

J.J.

ROOTED IN CHRIST
Colossians 2:6-7

Colossians 2: 6 So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, 7 rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

INTRODUCTION :

(Show video) A man placing a heavy AC unit on the side of a building using a ladder that was placed on a piece of wood which is on top of shaky scaffolding. Look at what happens in the end.

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/2i1q5VOSKCw>

This has something that we are going to talk about the need for a strong foundation in order for us to spiritually grow.

Review :

We showed you in the several Sundays, what spiritual growth looks like from a spiritual infant, to a spiritual child, to a spiritual young man and become spiritual fathers.

SPIRITUAL STAGE	CHARACTERISTIC	DEFINITION
INFANTS	CARNAL	Controlled by feelings and appetites
CHILDREN	GROWING	Training in God's Word
YOUNG MEN	STRONG	Living God's Word
FATHERS	DISCIPLER	Imparting God's Word

We then took the time to discuss the verse :

Colossians 2: 6 So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord,

We mentioned last week that Paul wrote to the church in Colossae because some false teachers were spreading the teaching that Jesus is not God and he had to correct this.

And we also studied last week that in order to be saved, we need to receive that Jesus Christ is Lord and Saviour. This means, that we need to believe that God sent his own Son who is very God Himself to become man to die on the cross and suffer God's wrath on sin on our behalf. **We need to surrender our lives to Him as our Lord!!! That's the start of Spiritual Growth.**

We took some time in explaining this because
SPIRITUAL GROWTH STARTS FROM BEING SAVED.

IMPORTANT : BECAUSE ANYTHING THAT IS DEAD DOESN'T GROW, CANNOT GROW AND WILL NOT GROW SPIRITUALLY INSIDE.

And what do we need in order to grow spiritually, to become mature?

It has to do with,

WALKING, TRUSTING, OVERFLOWING

Note : God did not make it complicated in order for us to become mature. Again, as I mentioned before growth needs to be intentional (gusto natin).

I. WALKING with Jesus

*Colossians 2: 6 So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, **continue to live your lives in him***

The KJV version

“As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him:”

What does it mean to walk with Jesus?

- **Walking with Jesus means to be aware of His Presence**

It means we need to be aware of God's presence in our lives. We need to acknowledge that He is with us and He is near us. He is so close to us, so close that He is in us.

That's why Paul wrote in Chapter 1

*Colossians 1: 27 To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, **which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.***

The Christian life is not a set of rules – do this and do that. If that's the Christian life, then how are we different from any other religion. **THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS ALL ABOUT WALKING WITH JESUS CHRIST. IT'S HAVING THAT INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM.** And when we have that intimate relationship with Him, then OBEDIENCE flows.

- **Walking with Jesus means to walk step by step with Him.**

*Galatians 5: 24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. **25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.***

KJV

If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

- **Walking with Jesus means to be led by Him.**

2 John 1:6 And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.

*1 John 1:6 If we say that **we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not live out the truth:***

You see this again? To walk with fellowship (koinoinia – sharing of life)

Now, the question : How are we to know that we are truly walking with Him? We are having an intimate fellowship with Him? Being led by Him?

Because we might think, we are walking with Him but how are we sure?

Is it because we are being blessed? Is it because we have no sickness?

Is that the proof that we are walking with the Lord? That's what prosperity gospel preacher preaches.

Biblical Illustration : There was a time of prosperity during the time of Northern Israel when they were led by a military king named Jeroboam. He won a lot of battles and had great wealth. They were doing temple worship and etc and yet God sent a prophet who was a simple shepherd named Amos and told them about their sin. What was their sin? Idolatry (replacing God) and Lack of love for others - they did not care about their fellow Israelites, their brothers and sisters in the Lord.

Note : Remember, one of the marks that one is truly saved is love for their fellow brothers and sisters in the Lord. (Read 1 John, specially chapter 3)

So Amos, told them about their sins and in Amos 3, this is what God said :

Amos 3: 1 Hear this word, people of Israel, the word the Lord has spoken against you— against the whole family I brought up out of Egypt:

*2 “You only have I chosen
of all the families of the earth;
therefore I will punish you
for all your sins.”*

***3 Do two walk together
unless they have agreed to do so?***

Illustration : During the Civil War in the U.S. in the 1860s, one of the advisors of Abraham Lincoln said that he was grateful that God was on the Union's side. But Lincoln told him :

Quote : *Sir, my concern is not whether God is on our side; my greatest concern is to be on God's side, for God is always right. – Abraham Lincoln*

So how do we know we are walking with the Lord?

