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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 :

Two Sundays from now, we will celebrate Thanksgiving.

Pedro was talking to his Lola. She encourages him to be grateful and says, “Apo, remember to always count your blessings.” Pedro replies, “But Lola, I’m not good at arithmetic.

We have been talking about the things we need to do in order to grow spiritually. This is the final Sunday for this lesson and it has to do with a grateful heart.

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, 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 to 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:”

- **Walking with Jesus means to be aware of His Presence**
- **Walking with Jesus means to walk step by step with Him..**
- **Walking with Jesus means to be led by Him.**

What does it mean to walk with Jesus?

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.

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.

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.

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

Where do we get our truth or our set of beliefs? From the Word of God in the Bible

So how do we grow in the truth?

- **Good foundation of the truth**

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

- **Build our lives around the truth.**

*7 rooted and **built up in him**, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.*

And last week, we talked about how to build our lives in the truth with the Word Hand.

THE WORD HAND : Hear, Read, Study, Memorize and Meditate

Important to note : The reason why we want to listen, read, study, memorize and meditate on God's Word is not to know the Bible but to know God.

The more we know who God is, the more we grow in our spiritual life.

- **Stand on God's Word**

*7 rooted and built up in him, **strengthened in the faith as you were taught**, and overflowing with thankfulness.*

KJV and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught,

Etymology : strengthened "bebaioo" (beb-ah-ya-o), **to make sure (siguraduhin)**

KJV : established

How do you know if you want to make sure if something we built is strong enough to stand on? We test it!

Root word : "basis" where we get the word "base" or "basis" (What's your basis?)

Interestingly enough, that word "basis" is "to step" or the foot

We need to always check that we are checking if our lives and our beliefs are in line with God's Word.

In the end, trusting in God's Word will strengthen us and eventually make us grow.

That's why our Lord said,

Matthew 4:4 "It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

So remember, in order to grow spiritually mature, we need to be

WALKING with Jesus

TRUSTING in His Word

And today we'll talk about.

III. **OVERFLOWING** with thankfulness

*7 rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, **and overflowing with thankfulness.***

So today, by God's grace, we will answer two questions :

- 1. Why being thankful contributes to our spiritual growth?**
- 2. How can we overflow with thanksgiving?**

VERY IMPORTANT: But before anything else, do you know that being ungrateful is one of the traits of an unbeliever?

*2 Timothy 3:1 But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. 2 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, **ungrateful**, unholy, 3 without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, 4 treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—*

And you know what? Jesus put ungrateful people on the same scale as evil or wicked people.

Luke 6:35 But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.

Being ungrateful is one of the worst traits of person.

Illustration : I broke my left driver side mirror recently. I didn't know how to replace it. Oca replaced it for me. What if Oca did that, I just said goodbye or just said, "O sige, alis ka na."

Biblical Illustration : Remember that pride and ungratefulness go hand in hand. Primary example was Satan himself. Remember, when God made him, he was the seal of perfection. He was a beautiful angel.

Ezekiel 28: 12 "Son of man, take up a lament concerning the king of Tyre and say to him: 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says:

*"You were the seal of perfection,
full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.*

*13 You were in Eden,
the garden of God;*

*every precious stone adorned you:
carnelian, chrysolite and emerald,
topaz, onyx and jasper,
lapis lazuli, turquoise and beryl.*

*Your settings and mountings were made of gold;
on the day you were created they were prepared.*

*14 You were anointed as a guardian cherub,
for so I ordained you.*

*You were on the holy mount of God;
you walked among the fiery stones.
15 You were blameless in your ways
from the day you were created
till wickedness was found in you.*

Instead of being grateful for what God has made him, he wanted to be god. Instead of worshipping God, he wanted to be worshipped. (Isaiah 14:12-14)

Etymology : ungrateful “acharistos” a “without” charis “grace” kindness... other meaning of acharistos means unpleasant.

