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## Issue Paper

# ROOT DOWNWARD FRUIT UPWARD

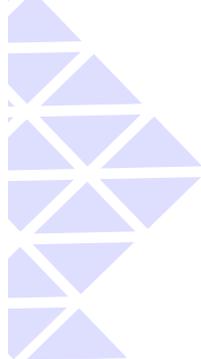
**Rooted and Built Up in Christ:**  
*for Abiding, Abounding and Abundant Fruitfulness*

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# ROOT DOWNWARD, FRUIT UPWARD

ROOTED AND BUILT UP IN CHRIST:  
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By

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*“And the remnant who have escaped of the house of Judah Shall again take root downward, And bear fruit upward.” Isaiah 37:31 NKJV*

*“As you have therefore received Christ, [even] Jesus the Lord, [so] walk (regulate your lives and conduct yourselves) in union with and conformity to Him. Have the roots [of your being] firmly and deeply planted [in Him, fixed and founded in Him], being continually built up in Him, becoming increasingly more confirmed and established in the faith, just as you were taught, and abounding and overflowing in it with thanksgiving.”*

*Colossians 2:6-7 AMPC*

Two principles we must consider in this issue paper: Root and Fruit and it is aptly combined in the word of God for us: Root downward, Fruit upward. One is obscure and buried under the soil, the other is outgoing and upward and visible for all to see and perhaps to pluck and use for their needs. But one is the cause, the other is the effect. One is the source, the input and it grows downward, the other is the output, the outcome and the result. One must begin and the other can only follow. Root is primary, fruit is secondary. We shall in this issue paper commit ourselves to the Lord afresh in this day of His power to pursuing that which will give firmness and foundation to all that God is bringing us into in this move.

If we do not grow our roots and let it shoot downward to the very bed of everlasting waters, the fruit we are expecting will not last. They will be scanty and remain unripe. And if this Rehoboth is the arrow of God's deliverance for His people, we dare not waste it with

plants that are not perennial and with fruits that can only be harvested once and the plant dies WITH its first fruit. Plants like vegetables, maize or corn, banana, tomatoes and legumes etc are such plants whose roots are shallow. Their stems are longer than their roots. And whatever plant has its outward growth longer and stronger than its downward roots is temporary; it cannot endure and produce lasting fruits; it cannot be a perennial plant in God's purpose.

What God has promised us is clearly described in the passages hereunder:

*“Until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high, And the wilderness becomes a fruitful field, And the fruitful field is counted as a forest. Then justice will dwell in the wilderness, And righteousness remain in the fruitful field. The work of righteousness will be peace, And the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever. My people will dwell in a peaceful habitation, In secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places, Though hail comes down on the forest, And the city is brought low in humiliation. Blessed are you who sow beside all waters, Who send out freely the feet of the ox and the donkey.”*  
Isaiah 32:15-20 NKJV

*““The poor and needy seek water, but there is none, Their tongues fail for thirst. I, the Lord, will hear them; I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them. I will open rivers in desolate heights, And fountains in the midst of the valleys; I will make the wilderness a pool of water, And the dry land springs of water. I will plant in the wilderness the cedar and the acacia tree, The myrtle and the oil tree; I will set in the desert the cypress tree and the pine And the box tree together, That they may see and know, And consider and understand together, That the hand of the Lord has done this, And the Holy One of Israel has created it.”* Isaiah 41:17-20 NKJV

*“To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the*

*spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified." And they shall rebuild the old ruins, They shall raise up the former desolations, And they shall repair the ruined cities, The desolations of many generations." Isaiah 61:3-4 NKJV*

## **Rooted in Christ Jesus**

*As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. Col. 2:6-7*

*"Have the roots [of your being] firmly and deeply planted [in Him, fixed and founded in Him], being continually built up in Him, becoming increasingly more confirmed and established in the faith, just as you were taught, and abounding and overflowing in it with thanksgiving." Col. 2:7 AMPC*

### **✓ Your Root is the root of all you can be**

The first parameter for a stable and fruitful walk with God is to be rooted in Christ. In its ordinary meaning, a root is 'that part of a plant which enters and fixes itself in the earth, and serves to support the plant in an erect position, while by means of its fibrils it imbibes nutriment for the stem, branches and fruit.' (Webster Dictionary). It provides stability for a tree and often defines how tall a tree can be. It also determines the durability of the plant. A root could also be defined as the source of a thing; the invisible foundation of a matter.

Whether a tree is perennial or a plant is seasonal does not depend on the leaves or the atmospheric condition; it depends on the root. It is not the stem that is the main determinant matrix of the performance of a tree. The stem of a tree is only but a derivative of its root. The root system of a tree is reflected outwardly by the stem and branches. If you see a tree whose branches have spread to a diameter of

about 10 meters, that diameter you see outside is not dependent on the outside stem; it is actually dictated by the diameter occupied by its root. So the root of a tree is what determines the outlook of that tree.

Therefore, the first critical parameter for a progressive and ever growing walk with Jesus, is not first the outward activities you do for Jesus; it is your root. And this root of your being must be in Him. Have the roots of your being firmly and deeply planted in Him, fixed and founded in Him. What you will be in twenty years' time if the Lord Jesus tarries, does not depend on what you are going to do externally; it depends on the root that you are developing now in Him. No man's ministry can suddenly be greater than the root system He lays for it. The soil in Christ is so deep that no matter how deep the roots of your being and of the future you long for, you will find the inexhaustible space in Christ Jesus to grow into.

