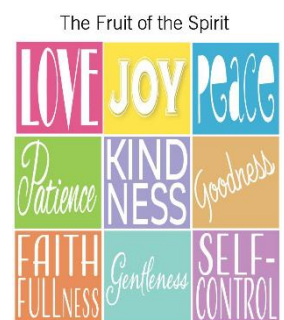


**Psalm 1** What delight comes to the one who follows God's ways! They won't walk in step with the wicked, nor share the sinner's way, nor be found sitting in the scorner's seat. Their pleasure and passion is remaining true to the Word of "I Am," meditating day and night in the true revelation of light. They will be standing firm like a flourishing tree planted by God's design, deeply rooted by the brooks of bliss, bearing fruit in every season of his life. They are never dry, never fainting, ever blessed, ever



prosperous. But how different are the wicked. All they are is dust in the wind—driven away to destruction! The wicked will not endure the day of judgment, for God will not defend them. Nothing they do will succeed or endure for long, for they have no part with those who walk in truth. But how different it is for the righteous! The Lord embraces their paths as they move forward while the way of the wicked leads only to doom.

When we walk in God's way, this psalm tells us that being deeply rooted we will bear fruit in every season. Scripture tells us that this fruit is called the fruit of the Spirit (Gal5: ...) that we will bear, show or demonstrate in our lives - this fruit being the life of Christ himself. Jesus said, ***"When your lives bear abundant fruit, you demonstrate that you are my mature disciples who glorify my Father!" John 15:8***



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QltVKW6wXdo>

**Glorify Thy Name**

Father, we love You  
We worship and adore you  
Glorify thy name in all the earth

Jesus, we love You  
We worship and adore You  
Glorify thy name in all the earth

*Glorify thy name*  
*Glorify thy name*  
*Glorify thy name in all the earth*

Spirit, we love You  
We worship and adore You  
Glorify thy name in all the earth

Based on John 4:21-24 (The Voice)

Listen to the words of Jesus:

"A new day is coming  
—in fact, it's already here—

when the importance will not be placed on the time and place of worship  
but on the truthful hearts of worshipers.

The Father is spirit,  
and he is seeking followers whose worship  
is sourced in truth and deeply spiritual as well.

If you do not seek the Father,  
then you do not worship."

**So how do we worship in Spirit and in Truth?  
How do we develop deep roots that bear good fruits?**



I am the Vine; you are the branches. Whoever lives in Me and I in him bears much abundant fruit. However, apart from Me, cut off from vital union with Me, you can do nothing. If a person does not dwell in Me, he is thrown out like a broken-off branch, and withers; such branches are gathered up and thrown into the fire, and they are



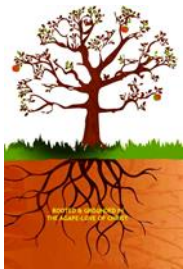
burned. If you live in Me, abide vitally united to Me and My words remain in you and continue to live in your hearts, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you. When you bear, produce much fruit, My Father is honored and glorified, and you show and prove yourselves to be true followers of Mine. I have loved you, just as the Father has loved Me; abide in My love, continue in His love with Me.

**John 15 :1-5**

Scripture is clear, that it is a life, lived in close relationship with Jesus that inspires true worship, bearing fruit and glorifying God. Then to continue to abide, dwell, live in the love of Christ is how we develop deep roots.

SB: 651

IN HIM ABIDING, MY ALL CONFIDING  
To the care of love divine;  
His Word believing, new life receiving  
As the branches from the vine;  
His glory showing, I'm daily growing,  
While the rays of Heaven shine,  
And I am singing, for joy is springing  
From this happy heart of mine.



But the fruit produced by the Holy Spirit within you is divine love in all its varied expressions: joy that overflows, peace that subdues, patience that endures, kindness in action, a life full of virtue, faith

that prevails, gentleness of heart, and strength of spirit. Never set the law above these qualities, for they are meant to be limitless. Keep in mind that we who belong to Jesus, the Anointed One, have already experienced crucifixion. For everything connected with our self - life was put to death on the cross and crucified with Messiah. We must live in the Holy Spirit and follow after him. So may we never be arrogant, or look down on another, for each of us is an original. We must forsake all jealousy that diminishes the value of others. Gal 5:22-26 The Passion Translation

Because of what Christ has done, the Apostle Paul prays for the Church *"I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, **being rooted and grounded in love**, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God."*Eph 3:14-16

Jesus, when I pray to You, with You,  
this is the way to reach Your heart.  
Prayer is truly the way to get to know You.  
Although You come to me in many ways  
it is never more than when I am in prayer  
with You.  
It is in prayer that I am closer, more intimate,  
than any other time.  
It is there that You can speak to me;  
it is there that I grow and am healed,  
when I find fulfilment just by being with You;  
then the Holy Spirit can cast my spiritual  
roots deeper and deeper into Your soil.  
The deeper my roots, the more fruit I shall  
bear, the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience,  
goodness, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness  
and self-control.

Paul also says "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, **rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with gratitude.**" **Col 2:6-7**

The roots of our faith show the fruits of our practice, seen in the lives that we live. If your roots have been withering or you sense God drawing you near here are 10 steps I found to help you flourish and stand firm, deeply rooted in the love of God.

