

Putting Down Roots

- 1. The key to the blessed life is having roots.**
 - 2. Roots are a hidden support system that support and sustain what's above ground.**
 - 3. Having roots means having a deep, intimate, personal relationship with Jesus. You can call it prayer; you can call it “abiding”; but getting connected to “living water” and drawing in his life is essential to your living the “good life.”**

CONCLUSION: We already talked about the juniper, but do you know about bamboo? Bamboo spends the first five years of its life underground. After spending five years putting down deep roots, bamboo juts into the sky, growing 80 feet tall in 5 weeks or less. The reason for its stupendous growth is simple: because it grows down before it grows up; because it has in place this hidden support system; because it put down deep roots, bamboo can reach for the sky. It does not fear when the heat comes. Its leaves remain green and good. It is not anxious in the year of drought. Friends, brothers, sisters: be like the bamboo. Be like the juniper. Shoot down deep roots so you can withstand life's drought and storms and be filled with life, His life, the good life, not just #blessed but also a blessing.

Jeremiah 17:7-8

⁷“Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord,
whose trust is the Lord.

⁸He is like a tree planted by water,
that sends out its roots by the stream,
and does not fear when heat comes,
for its leaves remain green,
and is not anxious in the year of drought,
for it does not cease to bear fruit.”

Matthew 6:5-6

⁵“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

John 15:1-11

¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. ⁹As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.