There is no accident, no magic about the ministry that you can execute for God. The ministry that you will likely execute for God in your life time will be dictated by the root system you develop for your Christian life. The roots a man develops is the determinant factor for everything he can possibly become in life.

If your root is less or shorter than your outward growth, what will happen is that you will soon break down; you will be a temporary plant. There are certain plants whose roots are very short compared with their outward stem. All such plants without exception are temporary; they are plants from which you cannot harvest more than once in their life time; you cannot eat from them more than once. This is because it only manages to produce the first fruit at the point in which it has exhausted every capacity that it has.

The root that is short, carrying a very long stem is over worked and overdrawn and barely will it produce the first fruit before everything is over. Every plant whose root is smaller and shorter than its outward appearance could



only struggle to produce its first fruit; thereafter, it dies off. An example of such plants is maize (corn). You cannot harvest maize from its stem more than once. As soon as you harvest it from its stalk, it dies off.

Banana is another example. Banana or plantain tree is a plant you can only reap from, once. Once you cut off its first fruit, the tree dies off. Vegetables, tomatoes and all such plants all die off with their first fruits. And this is all because of their shallow root system. The point I am making here is that the root is the root of everything. All the other parameters for spiritual growth are only but derivatives of the root. If you understand how to develop your roots very well, all the other parameters will follow you even if you do not know anything about them.

✓ ***Roots only develop in dark and humid conditions and not in the lime light***

One peculiar thing about the root is that it does not need sunlight to develop. Sunlight is destructive to root development. Exposure, publicity and platform are all injurious to root development. This is where the problem is. Many people love to be seen, to be known, to be heard and celebrated. They love to be publicised; they love the limelight. But once you start looking for limelight, root development slows down and stops.

Maybe you were brought on the platform too early; you became a pastor too early and that is the problem; that is why you will not last in the ministry because by virtue of your position you are always in the limelight. And the church is always so much in need and greedy that they need you so much in the limelight all the time, as not to give you space to attend to your personal root development. When you should have buried your seed, it is quickly exposed. What makes roots to develop very quickly is darkness (obscurity). When the root of a plant is exposed to the sun, the plant begins to wither out. For

root to grow continually, it must be buried in the soil, seeking more and more space underneath to shoot into. If you expose your roots, you will soon grow dry.

Roots need darkness to develop. That is why plant seedlings are placed in black plastic bags. Transparent containers that allow rays of the sun or rays of light to penetrate destroy root growth. It is crucial to opt for obscurity so as to develop the roots for the future that you are looking for. One thing that many people do not know about those who shook their generation for God is their years of obscurity. This is because it is not accessible. The root of their lives is necessarily hidden away from the public view. What people easily see is their manifestation: their stem, leaves and fruit.

So sometimes you may suddenly hear that there is a man of God, whom God is using mightily and everybody is going to him. But people do not often find out how many years he had spent in obscurity (without being noticed), developing roots. They only suddenly see that now, when he preaches, things happen. Then some young people who do not understand how he got there will start coming to him to associate with him and take photograph with him.

Association with a big tree will not make you big. What makes a tree big is its root. So if you try to associate with a great man who has developed his roots over the years and you do not bend down to develop your own root, you will never become great; you may even wither. The best you will be, is a parasite. You love the limelight and are too much in haste; you love attention; you want to be seen. All those who love to be seen cannot wait to have a strong root system.

Since the root is the strength of any life and it is what determines and defines the future, the durability, the capacity and the divine possibility for a man, anybody who longs for a durable anointing cannot postpone root development. The reason why many believers never become strong and great throughout their Christian life is

that during the time they should have buried their lives in obscurity for root development, they were being celebrated here and there.

Maybe you had a spectacular conversion; there is a good testimony about your conversion. Because your conversion experience is a good story, people who do not understand the secret of spiritual growth, and are not looking for a lasting future for you, will start carrying you up and down to give your testimony; they will be exposing you instead of letting your life be buried for root development. They invite you here and there to go and give your testimony and tell the brethren how God changed your life. They use you to gather the crowd for themselves and there after discard you. That is the fastest way to kill you spiritually. They do not have your love in their heart.

There are some preachers who rose up powerfully some time ago and multitudes were following them and going to them. But a few years down the line, everything finished. Why? Because there was no root. Whatever you are planning to become, you must grow the root for it today. Move away from empty publicity because limelight and spiritual root development are mutually exclusive; they do not go together.

Whenever God wants to raise a man and make him great for God, He first takes him to an obscure place for his life to be formed and for him to grow his roots downward.

About John the Baptist, the Bible says,

*So the child grew and became strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his manifestation to Israel. Lk. 1:80.*

*while Annas and Caiaphas were high priests, the word of God came to John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness. And he went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,*

*saying: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight. Lk. 3:2-4.*

John grew; he grew his roots; he grew and became strong in spirit and he was in the deserts till the day of his manifestation to Israel. And the word of the Lord came to him in the desert. So when he arose and began to preach, in six months, the whole city began to go to him in the desert, repenting of their sins. But those six months were preceded by thirty years of root development.

