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SERMON TITLE

Digging Deeper

SERIES**DATE**

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KEY SCRIPTURE

Colossians 2:6-7

SYNOPSIS

The most important spiritual work in your life is probably happening in places nobody else can see.

HIGHLIGHTS



🔧 Digging Deeper

Good morning! We're three weeks into 2026 now. Week one, we talked about fresh starts—taking that first step. Week two, we talked about what happens after the fresh start—when it gets hard and messy, and how we keep going. And if you've been doing that, if you've been showing up and stumbling forward, I'm proud of you. Seriously. That takes guts.

But here's what I want to talk about today: there's a difference between just keeping going and actually growing deeper. And that difference matters. Because you can be busy without being fruitful. You can survive without thriving.

So today we're asking a different question: How do we go deeper? How do we develop the kind of faith that doesn't just survive the storms but actually grows stronger because of them? How do we move from surface-level Christianity to the kind of depth that produces real transformation?

🔧 **Colossians 2:6-7** says this: **"So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness."**

Rooted. That's the word I want us to focus on today. Rooted. Not just planted. Not just sprouted. Anchored. Connected to something bigger than yourself. And here's why this matters: **the health of what you see above ground is determined by what's happening below ground.** The fruit, the flowers, the growth—all of that depends on roots you can't see.

Starting today, we're going to spend some time in the book of Colossians. It's a short letter but it's packed with some profound truths about who Jesus is and what it means to live in Him. Paul wrote this letter to a church in Colossae, a small city in modern-day Turkey. He'd never actually been there, but he'd heard about their faith and he wanted to encourage them and warn them.

See, the Colossian church was being bombarded with all kinds of religious ideas. People were saying, "Sure, Jesus is great, but you also need this secret knowledge," or "Jesus is good, but you also need to follow these strict rules." Sound familiar? We're not so different today. We're constantly being sold Jesus-plus-something-else.

And Paul writes this letter to say, "No. **Jesus plus nothing equals everything. Christ is sufficient.** Christ is supreme. And if you want depth, if you want roots, you find them in Him alone." So, over the next several weeks, we're going to walk through this letter together and dig



into what it means to be rooted in Christ. But today, let's start with the basics: what does it actually mean to deepen your roots, and why does it matter?

☞ **Roots Grow Down Before They Grow Out**

If you plant sweet corn next spring, it might get frustrating if you went to look for growth every single day. It doesn't happen that way. It takes time and the most important work happens underground before any stalks or leaves will be seen. And, if you want a strong stalk that can weather the storms and produce an ear of corn, you've got to let those roots establish first. That's how spiritual growth works too. And let's be honest—some of us check our spiritual growth like we're refreshing our email. 'Has God transformed me yet? How about now? Still nothing? Maybe I need to restart.' Before you see the fruit of transformation, there's got to be root development. And root development is slow. It's invisible. But it's essential.

When Paul says "rooted and built up in him," he's using two different metaphors. Rooted is agricultural—like sweet corn. Built up is architectural—like a building. But notice the order: rooted first, then built up. You can't build up what isn't rooted down.

And here's the thing about roots: they grow in the dark. They grow underground where nobody sees. They grow slowly, quietly, without fanfare. **The most important spiritual work in your life is probably happening in places nobody else can see.** It's happening in your prayer closet. In your Bible reading when nobody's watching. In the character choices you make when no one will ever know. In the thoughts you entertain or reject when you're alone.

We live in a culture that celebrates the instant. The viral moment. The overnight success. The dramatic testimony. And those things can be great. But real spiritual maturity is built slowly, over time, in the hidden places. Sometimes we want spiritual growth that's more like a time-lapse video—you know, where the flower blooms in three seconds. But God's working in real time, which feels painfully slow. If you want to go deep with God, you've got to be okay with the slow, plain work of root development. You've got to be okay with growth that nobody applauds because nobody sees it yet. But, keep on growing deeper.

☞ **Deep Roots Produce Lasting Fruit**

In **John 15:5**, Jesus says, **"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."** Remain. Abide. Stay connected. That's root language. And notice what Jesus promises: if you remain in Him, you will bear much fruit. Not might. Not maybe. Will.

☞ But here's what we often miss: **the fruit isn't the goal. The fruit is the result.** Your job isn't to manufacture fruit. **Your job is to stay connected to the vine.** To deepen your roots in Christ. To abide. And when you do that, fruit happens naturally.



I think a lot of us get frustrated because we're trying to produce fruit through sheer effort. We're trying to be more patient by gritting our teeth and willing ourselves not to lose our temper. But that's not how it works. **Galatians 5** calls it **the fruit of the Spirit, not the fruit of trying really hard**. Trying to produce spiritual fruit through sheer willpower is like trying to grow tomatoes by yelling at the seeds. 'BE A TOMATO! I BELIEVE IN YOU!' It's exhausting, and your neighbors start to worry. **The fruit comes from being rooted in Christ**. From spending time with Him, letting His Word shape your thoughts, allowing His Spirit to transform you from the inside out.

When your roots go deep, the fruit takes care of itself. You don't have to manufacture patience—it grows naturally when you're connected to the One who is patient. You don't have to force love—it flows naturally when you're abiding in the God who is love. So, if you're exhausted from trying to be a better Christian, maybe the problem is that you're trying to grow fruit without deepening roots. And that's backwards.

