



**Standing tall when others lean on you**

COUPLES IN CHRIST – Sunrise Community Church - Fall 2015

Resources: “To Stand and Not Be Moved” by Fran Sciacca; Navigator Life Change Study: 2 Peter & Jude

**Why a Redwood?**

<u>Qualities</u>	<u>Questions</u>	<u>Rate</u> 1–10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tallest living species on earth (sequoia sempervirens); some exceed 360 feet in height.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How tall are you standing spiritually?</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Always green; creates lush groves.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do others look to you for counsel during a crisis?</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inhabits sheltered, well-watered places of rich soil.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where do you find your nourishment; what <b>values are you cultivating</b>?</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Long-lasting; oldest tree is at least 2,200 years of age.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is your life marked by <b>perseverance</b> and <b>endurance</b>?</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can grow very rapidly.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are you <b>quick to respond</b> to God’s prompting?</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Uses sunlight very efficiently; can grow even in deep shade.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do you apply <b>God’s word</b> often? Is His word handy to use when you’re tested?</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can siphon water upward to great heights.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are you able to <b>buck Satan’s</b> downward forces and keep your focus on God?</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contains natural decay-resisting resins.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is God’s Spirit free to preserve you?</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Thick bark</b> provides excellent fire-resistant quality.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is your <b>‘shield of faith’</b> intact?</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capable of sprouting from the roots of parent trees.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do you learn from the Godly example of others? Are you a good spiritual “parent” to others?</li> </ul>	

**Christians are Called to be Stable and Steadfast**

What hope is there for future generations? We are faced with moral crisis, economic crisis, political crisis—it seems that wherever you look, both here at home and around the world, storms are brewing. The only hope is in Jesus Christ. The rapid moral decline we are seeing around us should be a clarion call for every Christian to speak out for biblical truth and to be diligent in sharing the hope of the Gospel.

In our own nation, there has never been a greater need for a clear proclamation of the Gospel. There are so many voices, and unfortunately God’s Word has been diluted by false teaching. – Franklin Graham, August 2015

“Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. **Let nothing move you.** Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.” (1 Cor. 15:58 NIV)

“Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to **stand your ground**, and after you have done everything, to stand.” (Eph. 6:13 NIV)

Life today is complex, with many influences in our lives.

- Family relationships
- The workplace
- The church
- Various faiths and doctrines
- Financial pressures, myths
- Media in all forms
- Political views
- Nationalities, cultures

*“Blessed is the man who **does not walk in the counsel of the wicked** or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But **his delight is in the law of the LORD**, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose **leaf does not wither**. Whatever he does prospers.”* (Psalm 1:1-3 NASB)

---

When circumstances change and life gets going too fast, it's easy to get swept along with the current. But the tree rooted in Christ will not be moved, but will grow stronger and taller.

### **A MIGHTY REDWOOD STANDS TALL BY GOD'S STRENGTH.**

#### **GOOD ROOTS**

Lesson 1

#### **1. How to plant them and bring about growth:**

##### Colossians 2 (NASB)

- 6 As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,  
7 having been **firmly rooted** and now **being built up in Him** and **established in your faith**, just as you were instructed, and **overflowing with gratitude**.  
8 See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.  
9 For in Him all the fulness of Deity dwells in bodily form,  
10 and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority;

##### Matthew 13 (NASB)

- 19 "When anyone **hears the word** of the kingdom, and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road.  
20 And the one on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, this is the man who hears the word, and immediately **receives it with joy**;  
21 yet he has no firm root in himself, but is only temporary, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he falls away.  
22 And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.  
23 And the one on whom seed was sown on the good soil, this is the man who hears the word and **understands it**; who indeed **bears fruit**, and brings forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty."

#### **2. What they will enable you to do:**

(Also see Isa. 37:31; Prov. 2:21-22)

- Find water on a daily basis. *Essential nourishment, strength.*
- Spot the opposition (often it's in friendly territory). *Clear vision.*
- Sort through emotions. *Stability of mind.*
- Deal with peer pressure. *Strong grip on core values.*
- Maintain pure motives. *Focus on Christ.*

#### **Discussion Questions**

1. From the scripture in Colossians and Matthew above, what would you say are the top three ingredients for good root growth (maturity in Christ)?
2. Which of the five benefits of "good roots" listed above is the most important to you as a spouse? As a parent? As a friend?
3. Write out a statement about "roots" to compliment the following scripture:

*“We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.”* (2 Cor. 4:8-9)