You are the one who is in haste; any tree that plans to live long is never in haste to shoot out. It is ordinary flowers and ordinary vegetables like spinach and tomato that are in haste to shoot out. Within three to five days they are already shooting up because they do not plan to live long. But if you look at a heavy mighty tree like an oak tree, before you see any little shoot of an oak seedling coming out, it has probably taken years to grow its root underground.

Those who plan to live long for God do not mind how many years they stay under to grow their roots. It will take time for you to develop a root system that has the capacity for the future that you anticipate. Today, our streets and internet are full of advertisement of 'instant tea, instant coffee, instant this and that'. Unfortunately, we have come to an age where people also advertise instant anointing, instant power, instant miracle, instant everything. They offer you a diploma to be obtained in six weeks in a bible school!

If we are going to raise people, who, by the grace of God are going to spearhead the move of God in the coming days, we cannot joke with their root development. If I see any young man that I feel God wants to use and he is very eager to learn, I will invite him to follow me into the nursery where he will be placed in obscurity to grow his root. Roots do not develop in haste. This is because roots do not compete with anybody.

✓ ***Your root is peculiar to you; it is not in contrast to another person's roots***

Your root is peculiar to you. The only thing that people compare and contrast is the stem. They say, 'This tree is stronger than that tree, this tree is bigger than that tree.' This is not so with the root because you cannot even see my root as to compare it with yours. So there is no competition in root development.

No two plants compete about their root; every plant is focused on developing its own root. In the parable of the sower (*Matt. 13:20-21*), the seed that fell on the stony places is one who hears the word of God and immediately receives it with joy. It immediately sprang up because it had no depth of earth; he had no root in himself but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. The only thing that makes a man to immediately spring up on hearing the word of God is that there is no depth of earth where he is growing his root. There is no depth of thought to receive the engrafted word. He only refracts it outwardly perhaps to someone else. His excitement is superficial, there is no root behind his standing. He will soon wither out. What a waste of the precious seed!

When I became born again, I had a burden to serve the Lord, I wanted souls to be saved. I wanted to go everywhere preaching the gospel and I was very eager, saying 'O Lord, use me; time is going, Lord; time is going.' But that is the mistake that many young people make. They are so overwhelmingly concerned about time that is going, as to think that haste in responding to the Lord because of time that is going is reasonable enough as to omit their root development. The urgency of your response to God's call must be the urgency of your desire to grow your roots downward first, so you can bear fruit upward.

The Lord said to me,  
*'Listen! It takes twenty years to make a message because it takes twenty years to make the man of God- the messenger. All the things you want to do about preaching are ordinary information that has not yet been worked into your life. You may be talking but it will not carry weight.'*

Then I said to the Lord,  
*'Lord, what are you saying to me?'*

He said,  
*'I am not going to use you significantly, until I take you into obscurity where I make people to grow their root.'*

Then I asked,  
*'Lord, what of the souls that are perishing?'*

He said,  
*'They have been perishing before you were born and they will continue to perish even after you die. Even now you can't stop people from perishing because you do not have as yet, what it takes to save them.'*

For me, going here and there as an international speaker is not an ambition or achievement. I do not need to be an international speaker. I only need to be a Christian who is growing his root. That is all. Some are so much in haste that they are unable to endure all the discipleship process that God wants to give them to develop their roots. They rush out as if they have got it when they have got nothing.

The force that develops root is not external. There are many things external to a tree that affect the shape of that tree externally. For example, a stem will normally bend towards where there is light. But there is virtually nothing external that pushes the root downward. The power that pushes the root of a tree downward is internal to it. It does not need anybody to assist it. If you want to grow well and live long, take time to grow your root. Be personal with the need of your life. The root that you grow is what will define who you become in the future. It does not contrast or

compete with another. It will mark you out and give you space among men on the earth.

### ✓ ***Roots do not grow upward but downward***

The growth of roots is unidirectional. You will not see a correct root turning to start growing upward. If a root no longer finds deeper soil to grow down into, it will only be spreading but underground, still under the ground. Roots are great diggers. Tap roots have the characteristic feature of digging deeper and traveling far into the soil underground. They go below buildings and find their own resources to keep the plant ever growing and ever fresh.

The growth of your inner man must be your priority. Whereas men look at the outward appearance, God is more concerned about the inner man and that is where root development focuses upon. When a man wants to grow his root, he spends more time with things that are invisible to human beings. He digs deeper and deeper still into the word of God and into the understanding of divine mysteries, so he can have an “under” to his own “standing”. Unfortunately, that is where the devil loves to attack. The greatest attack that kills any tree is not the attack of its branches. If you attack the branch of a tree, you have really done nothing because you are only giving it opportunity to shoot forth further and better branches. When a wood worm finds its way to the root of a plant, it has got a firm hold of the plant to bring it down.

If the devil cuts my 'leaves' and my 'branches', he has done nothing to me because the more you cut my branches the more you give me opportunity to grow better branches. But if the devil gets access to attack my root, I am finished. That is why, if you discover that the soil on top of the root of your tree is being eroded, as a good plant maintenance manager, you will get more soil to cover it.

If a man wants to live long for God, he must continuously

protect his root by covering it. Any time erosion is coming around your root, there is danger ahead. There are many things that seek to erode the inner life, the secret life, the root system of a man of God. As your roots are getting exposed, they start dying. So in order to keep your roots ever functional, you must keep covering it.

