

“Being rooted and built up in him” Colossians chapter 2 verse 7

A tree, or any plant, draws its life through its roots from the soil in which it is planted. If it is good soil, containing the correct nutrients, then the plant will grow healthy, and thrive. You could cut the plant down to the extent that none of it could be seen above the surface of the ground, but if the roots are still in the soil, then it will grow again.

This is the image that Paul uses to encourage the Colossian Christians to root their lives in Jesus so that they would be built up in him and established in their faith. Only then would their lives bear the fruit that God wanted to produce in them.

If we are to live lives that are fruitful and honouring to God, then they must be firmly rooted in Jesus as the source of our lives and our strength. This is more than just being connected to God through faith in Jesus; it is having our lives fully engaged and immersed in him, just as a tree has its roots embedded in the ground from which it draws its life.

We can produce a semblance of fruitfulness in other ways. We can do it through our own, human resources of energy, effort and creativity, but when we do that then we severely limit the fruit we can produce. It will never go beyond our own abilities, and it will glorify ourselves rather than God. It will be the equivalent of hanging trinkets on the branches in place of the authentic fruit that the tree is able to produce.

We can go through our entire lives content with a life of faith, worship and fellowship that is a pale shadow of what God really wants to do in and through us. We settle for less than what God wants to do, because we want to remain in control. Even as Christians, our human nature resists relinquishing control of our lives to God. We fear what he might lead us to in our lives, the challenges of the changes he might want to make in us and the responsibilities of the things he might ask us to do.

But if we want the best that God has for us, then there is no other way than to be deeply rooted in Jesus. He told his disciples, “Remain in me and I in you. Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me.” That is why our relationship with God through faith in Jesus must always be our first priority. When what we are and what we do has its source there, then good fruit is inevitable in our lives and in the church.

Prayer.

Father, thank you that you want to bless my life with fruitfulness. I want my life and faith to grow and thrive in you, I want to see others come to know you through my witness and I want to help others to grow in their faith through my encouragement. Please guide me to that place where my life is so rooted and built up in you that it bears much fruit. In Jesus' name, amen.

*All these devotionals can be found on our website [inghamitechurch.org](http://inghamitechurch.org) on the 'Resources' page. Click on the link to go there.*