This brings us to the next step on what we need to do in order to grow spiritually.

II. TRUSTING in His Word (The Truth)

*Colossians 2: 6 So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, 7 **rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught***

Remember, one principle of Bible interpretation is pay attention to the words that have been written.

Illustration : The fall of man started when Eve distorted God's Word.

God commanded :

Genesis 2: 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; 17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die."

But what did Eve say when the serpent was casting doubt in Eve's mind?

Genesis 3: 2 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, 3 but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"

God never said not to touch it. As if touching it will surely make you die.

So pay attention to words.

Why did I emphasize this?

*strengthened in **the faith** as you were taught*

Note : Paul did not write, strengthened in faith as you were taught. In Greek, there was an article "ho" (the, this, these), and "pistis" means faith.

So "pistis" here doesn't mean "trust, believe" like what we used in *"We walk by faith not by sight."* *2 Corinthians 5:7*

Paul is talking about "*the faith as you were taught.*" This means, "A SET OF BELIEFS", in other words, "DOCTRINE"

How are we sure, Paul means "doctrine" here?

Remember the context again, on why Paul wrote Colossians, because there were some false teachers who is teaching that Jesus is not God...THEY WERE INTRODUCING A DIFFERENT DOCTRINE.

Suppose we are going to read most of the letters of Paul. In that case, he is either emphasizing the correct doctrine or making sure they do not follow the wrong doctrine. **Even his letters to Timothy and Titus, he wrote to make sure that they are refuting those who are introducing wrong doctrine.**

As elders and pastors, this what he said to Timothy and Titus.

2 Timothy 1: 13 What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. 14 Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

For Titus, one of the criteria he needs to look at when choosing an elder is that they hold on to correct doctrine.

Titus 1: 9 He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.

Illustration : This is what happened with the catholic church teaching, it started correctly but through the years, they added to Scripture and so it strayed away from the gospel, teaching people that in order to be saved, you need to believe in Jesus Christ and be a good person in order to be saved. In the end, it became like any other religion, where going to heaven or hell will depend on human works not God’s work.

This is how important doctrine is, in his last letter before his death, Paul writes to Timothy :

2 Timothy 4:1 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: 2 Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. 3 For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.

By God’s grace, one of these days, I could speak more about the importance of sound doctrine.

So how do we grow in the truth?

- **Good foundation**

7 rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught

Etymology : rooted “rizoo” (hrid-za-o), fixed, established, grounded

It’s a verb that was only used twice in the New Testament

“root” riza (hrid-za) is the noun, which I’ll show you later.

Christians are encouraged to be “rooted” in the truth, just as we read but Christians are also expected to “rooted” in love.

Ephesians 3:17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, (KJV)

Remember this : This is the two marks of the Christian : Truth and Love. That's who Jesus Christ is.

John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Later, I'll show you how this is applied.

For the meantime, by God's grace, let me show you through His Word the importance of having a good foundation.

Biblical Illustration : Remember the parable of the farmer in Luke 8 There was a large crowd following Jesus Christ. And he told the parable of the farmer sowing seed. Some fell along the path, some fell on rocky ground, some fell on thorns and some fell on good soil. Jesus was telling them, I'm giving you the word and some of you are not hearing it.

And he explained the parable to his disciples and look at what he said.

*Luke 8: 11 "This is the meaning of the parable: **The seed is the word of God.** 12 Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. 13 Those on the rocky ground are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, **but they have no root.** They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away.*

In short, they have no good foundation of the truth. And when a person doesn't have a good foundation of the truth, they easily are swayed, specially in this day and age where Facebook, Youtube, Instagram and Tiktok has a lot of popular pastors but are not teaching sound doctrine.

This is the latest one that I found. This was preached in June 8, 2025

Illustration : Some of you already know Kenneth Copeland. He has a grandson who is also a preacher of a 875 people church in Colorado. The son's name is Jeremy Pearsons. He was asking people to help him by an "equipment" to help him spread the gospel.