I am dealing with the root as a parameter for spiritual growth and for a tenacious and progressive walk with God. This is critical. I must keep covering my root because if it gets eroded as to be exposed, when the enemy comes, he knows where to attack: he goes for it. And whenever God also wants to deal with a problem in the life of anyone, He lays the ax on the root of the matter. The ax is laid on the root of any tree not planted by my Father and it shall be hewed down. It is the same principle. For genuine deliverance, get to the root of the problem. And when the devil also wants to attack a man of God, he seeks very desperately to cut down his roots. If you see any man of God whose ministry has collapsed, the enemy has found his root and has gone for it sharply and strongly. He has gone for the root of his secret prayer life.

Prayer is wonderful but not all prayers are powerful. The prayer that is powerful and effective is the prayer you pray in the secret. The secret of a powerful prayer life is the secrecy of it. The Bible says, 'Your Father who sees in the secret shall reward you openly.' (Matt. 6:6). The result we get from prayer is only a reward: a reward of something we have done in the secret. But when you no longer have a life of secret praying; when all your prayers are public, you receive no reward from your Father who sees in the secret.

*"And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.*

*But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place;*

*and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.*

*Matt. 6:5-6*

Hypocrites love to pray publicly, to be seen by men. Anything that is done to be seen is injurious to root development. Oftentimes one is not praying; he is only playing. Every prayer that is not first in the secret is a play. You hardly ever really pray sincerely in the public. Whenever you are in the public and you are praying, you are likely praying to be heard; so you have to be careful. You have to learn to present your prayer well. If there is a place to develop roots, it has to be in the secret. The root of effective prayer life is also developed in the secret.

Whenever your secret prayer life is getting eroded, you must deliberately gather more soil to cover it. The more popular you become as a man of God, the more eroded your secret prayer life is likely to be. So you must keep looking for where to hide it if you want to live long and remain fresh.

*But you, when you pray, enter into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret shall reward you openly. Matt. 6:6 KJV*

But you, when you pray, enter into your closet. Your closet is your secret place, your inner room, your inner chamber. When you entered your closet, God said you should also shut your door. You may wonder why the issue is so serious...just to pray! And this is Jesus giving instructions to those He was training to become apostles. He says, when you pray, go into your closet. Do not sit in the sitting room. Your sitting room is too public for serious prayer.

When you have shut the door, pray to your Father who is in the secret... Your Father is in the secret! He is not in the open; there is not much of God in the public. You do not really get very much from God in the public because He is not there; He is hardly there. *Psalm 91:1* says:

*He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.*



Your Father is in the secret; that is where He is. And your Father who sees in the secret... Your Father is in the secret and it is in the secret He sees. He does not look for you in the open. I am begging God not to allow me to make a mistake of eroding the secret place where God is.

Now, why did He say you should shut your door?

**1. It may be to avoid distraction; that is one reason so as to achieve concentration. But there is a bigger reason.**

**2. It is to allow nakedness and total openness.**

No matter how secluded your sitting room is, you will not feel comfortable to undress yourself in the sitting-room, so that no one sees your nakedness. You still dress up and make yourself presentable even in your sitting room. It is the public place in your house. Your prayer out there is still organized as to conceal the reality of what goes on in your heart because the sitting room is not secret enough to undress. But when you enter your bedroom, your closet and you have locked the door, you may now start removing your dress. You may even undress yourself until you become stark naked; and you do not feel embarrassed or afraid because you are sure the door is already shut.

So God says you should shut your door so that you can be naked; so that you can be who you are and tell God how it is with you actually. If you want to weep, you can weep there; you can roll on the ground without any shame. You can freely say, 'Oh God! I am finished! My life is scattered!' As long as the door is shut, you are able to tell God everything. And that is what actually grows the root of your being. There, in the secret place, you touch base with the reality of your very life and this is where you shoot down your roots into a deep personal walk with God.

Some people are never real because they have never known how to deal with root development. It is only after you have developed a root before God in your closet that your

relationship with your wife can become transparent. After God has dealt with you in the closet, you are ready to say, 'Look I struggled. But as I was praying the Lord dealt with my case and told me to confess to you.' Then you have become real.

Between you as husband and wife, you still need your personal closet because no two trees can share the same roots no matter how close they are. Even husband and wife do not share the same root unless one of them has become a parasite. We may drink from this same stream, but your intake is personal to you. If you do not shoot your root into the stream of water to draw nutrients, though your partner may be growing, you will rather be withering out. A woman who has no root in Christ, whose only root is in her husband will not be able to help him.

I need my wife to have her root; so I do not normally interfere with it. When she is getting into her closet, I do not worry; I know God will not cheat me. I trust God, that if it is God she is meeting with, that same God will work in her to make her a helpmeet for me. And when I am entering my closet to cry to God, my wife is my greatest support because she knows that when God finishes with me, I come out a better husband. If you do not have a closet to develop your roots as individuals, you will soon become a problem to each other even as husband and wife. It is from the rich verdure of your lives that you flow into each other to build a vibrant matrimony. Your prayers of agreement will then have content and it will be powerful and effective. You must not marry a woman or a man who has no root in Christ.

