



BE PLANTED



Key Scripture: Psalms 1:3 NKJV [3] **He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper"**

The Bible used various metaphors from God's creation to describe who we are called to be. When it comes to the animal kingdom, God instructs us to learn from them because of their distinct value:

- *The Serpent: Be wise like the serpent. (Matthew 10:16)*
- *The Lion: Be bold as the lion. He is the Lion of the tribe of Judah, which means boldness came from Him. (Proverbs 28:1, Revelation 5:5)*
- *The Dove: Be gentle like the dove. (Matthew 10:16)*
- *The Eagle: The Bible says they that wait on the Lord shall mount up their wings like the eagle; from them, we learn endurance. (Isaiah 40:31)*
- *The Sheep: As weak as it is, the Bible says on the last day He is going to separate the sheep from the goat. We are called to be like sheep. (Matthew 25:32-33)*
- *The Ant: We look to the ant to learn diligence. (Proverbs 6:6-8)*
- *The Horse: We look to the horse to learn loyalty . (Job 39:19-25, Proverbs 21:31)*

When it comes to the elements of the earth, which of them did God call us to be like?

- *Like the Wind: According to John 3:8, we should be unpredictable.*
- *Like the Tree: When it comes to other elements, the Bible says don't be cold or hot. But when it comes to the tree, it says anyone that does what I ask him will be like the tree planted by the rivers of water.*

The Parable of the Tree: Form, Foundation, and Purpose

The scriptures likened a righteous man to the tree in Psalm 1v -3. The scripture referred to this man as knowledgeable, who walks consistently on the Word of God and follow the way of righteousness is a firmly established planted tree.

The qualities of the righteous man;

- *Keeps God's principles.*
- *Does not stand in the way of the ungodly.*
- *Meditates on God's word day and night.*
- *Maintains these qualities without compromising God's will and purpose for his life.*



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The scripture likened the upright man to a tree. Hence, we must study the tree and search out the knowledge the scriptures revealed through the tree. This is why we have to study the tree.

Characteristics of a Tree

1. The Root and Foundation

The strength of a tree comes entirely from the root, which is its foundation. No matter how tall a tree grows, if it is not connected to a root, it will collapse.

- Reflection: Relating this to your life and assignment, what does this mean to you?

The Word of God you study—what does it do to you, and why do you need it? You need the Word of God for fulfilling purpose, not just for mere existence. If there is no purpose, there is no need for the Word. The Bible says that He gave some apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. Why did He give them? They were given for the perfecting of the saints, so that the saints can do the work of the ministry, and for the edifying of the body of Christ.

2. Driven by Purpose

How does the Word of God work? We are to learn His Word and do more of His purpose. Any word of God that you hear and does not add to your purpose is not for you. That is why the Word of God you hear must be purpose-driven. For every tree, there is a root and every tree is tied to its root. The root represents purpose; that is why we must be deeply rooted first into our purpose for us to be firmly established. Just like the root sustains the tree, so must our life be driven by purpose. For any tree to sprout from the ground, it must have a purpose, and that purpose is in its root; Consider the biblical example of Jesus cursing and cutting down the fig tree: He did so precisely because it was not fulfilling its purpose at that time.

3. Seasonal Fruitfulness and Assignment

A tree brings forth fruits in its own season. Why do we go to church on Sunday? It is to hear the Word, and then go out into the world to do the work of the ministry. It is the Word of God that you have heard that will help you complete your assignment.

Among all the elements of the earth, God likens us to a tree. Jeremiah 17:7-8 remind us that the life of this man is one who believes and trusts in the Lord, whose hope and confident expectation is the Lord. It is only those who live by the Word of God that could be firmly planted & established like a tree. This man is not scared of today or tomorrow; he is firm on God's Word.



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Conclusion

As intercessors, we are all trees of righteousness the planting of the lord. However, we all have different functions. We saw in the life of Jesus that His call was different from John the Baptist. We also see this in the lives of Peter and Paul—both having separate unique purposes. Everything and every instruction God gives us is based on specification:

- For Mary, Her purpose was to give birth to Jesus Christ.
- For Anna; Her purpose was to stay in the temple day and night.

Therefore, to fulfil purpose it is important to plan our day-to-day work in alignment with our specific purpose. Every tree is judged based on its purpose not by its height or beauty. Therefore, be rooted , planted and establish in your purpose fulfilling your assignment.

