

C H A P T E R 1

Your Root System: Growing God's Way

“We must cultivate our garden.” Voltaire

Hopefully, you have your notebook, supplies, a great attitude, and are ready to begin. There is an excitement that comes with learning something new about the Lord. God is available daily for you and cares about what is happening in your life. He is progressive and moving forward for your benefit. He likes to offer you opportunities when you are open and willing. God will orchestrate your life according to His plan for you. You must remember that His timing is perfect. God has given your life a design and purpose for you to fulfill. He wants to be engaged with you in every aspect of life.

From the work of the seed being sown and the growth of the plant from the seed, valuable lessons may be learned. This brings us to our theme of the week: Growing God's Way. Scripture tells us to abide in Christ, just as a branch connects to the vine. Believers who abide in the Lord no longer exist for themselves, but rather live for Him. To do this you must choose to grow God's way. God is calling you to a standard higher than the world's. You need to make sure your soil is right, your climate condition is suitable and you are prepared to fight any unwanted weeds or pests. You have been given the power to choose to be part of the very best garden: the family of God.

There is no mystery to the call on your life. God wants you to have a hope-filled future and His words are always straightforward and clear. However, He does require you to be in position to hear what He is saying. An open, willing, and obedient heart is needed. He desires to fill you with His message of truth and love. What you must understand is that there is no reaping a harvest unless the seed is first sown. You can find success and growth in your Christian walk only when you make it your ambition to abide or remain, firmly planted in Christ Jesus. Needless to say, you have a very important part to play!

As you can see in the illustration of the seed growing into a plant, our spiritual development is similar to seed development. And just as in the laws of nature, the reaping will testify as to what the sowing has been. God's Word warns that if you sow sparingly you will surely reap sparingly. When you choose to water and nurture the seed it will produce a harvest. In your Christian walk, exciting things happen in the tilling of your spiritual soil, in the discipline of your character, and lessons are constantly learned and growth is always taking place. These lessons should be regarded as part of

God's own schoolroom. He wants you to be fruitful, to grow more and more in His purpose and His presence. God is always glorified when believers cultivate a Christ-like character.

Remember you are doing this study with Almighty God, who loves you, accepts you unconditionally, and understands you completely. The opportunity to learn and grow is yours by reading God's Word and living out your faith daily. God's plan is for none to perish so He sent His Son. It was for you and the rest of mankind that Jesus lived, died, and rose again. Take advantage of these dynamic truths that make a difference in how you see yourself, how you interact with others, what you value most and how you spend your time. You can only grow as strong and tall as your root system is deep.

DAILY BIBLE STUDY FOR CHAPTER 1



SPOTLIGHTING GOD'S WORD

Monday: John 15:5. Who is the Vine? Who are the branches? What can we do apart from Him?

Tuesday: 2 Corinthians 9:6-8. This passage provides another illustration of sowing and reaping. The Lord supplies. The Lord multiplies. The Lord increases. How do our actions determine what we receive (good and bad)?

Wednesday: Galatians 5:22-23 Read the character qualities we should portray mentioned in these verses. Explain how this should affect the way we treat others.

Thursday: Galatians 6:7 Why should we not be deceived?

Friday: Luke 8:4-11 As believers what should we strive to do?

TAKE A STEP AHEAD WITH PRAYER

Dear Lord,

I sincerely dedicate this Bible study to You. I ask for Your blessing to unite me and this curriculum, or all my efforts will be done in vain. Help me to cultivate the soil of my heart so as Your seed is sown it will produce an education for my soul. Help my spiritual climate be right to receive instruction. Remind me Oh Lord, that my garden needs thoughtful daily attention.

Help me recognize weeds like anger and doubt when they may pop up and take nourishment from the good seed planted. Give me wisdom to follow the path that leads to victory and blessing. Help me to avoid the road that leads to confusion and destruction. Oh God, You are the Author of my being, keep me willing to pursue all that You have in store for me. My goal is to grow in every way and enlarge the harvest of Your Kingdom. Lord, give me a strong unshakeable faith. Help my life display a Christ like character that will be pleasing to You.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

DIGGING DEEPER

- **Have students look up the word “abide” and “orchestrate” in the dictionary and define the meanings. Written or orally is expectable.**
- **Enrich your living space with a bit of God’s creative genius. Plant a flower or vegetable indoors, water and watch for it to grow. You will need seeds, small clear Dixie cups, and potting soil to do this in the classroom or at home.**

NOTEBOOK ACTIVITIES

- **Write an essay on ways the Word of God has been planted in your heart.**
- **Draw or paint a plant and its root system. Then label what qualities we should strive to produce on the roots of the plant, i.e. goodness, patience, etc.**
- **On a sheet of paper label as the heading Root System. On one side list unwise choices and on the other side list wise choices. Use magazine clippings to compare these results.**



*“Always do your best.
What you plant now
you will harvest later.”*

Og Mandino