✓ ***No two trees share the same root***

No matter how close two trees are, each one can only stand on its own root. If your wife has no root in herself and for herself, she will be a liability to you, because she has no capacity to grow. And if your husband has no root in himself, he will be blown here and there with every wind and he will eventually mislead you into the pit. Every

person we work with in the ministry must have his own roots being developed daily. It will be the root of their conviction and of their commitment. Just as the root services a tree and keeps it fresh, so is the root of our being refreshes our lives in Christ Jesus and makes our fellowship with one another rich and vibrant.

Do not marry a woman who is merely cosmetic, who just loves to make up and dress gorgeously. She can spend three hours dressing up but spend only three minutes praying. That is a cosmetic woman. She can never help you to become anything for God. A man who is too busy to develop personal root in the word of God cannot provide quality leadership for your life and prepare you for eternity. Everyone has to develop his or her root; and roots only develop in obscurity, in the closet. It is your root that draws nutrient for the growth of your inward person. Outward appearance does little in building your personality.

As I have said before, the greatest attack that anyone could suffer is not the attack on the branches and not the attack on the leaves; it is the attack on his roots. The devil himself is so sure of this that to cut you short, he must go for your root. He wants to expose your root; he wants to erode it little by little so that when he comes with his dagger, he knows what to cut. Sometimes, to uproot a big tree, you must first dig around it and cut off the tiny roots in order to access the major root. This strategy is not alien to Satan, your adversary. He seeks how to dig around your major root and that makes it easy for him to cut you down.

It is very strategic that I must hide my root. Whatever it takes, I must ensure that I build an embankment around my root. I must make sure that it does not stop shooting downwards into Christ. Roots never stop growing, because as it is growing down, that is how it gets all the nutrients it needs to feed the growing plant. The basic supply for every living plant comes from nowhere else but from the root.

Will you like to grow your roots? Will you like to be rooted in Christ? Will you like to spend time on this? Do not persist in doing external activities; withdraw a bit into your closet; shut the door. Close up a bit. Move away from too many activities. Get out of circulation for some time. Do not be deceived to think the ministry will scatter if you are not there. It is not true. Your ministry will only scatter when your own root has been compromised.

Being rooted, in the context of this scripture, must happen before we talk of any other thing. It precedes ministry, being built up in Christ and being established in Him; and it must happen before you can abound with thanksgiving. It is a priority and priority must be given to it. Begin from now to get your root deeper in Christ. Begin to prayerfully develop the root for your future, the root of your marriage, your ministry or career. Being rooted is not only something that has happened but something that should be happening continuously.

When roots are laid, it keeps growing actively and as it is working, its growth is never suspended. No matter how mighty a tree has grown with large branches that could be sawn into timbers themselves, the root of that tree is still growing. You will still see tiny shoots of its roots penetrating the soil under the ground. May the Lord help you to be rooted in Christ and to keep at being rooted in Him continually. There is no end to growing your roots in Christ Jesus.

### **Built Up in Christ Jesus**

*As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. Col. 2:6-7*

*"Have the roots [of your being] firmly and deeply planted [in Him, fixed and founded in Him], being continually built up in Him, becoming increasingly more confirmed and established in the faith, just as you were taught, and abounding and overflowing in it with thanksgiving." Col. 2:7 AMPC*

The next consideration we must give attention to as we come to this “Rehoboth” in our pursuit of His life and of revival for an abiding, abounding and abundant fruitfulness is this issue of being built up in Him.

The phrase, 'built up' indicates deliberateness, cumulativeness, progressiveness and purposefulness as against spuriousness. You could have many single building blocks scattered all over the place. But they never become a building until they are built up together. There may be many things that you have got as spiritual building blocks in your walk with God but they are scattered and are unconnected; not joined together. You have so much knowledge but it is uncoordinated knowledge. You might have read many books but all those books have raised unconnected issues that did not build up unto anything in your life. That is not how to grow in your walk with God.

*“For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it.” I Corinthians 3:9-10 NKJV.*

God is building your life; you are God's building; so there is need for cumulativeness. One stone must be put on top of another and one experience on top of another experience. That is how to be built up. There must be one instruction on top of another instruction, precept upon precept, line upon line. It must not be an unfocused, uncoordinated, scattered, unrelated and unconnected instructions if your life is to be built in Christ.

The problem with many Christians is that they are not consistent. You listen to this preacher who is talking to you about how to be a millionaire; so you quickly collect that and put it somewhere. Then you go to another man of God who says he is in the business of deliverance, that God has anointed him to break every yoke. Then you

quickly go there. He says 'This weekend, we are in the deliverance ministry of Rev. Dr Bulldozer and we shall be dealing with pulling down generational curses.' You quickly collect whatever he offers and put it somewhere. Now there is no connection between that and the other one you ran to collect the other time.

And then you think it is good to go for another meeting where they are talking about 'The anointing for Joseph generation' and all kinds of very catchy words. Then you go there and catch that one and take it home. So all these things litter your heart. You have too many videos and messages from different and unconnected trumpets. This one blows one thing and that one blows another. That is not how to build; that will amount to scattering. Look at what God says...

*“You shall not sow your vineyard with different kinds of seed, lest the yield of the seed which you have sown and the fruit of your vineyard be defiled. “You shall not plow with an ox and a donkey together.” Deuteronomy 22:9-10 NKJV*

God's purpose is beyond agriculture. He is focusing on the culturing of your heart as well. The instrument with which you plow your heart must be consistent, symmetrical and compatible. Whenever builders are working, you will notice that they normally connect the next brick with the previous ones. Sometimes, a brick may be longer than the space available; so they cut it and chop off the excess until it fits. They use their plumb at each point to ensure the same level, the straight line and symmetry.

