



## STORIES, JESUS & TREES

*But I am like an olive tree flourishing in the house of God; I trust in God's unfailing love for ever and ever. (Psalm 52:8)*

*God chose to tell the Gospel story through a trail of trees,"* wrote Dr. Matthew Sleeth. "Other than God and people, the Bible mentions trees more than any other living thing. There is a tree on the first page of Genesis, in the first Psalm, on the first page of the New Testament, and on the last page of Revelation. **Every significant theological event in the Bible is marked by a tree.**"

In fact, trees are mentioned **4528** times in the Bible, so they must be worthy of our attention.

### TAPROOTS ARE ESSENTIAL

*Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness. (Colossians 2:7 NLT)*

When a seed germinates, it produces a radicle, which becomes the taproot of the tree, sinking deep into the soil.

Taproots are essential because they:

- anchor and support the tree.
- absorb water and nutrients from the soil.
- store food (carrots, turnips, potatoes, and beets).
- prevent erosion.
- ensure drought resistance.

Our taproots of faith grow deep into the heart of Christ. There, we are nourished by God's Word and anchored in His strength, which makes us sin-resistant. **How deeply are you rooted with Jesus? Does your heart need the nourishment of God's Word today?**

### A GRAFTING PHENOMENON

*I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. (John 15:5)*

Trees of different kinds can actually graft their roots together, creating a connection between trees, sharing carbon, water, nutrients, alarm signals, and hormones. Suzanne Simard discovered that "fungal threads link nearly every tree in a forest..."

Visit [chronic-joy.org](http://chronic-joy.org) for more resources.



Chronic Joy

When our roots are grafted to God's, we are linked to believers around the world and across time. Root grafting is crucial for the growth of community and the resilience of God's people. **Do you feel disconnected today? Reach out and share the love of Jesus. It'll strengthen your faith and renew your spirit.**

### WE ARE ROOTED, ESTABLISHED, AND FILLED

*You are like a tree, planted by flowing, cool streams of water that never run dry. Your fruit ripens in its time; your leaves never fade or curl in the summer sun. (Psalm 1:3 VOICE)*

God's living water satisfies our souls and draws us toward Him. The flowers of our joy are filled with His fragrance. Our fruit bears the holy imprint of His:

- Love • Peace • Kindness • Faithfulness • Self-Control
- Joy • Patience • Goodness • Gentleness

Is some of the fruit missing from your life? **Connect with Jesus, then watch for the opportunities God orchestrates to grow that fruit.**

### SHARING THE FRUIT OF YOUR STORY

*For he will be [nourished] like a tree planted by the waters that spreads out its roots by the river. [It] will not fear the heat when it comes, but its leaves will be green and moist. It will not be anxious and concerned in a year of drought nor stop bearing fruit. (Jeremiah 17:8 AMP)*

Sharing the fruit of our stories is a beautiful way of seed planting. We don't need to convince someone that God is real or that they need salvation. We can simply invite them into a conversation where, *without agenda*, we share:

- a Scripture passage that met us in a difficult situation.
- how God's strength carried us through a storm.
- a joy that has delighted us.
- the beauty of God's creation.
- the overflowing generosity of Jesus.

### GUESS WHAT?

Asking, "Guess what?" invites someone into a conversation, piquing their curiosity and telling them, "I can't wait to share something with you!" **Who can you ask, "Guess what?" today?**

We are rooted, nourished, *strengthened, anchored, grafted, and connected to the Body, for we are without question God's beloved!*

[chronic-joy.org/story-matters](http://chronic-joy.org/story-matters)



Chronic Joy