

## Becoming Fruitful Disciples: Developing Roots

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.

### Life Exists, But Maturity Does Not

- Eph 3:17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love,
- Col 2:7 rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.
- Jude 1:20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,
- 1 Pet 2:2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,
- 2 Pet 3:18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be* the glory both now and forever. Amen.

<p><b>Psalms 1:1-6</b> <sup>1</sup> Blessed <i>is</i> the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; <sup>2</sup> But his delight <i>is</i> in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night. <sup>3</sup> He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper. <sup>4</sup> The ungodly <i>are</i> not so, But <i>are</i> like the chaff which the wind drives away. <sup>5</sup> Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. <sup>6</sup> For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall perish.</p>	<p>Rejection of false views, influences, and practices Pursuit of the Word of God → Fruitfulness</p>
<p><b>Ephesians 4:11-16</b> <sup>11</sup> And He Himself gave some <i>to be</i> apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; <sup>14</sup> that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, <sup>15</sup> but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ-- <sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.</p>	<p>Recognize God's <u>Equippers</u> (cp 2 Tim 4:1-4) Recognize Your <u>Need</u> of Being Equipped Recognize Our <u>Starting Point</u> ("children tossed to and fro") Recognize God's <u>Intention</u> for You and Your Local Assembly</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every person</li> <li>• Within a local body</li> <li>• Becoming mature</li> <li>• Doing his part</li> <li>• Benefitting the local body</li> </ul>
<p><b>Colossians 2:6-8</b> <sup>6</sup> As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, <sup>7</sup> rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. <sup>8</sup> Beware 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.</p>	<p>Conversion by belief Continuing by belief Deepening in the belief</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Learning</u> the Truth (being taught well)</li> <li>• <u>Living</u> the Truth (behaving what is taught)</li> <li>• <u>Discern</u> Untruth (rejecting the world's "truth")</li> </ul>
<p><b>Hebrews 5:12-6:3</b> <sup>12</sup> For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need <i>someone</i> to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. <sup>13</sup> For everyone who partakes <i>only</i> of milk <i>is</i> unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. <sup>14</sup> But solid food belongs</p>	<p>Obligation of Learning and Maturing Outcome of Learning and Maturing Limitations of Failing to Learn &amp; Mature Benefits of Learning &amp; Maturing Content of the Basics</p>

<p>to those who are of full age, <i>that is</i>, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. <sup>1</sup>Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary <i>principles</i> of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, <sup>2</sup>of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. <sup>3</sup>And this we will do if God permits.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Repentance from dead works</li> <li>• Faith toward God</li> <li>• Doctrine of baptisms</li> <li>• Laying on of hands</li> <li>• Resurrection of the dead</li> <li>• Eternal judgment</li> </ul>
<p><b>1 Peter 2:1-3</b> <sup>1</sup>Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, <sup>2</sup>as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, <sup>3</sup>if indeed you have tasted that the Lord <i>is</i> gracious.</p>	<p>Rejection of false perspectives and practices  Requirement to desire (as a baby desires milk)  Reason to desire (that you may grow thereby)</p>
<p><b>1 John 2:12-14</b> <sup>12</sup>I write to you, little children, Because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake. <sup>13</sup>I write to you, fathers, Because you have known Him <i>who is</i> from the beginning. I write to you, young men, Because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, little children, Because you have known the Father. <sup>14</sup>I have written to you, fathers, Because you have known Him <i>who is</i> from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, Because <b>you are strong</b>, and <b>the word of God abides in you</b>, And <b>you have overcome the wicked one</b>.</p>	<p>Salvation  Maturity  Victory  --  Relationship  Maturity  Strength, Scripture, Victory</p>
<p><b>2 Peter 1:1-11</b> <sup>1</sup>Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: <sup>2</sup>Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, <sup>3</sup>as His divine power has given to us all things that <i>pertain</i> to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, <sup>4</sup>by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption <i>that is</i> in the world through lust. <sup>5</sup>But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, <sup>6</sup>to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, <sup>7</sup>to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. <sup>8</sup>For if these things are yours and abound, <i>you will be</i> neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. <sup>10</sup>Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; <sup>11</sup>for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.</p>	<p>God's completely supplied resources for godly living  Through knowledge of Him  Great and precious promises  Through these you may be partakers of the divine nature  Escaped the corruption of the world through lust  Giving diligence to add:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To faith, virtue</li> <li>• To virtue, knowledge</li> <li>• To knowledge, self-control</li> <li>• To self-control, perseverance</li> <li>• To perseverance, godliness</li> <li>• To godliness, brotherly kindness</li> <li>• To brotherly kindness, love</li> </ul> <p>Result – neither barren nor unfruitful</p>