Builders whether physical or spiritual cannot work without the plumb and reference points to set their bearings. Congruence is critical in every building. If I am going to be built up in Christ, every principle that I expose my life to must be built on top of another. It must be congruent and symmetrical. It must have interlocks for strong connectivity and must provide support so that the whole structure of my life is solid and can stand the stress of its weight and that of external forces. Above all, it must

be according to the design of the Architect- Jesus Himself.

Not every preacher attracts me because the question I ask myself is, 'Does what he offers me fit into what God is building in me? If I spend three hours listening to him, how does what he is saying fit into my building?' If it does not fit, it means I do not need it. Maybe some people may need it; not me. It is also not every author that I read; I only read authors that build me up in God's direction and in congruence with what God is building in my life and into my life.

Many Christians are not being built. They are just being scattered here and pulled there. Let us look intently at how God's people are to be built until they grow on to a holy habitation in the Lord.

*"You are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus Himself the chief Cornerstone. In Him the whole structure is joined (bound, welded) together harmoniously, and it continues to rise (grow, increase) into a holy temple in the Lord [a sanctuary dedicated, consecrated, and sacred to the presence of the Lord]. In Him [and in fellowship with one another] you yourselves also are being built up [into this structure] with the rest, to form a fixed abode (dwelling place) of God in (by, through) the Spirit."*  
Ephesians 2:20-22 AMPC

*"you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, "The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone,""*  
1 Peter 2:5, 7 NKJV.

*According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. 1Cor. 3:10.*

*"But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit," Jude 1:20 NKJV.*



It is a building and a building does not happen sporadically. A building cannot start until you have a proper building plan and the architectural design for it. Nothing about the building is an after-thought. Each building is purpose-built to fit into the overall purpose of God for your life. A building may involve several builders at various points and stages of the building, but each one of them must build their portion according to the design and requirements of the architect and the civil engineers. No one can introduce his or her own idea mid-stream.

All the materials to be used are also specified in terms of qualities and quantities, sizes and dimensions. The concrete must be mixed according to specifications. Pillars and columns, beams and roof-members are all to be congruent with the overall design concept for the building. Every house is built by someone but He that builds all things is God. Of necessity, someone must build your life and you cannot start off to build yourself by yourself. This is very crucial in being built up in Christ Jesus and for Christ's purpose. Who builds you and builds into you is very important.

For our lives, we are being built to become conformed to the image of Christ Jesus. He is the pattern Son that God has lifted for us to see and grow into as the prototype and example. It is His stature and standard height of personality that God is building your life into. It is for this that God has engaged all the builders and ministry gifts in the body of Christ.

*“And His gifts were [varied; He Himself appointed and gave men to us] some to be apostles (special messengers), some prophets (inspired preachers and expounders), some evangelists (preachers of the Gospel, traveling missionaries), some pastors (shepherds of His flock) and teachers. His intention was the perfecting and the full equipping of the saints (His consecrated people), [that they should do] the work of ministering toward building up Christ's body (the church),*



*[That it might develop] until we all attain oneness in the faith and in the comprehension of the [full and accurate] knowledge of the Son of God, that [we might arrive] at really mature manhood (the completeness of personality which is nothing less than the standard height of Christ's own perfection), the measure of the stature of the fullness of the Christ and the completeness found in Him.*

*So then, we may no longer be children, tossed [like ships] to and fro between chance gusts of teaching and wavering with every changing wind of doctrine, [the prey of] the cunning and cleverness of unscrupulous men, [gamblers engaged] in every shifting form of trickery in inventing errors to mislead. Rather, let our lives lovingly express truth [in all things, speaking truly, dealing truly, living truly]. Enfolded in love, let us grow up in every way and in all things into Him Who is the Head, [even] Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One).*

*For because of Him the whole body (the church, in all its various parts), closely joined and firmly knit together by the joints and ligaments with which it is supplied, when each part [with power adapted to its need] is working properly [in all its functions], grows to full maturity, building itself up in love."*

*Ephesians 4:11-16 AMPC*

There are very important sections and parts of the building that must not be compromised if your life will be built up in Him and you will be strong to bear fruit for His glory and it is crucial that we discuss these at this point.

### **The Foundation and the Chief corner stone**

*You are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus Himself the chief Cornerstone. Eph. 2:20 AMP.*

*"For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ." I Cor. 3:11 NKJV.*

*"This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.' Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among*

*men by which we must be saved.”” Acts 4:11-12 NKJV.*

*“If the foundations are destroyed, What can the righteous do?”  
Psalms 11:3 NKJV.*

Foundation is foundational to every building. It is the substructure that bears the stress and the strain of superstructure. It is what determines what maximum load you can pile up in the building and what the building can eventually bear. Every feature of the future building must have its component in the foundation. The foundation is akin to the root of a tree which we discussed earlier. Whatever fault is located in the foundation of a building is a foundational fault and it will spread all over the building. It cannot be isolated for treatment. The whole building will have to be brought down to attend to the crack in the foundation. The foundation you lay for your life is what determines how tall, how versatile and how wide you can become in serving God. Your future is actually already regulated, regimented, restricted and reduced to the strength, the size and depth of your foundation. Any feature in your future that did not feature in your foundation will be vague, hanging and dangling, baseless and dangerous to the entire structure.

