

People Who are Rooted in Christ Keep Praying and Stay on Mission

Message 4 of 4 in the series: "Rooted"

A. The Apostle Paul reminded the Christians in Colosse that they needed to stay rooted in Christ.

"And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. **Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him.**" Colossians 2:6-7a (NLT)

1. People who are rooted in Christ have strong faith.

"Then your faith will **grow strong** in the truth you were taught..." Colossians 2:7b (NLT)

"But blessed are those who trust in the Lord and have made the Lord their hope and confidence. They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought. Their leaves stay green, and they never stop producing fruit." Jeremiah 17:7-8 (NLT)

"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."

Hebrews 11:1 (NIV)

Note: We don't need to understand everything God does in order to trust Him.

2. People who are rooted in Christ are thankful.

"...and you will **overflow** with thankfulness." Colossians 2:7c (NLT)

"The LORD is my strength and shield. I trust him with all my heart. He helps me, and my heart is filled with joy. I burst out in songs of thanksgiving." Psalm 28:7 (NLT)

"Be thankful **in** all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus."

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NLT)

"And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them." Romans 8:28 (NLT)

B. The Apostle Paul reminded the Christians in Colosse to keep praying.

"**Continue earnestly** in prayer, being **vigilant** in it with thanksgiving..." Colossians 4:2 (NKJV)

"One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that **they should always pray and never give up**. 'There was a judge in a certain city,' he said, 'who neither feared God nor cared about people. A widow of that city came to him repeatedly, saying, "Give me justice in this dispute with my enemy." The judge ignored her for a while, but finally he said to himself, "I don't fear God or care about people, but this woman is driving me crazy. I'm going to see that she gets justice, because she is wearing me out with her constant requests!"' Then the Lord said, 'Learn a lesson from this unjust judge. Even he rendered a just decision in the end. So don't you think God will surely give justice to his chosen people who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will grant justice to them quickly! But when the Son of Man returns, how many will he find on the earth who have faith?'" Luke 18:1-8 (NLT)

"Couldn't you watch with me even one hour? Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak!" Matthew 26:40b-41 (NLT)

1. People who are rooted in Christ keep praying for opportunities to clearly communicate the gospel. "Pray for us, too, that God will give us **many opportunities to speak about his mysterious plan concerning Christ**. That is why I am here in chains. Pray that I will proclaim this message as clearly as I should." Colossians 4:3-4 (NLT)
2. People who are rooted in Christ keep praying that God will make believers everywhere spiritually mature. "Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always **wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured**. I vouch for him that he is working hard for you and for those at Laodicea and Hierapolis." Colossians 4:12-13 (NIV)
3. People who are rooted in Christ keep praying for the knowledge of God's will. "So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. **We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will** and to give you **spiritual wisdom and understanding**. Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better." Colossians 1:9-10 (NLT)

5. What does it look like to live wisely among our unbelieving neighbors? How should we act? How should we talk? (Colossians 4:5-6)
6. Read Colossians 1:23-29. What made Paul so eager to tell others the Good News about Jesus? Where did he get the courage and strength to keep going? (Acts 1:8) Why is staying rooted in Christ essential to evangelism?
7. Consider the following quotations:

“Prayer illuminates the difference between knowing God’s will and guessing at it.” Becky Tirabassi

"We must win the right to be heard...Friendship Evangelism...Incarnational Evangelism...face to face...person to person...friend to friend...and finally heart to heart. Putting flesh and bone on the Message."
Jim Rayburn, founder of Young Life