

A Mighty Redwood/ CONQUERING GRAVITY

RESISTING ENEMY FORCES

Lesson 7

11/1/15

A Mighty Redwood can siphon water *upward* to great heights – 360 feet or more!

Are you able to **buck Satan's** downward forces and keep your focus on God?

What have we learned so far?

- Good Roots help us find water on a daily basis (*essential nourishment, strength*), spot the opposition, even in friendly territory (*clear vision*), sort through emotions (*stability of mind*), deal with peer pressure (*strong grip on core values*), and maintain pure motives (*focus on Christ*).
- A Healthy Trunk draws nourishment from fertile soil (*grace, knowledge*), is protected by thick bark (*shield of faith*), and resists decay.
- Gratefulness to God is like streams of water to the redwood tree. When set aside, spiritual fiber dries and weakens, and life in Christ is sapped. Ungratefulness is the “silent killer”.
- Ezra was like the “tree man”, taking nourishment and establishing stability through studying, practicing, and teaching God’s word. As a “tree” he provided shade to many.
- Financial mismanagement is akin to cutting off big, strong limbs from the redwood tree, severely compromising its health, stature, strength, and benefit to others.
- Esther was willing to be used by God, recognizing a key spiritual opportunity. In God’s forest she became a “garden tool” which God used to restore health and provide deliverance to an entire nation!
- Esau succumbed to the “spiritual erosion” in God’s forest of redwoods. His self-reliant attitude grew into despite toward God, which he found to be a one-way path later on.

Levitation means “*the act of rising into or floating something in the air without visible means of support*”. Man has always been intrigued by conquering or harnessing the forces of nature. Today magnetic-levitation technology has produced magnetic-levitation vehicles, including trains, which are now being used in Germany. Without wheels, “maglev” trains are propelled by electromagnetic force and can travel over 200 mph.

Siphon (transitive verb) means “*to transfer liquid from one container to another through a tube using atmospheric pressure to make it flow.*”

Redwoods combine these two features, siphoning water upward and fighting gravity and friction. A Mighty Redwood is not bound by the natural forces that stop other trees from prospering amidst difficult circumstances.

The Principle

Life can be a grind, often trying to wear us down. “*Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour*” (1 Peter 5:8). However, God promised that we can overcome this downward pulling “satanic gravity”, replacing it with an upward pull toward God,

Phil. 3:13-14 “...one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the **upward call of God** in Christ Jesus.”

James 4:8 “**Draw near to God** and He will draw near to you.”

1 John 5:4-5 “For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and **this is the victory that has overcome the world – our faith**. And who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?”

Isaiah 40:31 “Yet those who wait for the LORD will gain new strength; they will **mount up with wings like eagles**, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary.”

Col. 4:2 “Devote yourselves to prayer, **keeping alert** in it with an attitude of thanksgiving;”

Rom. 8:6 “For the mind set on the flesh is death, but **the mind set on the Spirit is life** and peace;”

2 Peter 1:10 “Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for **as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble;**”

Satanic gravity will ALWAYS yield to spiritual siphoning - God's upward pull toward Christ.

We were once subject to this downward force, but Christ nailed Satan and his angels to the cross and raised us UP with Him (Col. 2:12-14). Hallelujah!

Application / Discussion

A. Fill in the following table to provide insight into "spiritual siphoning" for the scenarios shown:

	<i>Satanic Gravity</i>	<i>Spiritual Siphoning</i>
1.	<u>Peer Pressure:</u> Your 11 year old daughter simply has to have the expensive, sexually suggestive clothes that all of her friends have. "Please daddy; if you love me..."	1 Peter 3:3-4, 1 Cor. 6:19-20 <i>"Honey, your identity is in being a beloved child of God. He created His beauty in you, and it shines through to others! Seek to please Him more than others."</i>
2.	<u>Financial Pressure:</u> You're tempted to finally take your family on that expensive Florida vacation, even though it will put you in debt without a plan to pay it back quickly.	1 John 2:15-17, Prov. 11:25, Prov. 18:11, Prov. 22:9
3.	<u>Sexual Temptation:</u> Without your solicitation your computer presents you with opportunities to view sexually explicit material.	2 Cor. 10:5, Rom. 13:14
4.	<u>Pride:</u> You've risen up the corporate ladder, are making a large salary, and receiving professional accolades. You're even invited to speak at a national convention. People are referring to you as "innovative, genius".	Col. 1:27, Rom. 12:3, Prov. 28:20, Prov. 30:8-9

B. Teaching Your Children / Grandchildren: Summarize for children the following Biblical principles about resisting the enemy, and include a short illustration of each.

	<i>Biblical Principle (write a short summary)</i>	<i>Illustration</i>
1.	<i>"The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock."</i> (Mat. 7:25)	
2.	<i>"Therefore, take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm."</i> (Eph. 6:13)	
3.	<i>"He will call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him."</i> (Ps. 91:15)	

What did God impress on you from today's lesson?

Next Time: Martha – "Me, Busy?" (Part 1) / *Being True to Your Priorities*