The challenge of foundation is that once it is destroyed, it incapacitates even the righteous. What can he do?

✓ ***Foundation, with time, becomes invisible.***

So to discover its faults and cracks is very difficult, unless you are willing to dig around it and evacuate much soil. Foundational faults are generally imperceptible until it has assumed a very dangerous dimension.

✓ ***Foundation with time becomes inaccessible.***

You cannot access it freely as it is already the foundation on which the whole building is standing and bearing their weights. To touch it is to impair all the load it carries. It must be properly laid once and for all, otherwise any damage on it spells colossal loss.



✓ ***Foundation with time becomes irreparable.***

Since you cannot have access to it freely, and the fault is foundational to every other problem you will have, and it is difficult to suspend life without further drawing from it, the only thing possible could have been a difficult and very costly process called 'Underpinning' which for a physical building may be possible with a lot of stress and destruction but impossible when it is for a life. How do we suspend your life and underpin it to achieve foundational repair? The only possible thing is to begin again and start life all over again, but it is practically impossible, for you have only one life to live and time does not wind backward for anyone.

✓ ***Foundation once engaged is irretrievable.***

You cannot retrieve a foundation without losing the ground on which it was laid. You cannot retrieve it without losing the whole building and structure on it. All the furnishings, the furniture and finishing you have put are wasted once the foundation is to be retrieved. You can only increase the pits to dig out foundations which renders the soil too weak to replace a solid foundation there on. You will rather seek a new ground to lay a fresh foundation, unless you pack out all the debris of the old building. How many men are willing to begin life all over again after they have wasted the prime of their years?

✓ ***Foundation grows to become permanent and irreplaceable.***

It is the most permanent part of any building. It is usually reinforced with serious concrete, for no one thinks of doing it twice on the same ground. If you lay a wrong foundation for your life, it becomes your permanent problem and is almost irreplaceable. It becomes your recurring challenge with recurrent problems. To deal with it is to be ruthless with yourself and go and start from the scratch on another note entirely. The only challenge is that you cannot recover the years wasted and the scars on your destiny that has already been formed.



✓ ***Foundation with time must be buried to avoid erosion.***

This is the only maintenance you can give your foundation. It must remain secret to your building. You must build embankment around it so it is not exposed. Foundation grows only stronger when it is buried away from weather elements.

So the first matter to attend to very deliberately is the foundation for your life in Christ and it is actually the foundation for all you hope to become in life and in eternity. No amount of time can be too much to invest in laying a solid foundation for the future you hope for. The foundation for your matrimony is in this foundation. It bears the foundation for your victory and for your ministry.

This foundation must be Christ and Him crucified as the Chief Cornerstone. He must be at the base of all your convictions and of your faith. He must be the author, the founder, the maker and the finisher of your faith. Every feature of your future must be founded upon Him and His principles. You must base all your building blocks on Him as the foundation. He is the upholding and continuous principle that holds all the scheme of creation together and if separated from him, you are heading for a total collapse. No other foundation can anyone lay apart from this which has been laid, which is Christ Himself.

In being built up in Christ, the foundation of the apostles and prophets become the next layer. They have walked with the Lord and have proved His principles first hand and God has inspired them to lay a solid foundation for the Church and for any of its members. Whatever we did not see Christ Jesus and the apostles and prophets practice, it should not be part of your foundation. You must not include human excitement, psychological motivation and new ideas to build your foundation. It will become an inherent weakness in your building.



## **Builders and Building materials**

In being built up in Christ, God raises builders and labourers whom He has appointed to build you up for His divine purpose for your life. You can see it all through the word of God.

*“For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God. And Moses indeed was faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken afterward, but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.” Hebrews 3:4-6 NKJV.*

Every house is built by someone. No house can build itself by itself. Bricks do not build themselves into a building. Someone must lay the bricks and apply the mortar and keep the plumb to maintain the levels, according to the Masterplan. But the way a builder builds will reflect on what is being built and the materials he uses will affect the strength of the building. This is the very crucial matter for prayerful consideration.

Who is building into your life and on your life is very important. If he or she is not himself in touch with the Lord Jesus, and congruent with His life, he may only be building according to his own taste and according to the imagination of his heart. He may be building you for his own ambition as if you belong to him. You are God's building and there is a master design and plan for your life.

Though each builder will give account of what he built and how he built it, but what is built is your life that may suffer damages from the storm and the wind and even at the end may not stand the test of fire that will try every man's work. Here is the need for you not to be complacent about your being built up in Christ Jesus. Your life must grow up in congruence with His life and His pattern. You must be like the Berean Christians who searched the scriptures diligently to see if those things Paul taught were correct.

If the materials used to build your life is the hay, the stubble, the wood, rather than the gold, the precious stones and the enduring elements for life formation, you may appear to be growing fast, only because cheap materials were used and you may not be one who bears an enduring experience of God and can be used for an enduring work in the kingdom. You may also not have such a weight that can bear an enduring anointing.

Disposables are quick in the making, but the durables stay longer in the fire and in the furnace. The process that builds your life with gold, silver or the precious stones may be more painstaking. If you hope to stand strong for a long time on your feet, deep foundations must you dig to give you a firm 'under' to your 'standing'. The knowledge of the holy is understanding.