These are his words during the preaching :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2uvFLwCum0g>

Quote : *"And we're believing in God for some big things around here. If you have been with us for the last several weeks, you know, we have stepped over in a place of faith where our "equipment" (emphasis mine) is concerned and we've released faith for a piece of "equipment" (emphasis mine) in this church. Put this up for us. (asking it to be shown on the projector.)" – Jeremy Pearsons*

(show photo) And the piece of equipment he was asking for is a private jet worth \$2M.

On the projector, it shows the private jet with the words "Fully Equipped Airplane Project" and with the verse from 2 Timothy 3:17 "That you may be complete, fully equipped for every good work." **(totally taken out of context)**

Look, how totally taken out of context?

If you look at chapter 3 and the purpose of Paul for writing this letter Timothy, he was warning them about coming false teachers like this man and he was encouraging Timothy to continue in sound doctrine so that he will be complete “mature”... remember, spiritual growth ultimately is able to impart God’s Word to others DOCTRINALLY...

Why is it important that we have good foundation of the truth?

*Ephesians 4: 14 **so that we may no longer be children** (infants; nepios, other words for children is teknion and padeion), **tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. 15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,***

This means, we will not be led astray. Remember, the devil is a deceiver. He will try to deceive God’s children by even using Bible verses.

Remember, he did that to our Lord Jesus Christ in Matthew 4.

Next time, BY GOD’S GRACE, we’ll show you how to know you're growing in a good foundation? And then afterwards, we’ll show you the practical steps on how to be rooted, built up and strengthened in the faith.

But let me end with this story on why it’s important to have a good foundation :

Story : It’s called The Last House Standing

This house has been called The Last House Standing. In 2008, Hurricane Ike barreled down on Galveston, Texas with a storm surge of 16 feet and waves reaching even higher. It leveled every single house, church and business across the small town of Gilchrist on the Bolivar peninsula.

Except one.

Reporters scrambled to find the owners of this tall yellow house. Everyone wanted to know two things: How had their house been built and who had designed it?

Turns out, the owners had been through a hurricane before. So when they were ready to build again, they hired engineers to design a house that would withstand a hurricane and then to oversee all of the contractor’s work.

The real strength of this house is below grade. The yellow house sits on reinforced concrete pilings anchored and bolted down to stabilizing pilings. The pilings run deep but also tall, allowing the yellow house to sit at a much higher elevation than surrounding houses.

<https://lisaappelo.com/truth-when-youre-in-a-storm/#:~:text=This%20house%20has%20been%20called,Gilchrist%20on%20the%20Bolivar%20peninsula.>

We saw earlier what the Lord has said :

*Luke 8: 13 Those on the rocky ground are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, **but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away.***

A lot of people put their faith in the wealth, on their health, or in their own intelligence, in people or even preachers but all of us can be swept away, just like that.

But if our faith is placed on God's Word, whatever happens, it might be hard, we will remain standing. Why?

Isaiah 40:8 The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

1 Peter 1:25 but the word of the Lord endures forever." And this is the word that was preached to you.

Matthew 24:35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

Make sure you have a good foundation on God's Word.

S.G.D.

You're know you're building on a good foundation because ...

*Colossians 2: 6 So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, 7 rooted and **built up in him**, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.*

That's the Key Word... The word is centred on Him and all glory goes to Him!

Matthew 7:24-27

So the next question is : How can I have a good foundation?

Here's what I usually say :

Here are the practical steps from the Navigators :

- **Hear**

Romans 10:17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

How do you know it's the word of God being preached :

Simple : The preaching comes from God's Word itself based on how it was intended to be understood according to historical context, Scriptural context at the time it was written.

That's why expository preaching is employed by trustworthy pastors. The Puritan preachers preached expository – meaning they expose God's Word.

This is what Paul said to Timothy :

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to show yourself approved to God, a workman who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth"

And when that happens :

Psalm 119:130 The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.

- **Read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation**

Why? Unlike Eve, you will be aware if you yourself or someone else is adding to God's Word.

Revelation 22:18 I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this scroll: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll.

In short, they will face God's judgement if you add to God's Word.

- Study God's Word
- Memorize
- Meditate