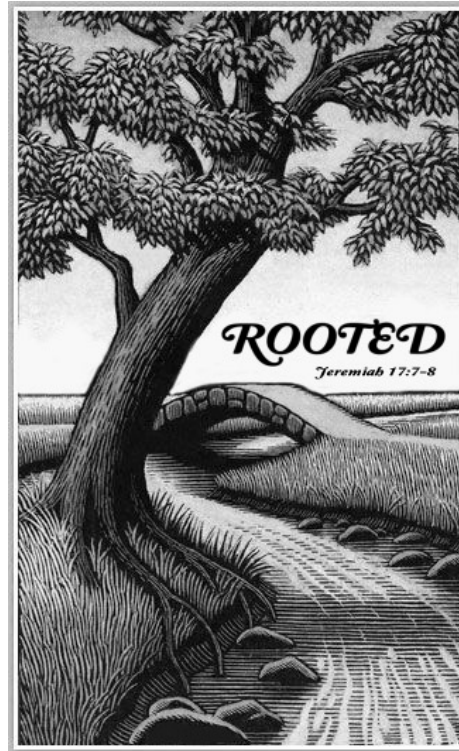




## Daily Devotion Overview



Theme: "Rooted"  
Jeremiah 17:7-8

- <sup>7</sup> "Blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD,  
whose confidence is in him.
- <sup>8</sup> They will be like a tree planted by the water  
that sends out its roots by the stream.  
It does not fear when heat comes;  
its leaves are always green.  
It has no worries in a year of drought  
and never fails to bear fruit."

## **Devotion 1**

Welcome to your first devotion! If you've never had a devotion time, don't worry, it's really easy! The goal is to find a quiet place and eliminate as many distractions as you can, and then: read, think, and pray.

### **Try to be still**

Before moving on, take a deep breath and look around. Here we are surrounded by God's creation. Take a moment to enjoy being still, and ask God to speak to you through the verses you are about to read.

### **Bible Verses**

Jeremiah 17:7-8 (Theme Verse)

Luke 8:4-15 (Parable of the sower)

### **Think about it**

The passage in Jeremiah paints a picture of a tree with roots by a stream, and it is a representation of a person who has deeply rooted faith: the kind of faith that helps when times in life get tough. It's important to remember that just like a tree grows from a seed, our faith grows from the word of God. In Luke, Jesus says the word of God is like a seed, but its growth depends on what type of soil it falls on. That's where you come in! What kind of soil do you want to be? Jesus said: "he who has ears to hear, let him hear."

### **Pray about it**

God, please give me ears to hear. Please soften my heart, and help me understand your word. Please help me grow close to you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## **Devotion 2**

Welcome to your second devotion! Once again, the goal of this time is to find a quiet place, and eliminate as many distractions as you can, and then: read, think, and pray.

### **Try to be still**

Take a deep breath, and look around. Take a moment to sit in calmness before reading.

### **Bible Verses**

Jeremiah 17:7-8 (Theme Verse)

Luke 8:4-15

### **Think about it**

The passage in Jeremiah says the tree sends out its roots by the stream. As a result, the leaves stay green, and the tree is affected by neither heat nor drought. In the passage in Luke, what does Jesus say about the seeds that fall upon the rocks, and specifically their roots? A tree that does not receive enough water or nutrients from the soil will not grow, and it will be susceptible to die off with high heat or lack of water.

In Luke, Jesus says that some people will have faith and believe for a while, but in hard times (heat/drought), their faith will fall away because it is not rooted. Hard times can mean many things: illness, injury, arguments, lack of money, etc. Have you or a family member been through, or currently going through a hard time? If so, take courage! Remain rooted in the Word of God (the Bible), for it is the water and nutrients your faith needs in hard times. If you've never really read it, don't worry! Start small, like a seed. Start with one book: Matthew, Mark, Luke or John. These are called the Gospels.

### **Pray about it**

Lord, please help my faith grow and show me how to become more deeply rooted in you. Keep me close to you in hard times. In Jesus' name Amen.

## **Devotion 3**

Welcome to your third devotion! Once again, find a quiet place and then: read, think, and pray.

### **Try to be still**

Take a deep breath, and look around. Take a moment to sit in calmness, and ask the Lord to speak to you through the verses you are about to read.

### **Bible Verses**

Jeremiah 17:7-8 (Theme Verse)

Luke 6:43-45

John 15:4-5

Galatians 5:22-25

### **Think about it**

The verse in Jeremiah says that not only does the tree planted by the stream survive during hard times, but it never ceases to bear fruit. We hear this idea of fruit several times throughout God's word, but have you really thought about it? If it came from a good tree, the fruit tastes great, and is healthy too. The fruit provides the evidence for what kind of tree it came from.

It's important to remember that good fruit does not grow on it's own. If we are following Christ, his spirit (the Holy Spirit) lives in us. If the Holy Spirit is in us, our lives will bear fruit, but the verse in John says we must remain in Christ for that to happen. And finally, what does that fruit look like? The passage in Galatians says the fruit is: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These are the actions and evidence of one whose faith is rooted in Christ.

### **Pray about it**

Lord, please help my faith grow stronger. Help me to remain in you so that I might bear good fruit. Show me how to live for you. In Jesus' name, Amen.