### **1) Receive Christ Jesus (Colossians 2:6)**

This is really where a life of faith begins, accepting and receiving Jesus into your life. Whether you're a new believer or long-time church-goer, take the time to get to know Jesus and let him into your heart. Commit yourself to live a life with him and follow in his ways.

### **2) Learn and Be Instructed (Colossians 2:7)**

The Christian life isn't just about accepting Jesus, that is only the beginning. We must then commit ourselves to a lifetime of learning. You have to be willing to read and study God's Word, be ready to accept guidance and instruction from others, and to learn to listen for God's direction. It's not an academic exercise of the mind, but rather a practice of surrendering self to the process of allowing God to show you his way reforming you into his image.

### **3) Have a Grateful Heart (Colossians 2:7)**

"Overflowing with gratitude". When we live our lives overflowing with gratitude, there's no room left for hatred, anger, bitterness, jealousy, or envy. This doesn't come naturally, but instead comes out of living in faith. As you set your heart to acknowledge everything comes from God and see his blessings in everything – even in the trials – then you can begin to live with a grateful heart.

### **4) Do Not Follow the Way of the World (Psalm 1:1)**

As Christians we are called to walk the narrow road, choosing to follow God's way, not the way of the world. This means we'll make hard choices to say "no" to things that might put us in tempting situations. We'll say "no" to things the world says are okay, but we know aren't okay to God. Remember Ps1 - the "wicked" and "sinners" won't often look like "bad guys". In fact, they'll often look like friends, co-workers, the popular crowd, the people the world reveres. Their path may not look dangerous or illicit. It may look like the path that makes the most money, the way that leads to earthly happiness, the choice that fits in best with everyone else around you. Ask yourself: is this step I'm taking in line with God's word and rule in my life or is it focused on earthly, human gain? Where is God in this choice?

### **5) Keep Good Company (Psalm 1:1)**

One of the best ways to follow God's path and not the way of the world is to choose good company. If you surround yourself with people who make poor choices, who follow the way of the world, and who aren't interested in growing deep-rooted faith, you'll find great temptation to follow along. Make sure you have some good Christian role models and friends to guide and lead you, to set examples for living a life of faith, and to provide wise counsel and redirection.

### **6) Delight in God's Law (Psalm 1:2)**

To delight in God's law is to know God's Word personally and to gladly surrender your life to follow in his ways. This is beyond knowing the law or following rules. God didn't give us a specific rule book, yet he did give us guidelines for living a Godly and righteous life. Living under God's law is to give control to him and allow God to rule in your life.

### **7) Meditate on Scripture (Psalm 1:2)**

To know God's rule for our life is to know God's Word. We need to read and study the Bible, allowing its words to soak deeply into our souls. The Psalm talks about meditating on Scripture day and night. That indicates it should be a habit, a part of our daily routine, an essential part of our life – not just something for Sunday or a weekly Bible study gathering.

### **Jeremiah 17:7-8:**

*But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when the heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.*

### **8) Trust in God (Jeremiah 17:7)**

As our roots grow deeper and we learn and grow in God's Word, both in word and life, we will come to trust in God in all things. This trust is often forged through trials. It comes from deep knowledge of God's faithfulness, both through scripture and through your own life experience, observing God at work in your life and the lives of others around you. It requires surrendering your life and your control to God and placing your trust fully in his hands.

### **9) Do Not Fear When Trials Come (Jeremiah 17:8)**

When you trust in God, you will not wither when the trials come. And the trials will come. The Christian life is not an easy life. A deep-rooted faith will preserve you through the trials of life and allow you to flourish no matter what life brings your way.

### **10) Bear Fruit for the Kingdom (Jeremiah 17:8)**

The ultimate goal of a deep-rooted faith is to bear fruit for the Kingdom and bring glory to God with our lives. When you live out your faith, you'll draw others to God. People will notice something different in how you live your life and want to know more. You'll allow God to lead you to where he wants you to serve, using your God-given talents to help others and progress his Kingdom. You'll find your purpose on this Earth and live into God's possibilities for your life. You'll bear much fruit for God's Kingdom.

**ALL TO JESUS I SURRENDER,**  
All to Him I freely give;  
I will ever love and trust Him,  
In His presence daily live.

*I surrender all, I surrender all.  
All to Thee, my blessed Saviour,  
I surrender all.*

All to Jesus I surrender,  
Humbly at His feet I bow,  
Worldly pleasures all forsaken;  
Take me, Jesus, take me now.

All to Jesus I surrender,  
Make me, Saviour, wholly Thine;  
Let the Holy Spirit witness,  
I am Thine and Thou art mine.

All to Jesus I surrender,  
Lord, I give myself to Thee;  
Fill me with Thy love and power,  
Let Thy blessing rest on me.

All to Jesus I surrender,  
Now I feel the sacred flame;  
O the joy of full salvation,  
Glory, glory to His name!

**May God protect you through your time of trial.**

**May the love of Christ, seen in what he did, and heard in what he said, fill you with joy and hope.**

**May the Holy Spirit advocate for you leading you into all truth, lighting the way of faith, and strengthening you to follow Jesus, so that you will become like a strong, young tree, growing deep roots and bearing much fruit. Amen.**