☞ Storms Reveal What You're Rooted In

There's a type of tree called the Joshua tree that grows in the deserts of the southwestern United States. These trees can live for hundreds of years in some of the harshest conditions on earth—extreme heat, very little water, brutal winds. And the reason they survive is because of their root system. A Joshua tree's roots can spread out up to 12 yards in all directions and go down as deep as 36 feet. That's a root system that's as big underground as the tree is above ground. So, when the storms come—and they do come—that tree doesn't fall. It bends, it sways, but it holds. Meanwhile, some of us have root systems like a Chia Pet.

Jesus tells a parable about this in Matthew 7. Two men build houses. One builds on rock, the other on sand. The rain comes, the streams rise, the winds blow. Same storm hits both houses. But the house built on rock stands firm, while the house built on sand collapses. The difference? The foundation. The roots. Both houses looked fine until the storm came. You don't know what you're rooted in until something tests it. When life is smooth and comfortable, shallow roots don't seem like a problem. But when the diagnosis comes, when the job disappears, when the relationship falls apart, when the depression hits—that's when you find out what your foundation is actually made of.

Colossians 1:23 says we should "**continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel.**" Established. Firm. Immovable. That's deep roots. I'm not saying that **if you have deep roots**, you won't struggle. The promise isn't that the storm won't come. The promise is that when it does, you won't fall. **You might bend and sway. You might get battered. But you won't be destroyed.**



In Colossians, Paul talks about people being **"tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching."** That's what happens when you don't have roots. You're unstable. You're blown around by whatever sounds good in the moment. One week you're on fire for God. The next week you're doubting everything. One month you're committed to church. The next month you've disappeared.

But when your roots go deep in Christ, you have stability. Now, you can still grow, still learn, still be challenged. But you're not constantly starting over. You're not perpetually shaken. You're anchored.

☞ **You Have to Go Below the Surface**

So how do you actually deepen your roots? Let me give you three practical ways, and we'll unpack more as we go through Colossians over the coming weeks.

☞ **First: Prioritize God's Word.** Colossians 3:16 says, **"Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly."** Dwell. Not visit. Not drop by occasionally. Dwell. Take up residence. If you want deep roots, you need **to be in the Word consistently**. Not just reading it like a checklist. Not just skimming a verse on your phone. Really engaging with it. Meditating on it. Letting it challenge you and change you.

And I know some of you are thinking, "I've tried that. I don't understand half of what I read." That's okay. And, some of you are three weeks into your resolution to read the Bible daily, and you're already on the struggle bus. That's okay, too. The struggle bus makes stops everywhere, and we all ride on it from time to time. Just start where you are. Maybe it's five minutes a day. Maybe you join a Bible study where you can ask questions. The point isn't perfection. The point is consistency. Roots don't grow in a day. They grow over time, little by little.

☞ **Second: Cultivate a life of prayer.** Colossians 4:2 says, **"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful."** Prayer isn't just asking God for stuff. Prayer is connection. It's relationship. It's abiding in the Vine. And the truth is... most of us don't pray deeply because we don't pray consistently. We wait until there's a crisis, and then we panic-pray.

But deep roots require regular watering. So maybe your next step is establishing a rhythm of prayer. Maybe it's first thing in the morning. Maybe it's on your lunch break. Maybe it's before bed. Maybe it's all three. But find a time and protect it. Talk to God. Listen to God. Let Him speak into your life.

☞ **Third: Do life in community.** I know I keep coming back to this, but it's because it matters so much. Colossians 3:16 also says to **"teach and admonish one another."** You can't do that



alone. You need other people who are rooted in Christ to help you go deeper. You need people who will ask you the hard questions. Who will encourage you when you're struggling.

If you're not serving in a ministry or participating in various Church events, you're missing out on some of the primary ways God deepens our roots. We grow together. Iron sharpens iron. So, get connected. Show up. Be honest. Let people in.

Here's what I want you to hear today: **real growth happens below the surface, not above it.** The stuff that matters most is the stuff nobody sees. And if you've been frustrated because you don't feel like you're growing fast enough, maybe it's because you're only looking at the surface. Maybe it's because God is doing a deep work in you that hasn't emerged yet. Maybe He's developing roots that will sustain you for decades to come.

☞ So, don't despise the slow work. Don't despise the hidden work. Trust the process. **Keep showing up. Keep digging into God's Word. Keep praying. Keep connecting with others. And trust that God, who began a good work in you, is faithful to complete it.**

Over the next several weeks, as we work through Colossians, we're going to explore what it means to be rooted in Christ. And my prayer is that by the time we're done, our roots will be a little deeper, our foundation a little stronger, and our lives a little more fruitful.

The deeper life. Rooted. Built up. Strengthened. That's the life God is inviting you into. Not a life of surface-level religion. Not a life of just barely hanging on. But a life of depth and stability. So, let's develop roots that go down so far that no storm can shake us. And let's trust that the God who plants us is the same God who grows us, waters us, and brings forth fruit in His perfect timing.

What's your next step? Maybe it's committing to read through Colossians this week before next Sunday. Maybe it's finally starting that daily Bible reading habit. Maybe it's volunteering to help in a ministry. Maybe it's just being honest with God: "I want to go deeper, but I don't know how. Help me." Whatever it is, take the step. The roots you develop now will sustain you for years to come. Let's go deep.

Song: Lord I need you