That’s true right? When a person is ungrateful, he is being unpleasant.

Illustration: One of my pet peeves is when I open the door for someone and they don’t even acknowledge it or say “thank you.” One time, I opened the door for someone and the person did not even acknowledge or looked me in the eye or say “thank you.” So as that person walked past me, I looked at him and said sarcastically, “thank you.”

So let’s answer the question #1 earlier.

1. Why being thankful contributes to our spiritual growth?

It’s not so much that being thankful to God adds to our spiritual growth **but being ungrateful stagnates, stunts or can even reverse our spiritual growth.**

Illustration: Remember the time I showed you that I was so confused that my tomatoes weren’t producing fruit? It’s because when we had our men’s ministry, Nestor saw that my tomato plant was in the shade along the trees.

He said that tomatoes need to be in the sunlight so when I placed it in direct sunlight, (this is what happened), not only one fruit but it brought forth many tomatoes. (Show photos)

So why does being thankful contribute to our spiritual growth and being ungrateful stagnates or even reverses our spiritual growth?

QUOTE : Being thankful to God lets us focus on Him and being ungrateful defocuses us on Him.

(It’s like thankfulness is like putting my tomatoes under the light of the sun and ungratefulness is putting my tomatoes in the shade)

Look at what Paul wrote :

Philippian 4:6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Do not be anxious about anything because worry and anxiety makes you focus on the problem and not on God.

But *prayer and petition, with thanksgiving* forces you to focus on who God is and His promises.

On the other hand, being ungrateful, just puts you in the dark and nothing grows in the dark except mold.

Romans 1:21 Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused.

By God's grace, we'll talk more about this in our Thanksgiving service.

Now, let's answer the second question :

2. How can we overflow with thanksgiving?

Illustration: We had a good Bible study last Friday. One of the things that stuck in the Bible study is when Kuya Tony mentioned that before he thinks a lot of "kabuwisitan" but everything changed in his life when he started "meditating" on God's Word. Again, meditating on God's Word means thinking about it over and over and over again

Etymology : *overflowing* "perissuo", this means abounding...

So how can we be abounding in thanksgiving? Remember what I told you before.

Quote : What fills you, controls you.

That's why I showed you in our earlier study that we should be filled with the Spirit and to be filled with the Spirit means to be filled with God's Word.

*Ephesians 5:18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but **be filled with the Spirit**, 19 addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, 20 giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,*

It simply means, "to be controlled by the Spirit" (We've studied this before, what fills you, controls you.)

So how can you be "filled" or "controlled" by the Spirit. Let's at the mirror verse here in Colossians show us.

*Colossians 3: 16 **Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly**, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. 17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

(Remember again, we said earlier study the Bible not to know the Bible but to know who God is. It's because the more we know who God is, the more we will be thankful.

Quote : What fills you is what overflows from you.

That's why Proverbs says :

Proverbs 4:23 Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.

So in order for us to BE **overflowing with thankfulness**, WE NEED TO ASK THE QUESTION: WHAT ARE YOU FILLING YOUR HEART WITH? ARE WE FILLING IT WITH GOD AND HIS WORD?

How? First, we need to

- **Change your self-talk with God-talk.**

Always remember, our sinful nature will always be bent on anxiety, negativity and worst-case and self-flagellation.

Illustration: I heard this from someone else. When you have a Christian friend and he makes a stupid decision and you hear him say, "I'm stupid. I'm a loser. I'm good for nothing." What will you do? Will you reinforce it or will you encourage your friend? Of course, we will encourage our friend. We will speak life to our friend. But that's what we do to ourselves, we think about that "we're stupid. We're a loser. We're good for nothing." Be careful with your self-talk.

Let God speak into your life.

When we hear ourself talk "I'm ugly. I'm stupid."

God says, "You were made in my image and likeness." (Genesis 1:26-27)

When we say to ourself, "I'm a loser."

