

THE IMPORTANCE OF A GOOD ROOT SYSTEM

TEXT: Philippians 1:6, TLB)

⁶And I am sure that God who began the good work within you will keep right on helping you grow in his grace until his task within you is finally finished on that day when Jesus Christ returns.

INTRODUCTION

1. “Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season” (Psalm 1:1-3, NIV).
2. “The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away” (Matthew 13:20-21, NIV).
3. “I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want” (Philippians 4:11-12, NIV).
4. “Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus” (I Thessalonians 5:16-18, NIV).

I. LET HIM FINISH HIS WORK IN YOU

A. Don’t Quit

1. “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith” (II Timothy 4:7, NIV).
2. “Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us” (Hebrews 12:1, KJV).
3. “I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us” (Philippians 3:14, NLT).
4. “So be careful how you live. Don’t live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. Don’t act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do. Don’t be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit” (Ephesians 5:15-18, NLT).

B. Fight Hard; Run Hard

1. “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving” (Colossians 3:23-24, NIV).

C. The Author and the Finisher

1. “Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Hebrews 12:2, KJV).
2. “And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns” (Philippians 1:6, NLT).

II. IN THE CARPENTER SHOP

1. "And I am sure that God who began the good work within you will keep right on helping you grow in his grace until his task within you is finally finished on that day when Jesus Christ returns" (Philippians 1:6, TLB).

A. A Prayer for You and Me

1. "My prayer is not for them alone (those living at the time he prayed the prayer). I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message" (John 17:20, NIV).
2. "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith" (Hebrews 12:2, NIV).

B. Perfected through the Word

1. "Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth" (John 17:17, NIV).
2. "Peter's words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, 'Brothers, what should we do?'" (Acts 2:37, NLT).

C. Perfected by Fire

1. "Do you think anyone is going to be able to drive a wedge between us and Christ's love for us? There is no way! Not trouble, not hard times, not hatred, not hunger, not homelessness, not bullying threats, not backstabbing, not even the worst sins listed in Scripture: 'They kill us in cold blood because they hate you. We're sitting ducks; they pick us off one by one.'

"None of this fazes us because Jesus loves us. I'm absolutely convinced that nothing—nothing living or dead, angelic or demonic, today or tomorrow, high or low, thinkable or unthinkable—absolutely *nothing* can get between us and God's love because of the way that Jesus our Master has embraced us" (Romans 8:35-39, MSG).

III. ON THE POTTER'S WHEEL

1. "Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for noble purposes and some for common use" (Romans 9:21, NIV)?

A. God Gave Us Life

1. "But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive" (Ephesians 2:4-5, NIV).
2. "God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions" (Ephesians 2:4-5, NIV).
3. "No test or temptation that comes your way is beyond the course of what others have had to face. All you need to remember is that God will never let you down; he'll never let you be pushed past your limit; he'll always be there to help you come through it" (I Corinthians 10:13, MSG).

B. We Are His Workmanship

1. "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (Ephesians 2:9-10, NIV).
17).

CONCLUSION

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