

# Remain Rooted

Matt VanCleave

January 21st, 2024

## We would like your feedback!

Please answer this brief survey to help us provide you with a better small group experience!

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## Review Last Week's Next Steps

- I will take one thought of God expressed in Scripture and live with it throughout the day.
- I will not allow my mind to drift all the time.
- I will not miss assembling together with the church on a weekly basis.
- I will make being at Blue Oaks a time of worshiping and learning in community.
- I will join a small group and build relationships with others at Blue Oaks.

## THIS WEEK'S SERMON RECAP

The writer of Psalm 1 lays out two ways of living.

1. We can go with the flow. We can let the world squeeze us into its mold. We can live by default.
2. We can live on purpose. We can be formed by the thoughts of God. We can meditate on Scripture and take delight in its wisdom. We can get into community where people keep us accountable, sharpen us, and remind us that God is at work in our lives.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Psalms 1:3 says "He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither." What is the key for a tree to be healthy? And if we are likened to a tree, what does this mean for us to be spiritually healthy?

2. Read John 15:4-9. Like Psalms 1, in John 15 Jesus says we are like branches of a tree. Jesus says we must “remain” in Him to be healthy. Jesus repeats the same word “remain” EIGHT times in just 5 verses to emphasize how “remaining in Him” is vital if we want to be fruitful. The word remain can also be translated to mean stay, abide, and live. What does “remaining” in the vine (Jesus) mean to you?
  
3. In Galatians 5, Paul writes that “the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control.” A healthy fruit tree produces fruit, just as a healthy Christ follower produces the fruit of the Spirit. So how do you practically produce the fruit of the Spirit?
  
4. Pastor Matt said that when Psalms 1:3 says “whatever he does prospers” does NOT mean that whatever he does brings material wealth. What does the Psalmist mean to prosper then?
  
5. Psalms 1:4 says, “Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away.” Pastor Matt taught that wind is likened to the judgment of God that separates the good grain (or fruit) from the chaff. In the end what happens to the chaff? (Hint: read the next verse - Psalms 1:5).
  
6. During the message Pastor Matt had everyone assess how they have grown spiritually (with spiritual fruit) in the last year and to compare it to today. What did you learn about yourself from doing this exercise?

7. Colossians 2:6-7 says, "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness." And in Colossians 3:16 Paul tells us how to be rooted in Jesus: "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.." So how do you personally do this? Pastor Matt said the answer is to do what Joshua 1:8 says. What is this and how do we do it?
  
8. Pastor Matt challenged us to do one thing (Meditate on God's word) and also to abstain from something else. What did he ask us to abstain from and how do we do it? When you first heard this, what was your reaction?
  
9. Share about your biggest takeaway from Pastor Matt's message this week.

## **NEXT STEPS FOR THIS WEEK (COMMIT TO GROW)**

- I will meditate on Scripture in order to keep God's Word in my mind and on my lips.
- I will fast from social media for a day, several days, a week, or a month.

## SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- Psalm 1:1-6
- John 15:4-9
- John 7:37-39
- Galatians 5:22-23
- Colossians 2:6-7
- Colossians 3:16
- Joshua 1:8
- Psalm 119:11

## Prayer Request(s)

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