God says to you, "You are more than a conqueror in Christ." (Romans 8:37)

When we say to ourself "I'm good for nothing."

God says, "You are my workmanship (poema) in Christ to do good works." (Ephesians 2:10)

When we say to ourself "I can't do it. I can't do this anymore."

God says, "You can do all things through Christ who strengthens you." (Philippians 4:13)

When we say to ourself "I'm scared."

God says, "Even though you walk through the valley of the shadow of death, you don't have to be scared for I am with you." (Psalm 23:4)

This is why it's important to really know God's Word. Satan will always lie to you and sell it like it's the truth. Don't follow your feelings or what others say. Believe what God says in His Word in the Bible!!!

Note : We speak life to others. Start speaking life to yourself too.

Be careful how we speak to others but be also careful on how we speak to ourselves.

Proverbs 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue.

- **Count God's blessings instead of worrying.**

Illustration: It's only 12 weeks before Christmas. When I was growing up, my parents would always play "Ray Conniff Christmas carols" during Christmas time. One of the songs I remember had this lyrics, "*And if we worry and we can't sleep, we count our blessings instead of sheep and we'll fall asleep, counting our blessings.*" That's good advise.

If we really do count our blessings, you are a more than a billionaire! Do you want me to prove it to you?

Let's just start by you waking up.

Illustration : An average person breathes 20,000 to 23,000 per day. In one year, that's 7.3M breathes a day. If you're 50 years old, that's 365M breathes in your lifetime.

Now let's count the heartbeat. An average person's heart beats 100,000 per day. In a year, it has beat 36.5M heartbeats and if you're 50 years old, your heart beat for 1.825Billion

And that's just breathing and your heart beating.

Did you wake up in a bed? Did you wake up with a blanket? Did you wake up with a roof on your head? Were you able to open your eyes? Were you able to see? How many colors? Do you know without you knowing, a normal eye can see more than 10M colors?

And that's just waking up and opening your eyes in the morning!

And now let's talk about personal net worth. In short, how much is your value? The computation of that is Your assets (meaning what you own and saved) – Your liabilities (what you owe)

So let's say, your house is worth \$1M value today + you have a savings of 500,000... \$1.5M is your asset. Now minus that with the mortgage still of \$500k on the house and credit card debt of \$100k. So your personal net worth is \$1.5M less 600k is \$900k

Now here's really your personal net worth as a Christian.

Who is your asset? CHRIST OUR LORD JESUS! It trumps everything.

You know how much is your worth in God's eyes? He paid for your sins with the life of His own Son Jesus Christ!

1 Peter 1:18 For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value. 19 It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God.

YOU ARE RICH!

2 Corinthians 8:9 You know the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make you rich.

Why? BECAUSE YOU HAVE JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD!!! THE VERY GOD HIMSELF IN OUR LIVES...HE IS OUR ASSET!

CONCLUSION:

One morning R.C. Chapman, a devout Christian, was asked how he was feeling. "I'm burdened this morning!" was his reply. But his happy countenance contradicted his words. So the questioner exclaimed in surprise, "Are you really burdened, Mr. Chapman?" "Yes, but it's a wonderful burden--it's an overabundance of blessings for which I cannot find enough time or words to express my gratitude!" Seeing the puzzled look on the face of his friend, Chapman added with a smile, "I am referring to Psalm 68:19, which fully describes my condition. In that verse the Father in heaven reminds us that He 'daily loads us with benefits.

Psalm 68:19 Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation. Selah.

That's why it's important to know God's Word and to count God's blessings in our life and we will be overflowing with thankfulness. Why?

Luke 6:45 for out of the abundance of his heart, the mouth speaks.

That's why in order for us to grow spiritually,
We need to be walking with Jesus, trusting in His Word and overflowing with thanksgiving.

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.

PRAISE BE TO THE LORD OUR GOD JESUS CHRIST!

Breaking of the Bread

S.G.D.

