

Deacon's Lesson
Centennial Celebration - Prayer Theme
March 2020

Be Rooted and Built up in Christ and Established in Faith and Trust in God

⁶Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. [Colossians 2:6-7, ESV]

Our special prayer focus for the month of March is for the church to **be rooted and built up in Christ and established in faith and trust in God.**

Since we have received Christ as our Lord and Savior, our response should be to walk in him, not just any kind of way, but rooted and built up. Not only this, but also established in faith and trust in God. Our walk refers to how we live our Christian lives. You may have noticed giant uprooted trees decades old after a storm lying helpless on the sidewalk, street, or on someone's house or lawn after a storm. Then, on the other hand small shrubs remain stable and upright. What is the difference? The answer is a strong and deep root system. Sadly, a number of Christians are not deeply rooted trees or strong shrubs but dried brown tumbleweeds that are blown from place to place by life problem, or every wind of doctrine or by individuals with the latest persuasive message [Ephesians 4:14].

Paul explicitly says that our rooting is in Christ. We are to seek a deep abiding relationship in Christ for He is the vine and we are the branches. We are nurtured by Him and His Word. We are also energized and strengthened by His Word. It is essential to stay in His Word *¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love...* [Eph. 3: 17-19]. Seriously living out **God's Word along with a committed relationship with Him will deeply root us** so that we can live vibrant spiritual lives as a community of believers. We are talking about the overall strength of the church. Strong winds, tornadoes, or false doctrines will not uproot us. Living our lives rooted in Christ is to be strongly secured. **We can stand during the vicissitudes of life if we trust and lean on God.**

TRUSTING AND LEANING!

⁵Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

⁶In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. [Proverbs 3:5-6]

The average chair can hold over 300 pounds. But how many of us actually consider this fact when we have a sit down? For many of us, this never crosses our minds. We just trust that

the chair we choose will support us. And how many times do we question if our deposits will still be in our savings accounts if we don't make any withdrawals? We have come to just trust that our money will be there when we need it. When it comes to our spiritual lives, God expects an even greater reliance on Him! Often, it becomes commonplace in our lives for us to trust things in life that don't matter. But our greater need is to trust our God with reckless abandon—that means without giving any thought to any consequences. Complete dependence.

As we embark on our centennial journey, we must continue to be rooted and built up in Christ. How do we do this you may ask? **Simply by putting our faith and trust in Him.** It sounds simple, but the truth is: trusting and depending on God is a continual act of will, because life will surely happen. We will experience let downs and setbacks, loss of jobs, loss of loved ones, and sometimes a loss of our physical health. It is through these challenges, however, that we can see God in more powerful ways if we are obedient to heed Proverbs 3:5-6. The writer gives us an imperative to trust in God with ALL our hearts. This means leaving no room for doubt or second-guessing. This means looking to God to supply our every need, knowing that He knows exactly what we need. The writer implores us not only to trust God, but to NOT lean to our own understanding—not operate from our own power! God wants to be our only power source! We sometimes spend a great deal of time attempting to “figure things out” when God has the answers we want and need ready for us if we just stop and put Him first in our decision making, and allow Him to direct us! God knows exactly where He wants us to go and what He wants us to do! He only requires that we trust and lean on Him!

Prayer

Lord just as we have received You, let us continue to live and grow to spiritual maturity. May our daily conduct reflect You in our lives. Deepen our love for You and one another. Our continuous prayer is that we will be like a tree planted by streams of water, which yield its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither but prospers. (Psalm 1:3)

In Jesus' name. Amen