

**Colossians 2:6-10 (NLT)** - And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. <sup>7</sup>Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness. <sup>8</sup>Don't let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ. <sup>9</sup>For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body. <sup>10</sup>So you also are complete through your union with Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority.

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**Jeremiah 17:5-8 (NLT)** - This is what the LORD says: "Cursed are those who put their trust in mere humans, who rely on human strength and turn their hearts away from the LORD. <sup>6</sup>They are like stunted shrubs in the desert, with no hope for the future. They will live in the barren wilderness, in an uninhabited salty land. <sup>7</sup>But blessed are those who trust in the LORD and have made the LORD their hope and confidence. <sup>8</sup>They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought. Their leaves stay green, and they never stop producing fruit."

**Nothing can compete with Christ since we are complete in Christ.**

## Study Guide

This last Sunday we spoke about how the strength of a conviction is determined by the strength of the foundation and that, since Christ is perfect, the weakest link is strength of our roots in him. We talked a bit about how we can deepen those roots, but let's explore that some more. What are the disciplines, practices, or things that you do that help your roots grown down deeper? How do you deepen your relationship with God?

Take a moment to read John 14:23-26. In here Jesus lays out that one of the things that will identify his followers is simply that they will do what he has said. Not only that, but that the Spirit will come to remind them of what they need to do and teach them. So it seems that one of the main ways to deepen our connection to Christ is to be obedient to him.

So, there are two things here to talk about. The first is, how are you doing with listening to God? If we are to do as Jesus has said, then we need to know what that is, and the easiest way to do that is by being in the Word. So, what has worked for you when it comes to being in the Word? Is it a reading plan? Or maybe a set time? Share what has worked for you.

Once we have heard the Words of Jesus, then obedience is the next task. What has been challenging to you when it comes to doing what Jesus has asked? What successes have you had in doing so? Has it become easier over time?

Deepening our roots is simple, but it can also be very challenging. Take some time to pray for each other that you can grow in your awareness of what Jesus has told us and have the strength to do as he asks.