

**Learning to Follow When Difficulty Comes:
Growing Spiritual Roots**

Matthew 13:20-21; Mark 4:16-17; Luke 8:13

Matt 13:20-21 "But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹ "yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles."

Mark 4:16-17 "These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; ¹⁷ "and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word's sake, immediately they stumble."

Luke 8:13 "But the ones on the rock [are those] who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away."

Overview of the Explanations of the Parallel Passages:

1. The _____: Hears the word, and receives it with joy
2. The _____: Has no root (in himself)
3. The _____: Believes / endures for a time
4. The _____: When tribulation or persecution arises
5. The _____: Because of the word / for the word's sake
6. The _____: Immediately stumbles / falls away

Characteristics of Roots:

1. Roots _____ You
For if the firstfruit [is] holy, the lump [is] also [holy]; and if the root [is] holy, so [are] the branches. (Rom 11:16)
2. Roots _____ You
And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree, (Rom 11:17)
3. Roots _____ You
do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, [remember that] you do not support the root, but the root [supports] you. (Rom 11:18)

Requirements for Growing Spiritual Roots:

Col 2:6-8 ⁶As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, ⁷rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. ⁸Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____ (7; Eph 4:11ff)
6. _____
7. _____ (8; Psalm 1:1)

Biblical Terms Relating to Growing Spiritual Roots:

1. _____
Eph 3:17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, (cf. Col 2:7)
2. _____ ("to lay a foundation; to make stable")
Col 1:23 if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister. (cf. Eph 3:17)
1 Pet 5:10 But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle [you].
3. _____ ("firm; immovable")
1 Cor 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord. (e.g. Col 1:23)
4. _____ Up
Jude 1:20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, (cf. Col 2:7)
5. _____ ("confirmed")
Heb 13:9 Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For [it is] good that the heart be established by grace, not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them. (cf. Col 2:7)
6. _____ Up ("grow up; increase")
1 Pet 2:2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, (cf. Mark 4:8 "increased...30x, 60x, 100x")