophy is look after number one then you don't know the love of God.

Vs 10-11 of 1John 4 tells us this: Here is what love is. It is not that we loved God. It is that he loved us and sent his Son to give his life to pay for our sins. 11 Dear friends, since God loved us this much, we should also love one another.

God took the initiative the first step toward loving us. Love always takes the initiative. Sometimes you have to confront rather than be nice because love will cause you to put things right and to do so sometimes one has to have that difficult conversation. If you always be nice to your kids and give into everything you end up with spoilt brats.

If you do something that is not motivated in love it becomes useless and empty. Many people think they can buy someone's love by giving them money but when the money runs out what do you do? When your motivation is love you cannot lose.

Our measure has always got to be Jesus. How do we compare to Him?

Romans 13:14 (ERV) But be like the Lord Jesus Christ, so that when people see what you do, they will see Christ. Don't think about how to satisfy the desires of your sinful self.

Are you being who God wants you to be in your relationships? That is a stretch as it is never easy to love someone like this without having to stretch. Romantic love isn't difficult but real love isn't easy. You have to work hard at it to fervently keep it and hold onto it. Let's get rooted and grounded in the love of God then we can prosper.

How ? (practically) Look at the relationships you are in now and see if you are adding value to those relationships. Is it taking or is it more giving? Is your relationship making the other person better? Is that person better off in this relationship?

Before you love someone else you got to take authority over your own life and lead yourself. As soon as you start leading yourself it gives you moral authority to lead someone else. So, Where are you feeling the stretch? Which person in your life right now are you feeling the stretch?

Who do you need to cover? Sometimes people ask me about others and sometimes I am not at liberty to say because I am covering them. If they want to tell you that's up to them. Love suffers long and is kind, it does not say it is nice but it is kind. Nice is not a fruit of the Spirit. Nice is a word that we have brought in to forge relationships that has no authenticity or value in it. [Nice definition: giving pleasure or satisfaction; pleasant or attractive,]

Kindness is a fruit of the Spirit, it's who God is and the moment you are rooted in the love of God the kindness of God shows forth. [*kind definition*: 1. generous, helpful, and thinking about other people's feelings]

When you get planted in the love of God you can grow in the abundance of God and who he is. Lets grow let's get planted. The love of God frees you to be what you want to be. How many want that kind of freedom? Then get rooted and planted in Jesus and add value to relationships

Jesus loves you, He has a plan for your life and He will go any length to reach out to you and take you out of your dark place and bring you to the light. All you have to do is ask Jesus into your life. Let's pray: