

ABIDE

A brief explanation of an acorn, in a nutshell, it's an oak tree.

Psalm 1:1 - 6

Scripture uses the imagery of trees a number of times in both the old and the new testament.

We can learn a lot from acorns and trees:

- Acorn needs to experience a tremendous impact before it planted.
- Many acorns fall, few become trees
- Life is seasonal

Lessons applied to growth

Where you land matters.

- Jesus talks about this in his parable of the seed in [Matthew 13](#)
- Out of the thousands of acorns that fall only a few become oak trees.
- We need to be fed
 - > by others-putting yourself in the proper environment, Bible studies, small groups, friend groups.
 - > by ourselves - [Hebrews 5:12-14](#), this can boil down to laziness

Influence Matters!

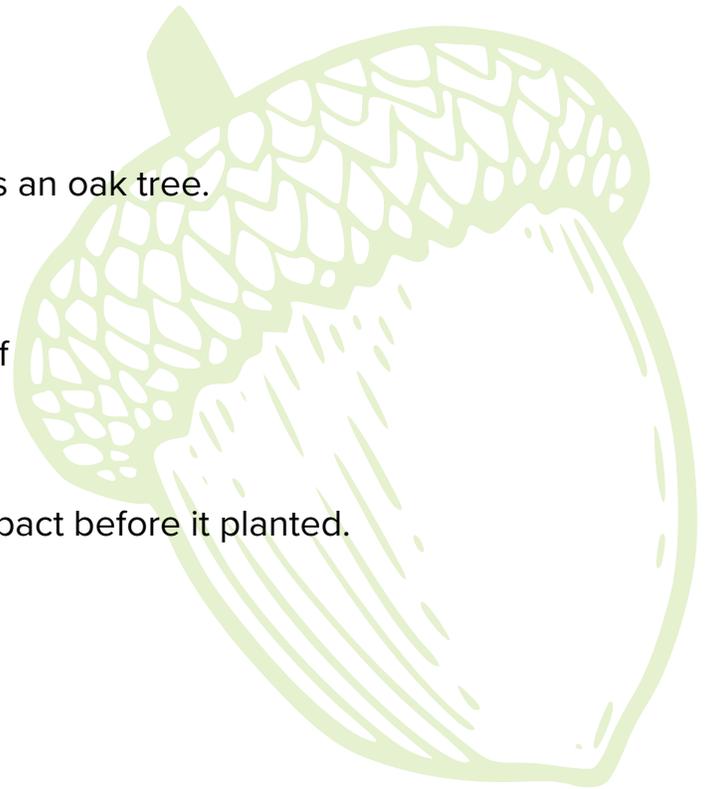
- We need positive influence - sometimes we don't need more information we need proper motivation. We need challenge and encouragement, Iron sharpens Iron
- We need to remove negative influence. You may have a desire to grow but the pull of the world is enticing. We want to hold onto worldly things and it is actually making you an enemy of the world. [Romans 12](#) and [James 4](#) talks about this.

Growth takes time

- Sometimes we get frustrated that things are not changing fast enough ([Ecclesiastes 3](#))
- God is in the crockpot business not the microwave business.

Don't focus on the leaves that will fall but the roots that will last.

- Its easy to focus on the wrong thing. Our culture today is more interested in looking successful than being successful.
- When you focus on the roots the leaves take care of themselves, when you focus on the leaves, the whole tree dies.



Only well rooted trees can survive the storm.

- Trees can look big and strong above ground but its what others can't see that truly matters.
- What others can't see is what God cares about most

In order to grow deep you need to remain in a place

- Always looking for a better place will stunt your growth.

Stay where you are planted and make it a better place. Trees never stop growing.

- It doesn't matter where you are in your life, there is still growth that needs to take place

A Mature tree produces more trees.

- Gives us a reason to grow. When others are depending on you, you will be motivated to grow yourself.

Before we can make an effort to grow we first need to be properly motivated.

[Ephesians 3:14-21](#)

Jesus is both the source of our purpose and the method of our growth.



HOMEWORK

What else can we learn from trees?
Pray about how God will want you to participate in the fast.