*“Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; Teach a just man, and he will increase in learning. “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. For by me your days will be multiplied, And years of life will be added to you. Proverbs 9:9-11 NKJV.*

Men who were built strongly in Him were those who hunger and thirst for knowing God and were willing to pay the price no matter the cost. Examples are Paul (*Philippians 3:7-12*); David (*Psalms 27:1-4*) and several others.

## **Building Process**

Being built up in Christ requires some processes and procedures as outlined in our theme text.

*In Him the whole structure is joined (bound, welded) together harmoniously, and it continues to rise (grow, increase) into a holy temple in the Lord [a sanctuary dedicated, consecrated, and sacred to the presence of the Lord]. In Him [and in fellowship with one another] you yourselves also are being built up [into this structure] with the rest, to form a fixed abode (dwelling place) of God in (by, through) the Spirit.” Eph. 2:21-22 AMP*

*...being continually built up in Him, becoming increasingly more confirmed and established in the faith, just as you were taught, and abounding and overflowing in it with thanksgiving." Col. 2:7b (AMP).*

### ✓ ***In Him...***

This is the context, the habitat, the building site for our lives to be correctly built. It must be in Him. All the materials are sourced and supplied in Him. Nothing outside of Christ is useful in building your life. There are many philosophies, theories and ideas that men seek to use to build their lives, but not from Christ's life and principles. It may be high sounding and look elaborate, but it is all based on human tradition. Such cannot build you up in your most holy faith. It cannot make you a pillar in the house of God. Indeed, it will defraud you and this is what we have been warned about...

*"See to it that no one carries you off as spoil or makes you yourselves captive by his so-called philosophy and intellectualism and vain deceit (idle fancies and plain nonsense), following human tradition (men's ideas of the material rather than the spiritual world), just crude notions following the rudimentary and elemental teachings of the universe and disregarding [the teachings of] Christ (the Messiah)." Colossians 2:8 AMPC*

They sound very high and very impressive but it is empty and vague. It can only make you a man of the earth and not a man come from God. It is hollow philosophy and empty psychology, that men of the world have propounded over the years that has left the world system restless. It is only in Him we must be built. It is in Him that every material comes from and in Him is every binding force to be generated. Anything outside of Him will only introduce weakness and inferior component into your life.

*"that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in*

*love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.” Colossians 2:2-3, 9-10 NKJV*

It is in Christ that all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden. It is in Him the fullness of the Godhead dwells bodily and every completion is in Him. It pleased the Father that in Him all fullness should dwell. There is no height you anticipate for your growth that cannot be accommodated in Him. His love is wide that you cannot cross over it. It is so deep that you cannot get to the very bottom of it and it is so high that you cannot reach its roof. In Him we live, we walk and we have our whole being. Everything you will ever need is in Him and all that will ever be necessary for your growth from now till eternity are all embedded in Him. This is very crucial for you to settle down to be built up in Him. Take a study of all that God has made available to us 'in Him' and you will be amazed with the “all”, “every” that is used in almost all the references. There is nothing left that is not kept and included in Him for me and for you.

✓ ***In Him*** *the whole structure is joined (bound, welded) together harmoniously, and it continues to rise (grow, increase) into a holy temple in the Lord. Eph. 2:21 AMP.*

In Christ Jesus; it is not here and there, liters here and liters there. There is a wholesomeness. The whole structure is joined, bound and welded together harmoniously to make it compact and on unbroken entity. When your life is being built in Him, you will find wholeness, completeness and compactness at every level and in everything. There are no loose ends and scattered joints here and there. Everything is made to fit together harmoniously and symmetrically. It is forming into a

glorious shape of Christ life being formed in you. It is also in Him that this building continues to rise, grow and increase into a useable vessel, though an earthen jar of clay to bear the treasure of His life within. We actually have this treasure in a jar of clay, so that the excellency of the power emanating and the aroma that is oozing out is not of us but of Him who works in us both to will and to do of His good pleasure.

Moreover, in Him we also are being built into the body of Christ and into the community of the Spirit where we function to supply our graces to the body.

✓ ***In Him*** [and in fellowship with one another] you yourselves also are being built up [into this structure] with the rest, to form a fixed abode (dwelling place) of God in (by, through) the Spirit." Eph. 2:22 AMP

The beauty and glory of this is that you are not only being built up in Christ as a single individual, you are also being built into the body of Christ horizontally. You are connected in fellowship with other believers who share the same life with you in Him and thus being built into a compact structure to form a fixed abode, a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. You are now being built into the body of Christ as a functional member, ready and equipped to supply what the Lord has endowed you with for the Church. It is in this context that you can exercise a ministry. It is in this consideration that you also begin to become a builder of other lives.

*from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love. Eph. 4:16*

*For because of Him the whole body (the church, in all its various parts), closely joined and firmly knit together by the joints and ligaments with which it is supplied, when each part [with*

*power adapted to its need] is working properly [in all its functions], grows to full maturity, building itself up in love.”  
Eph. 4:16 AMP*

All the disharmony and divisions we find in the Church today is the omission of this properly being built up in Christ Jesus and being built into the body of Christ. To be built up and not have fellowship connectivity with other members of the body is the menace that has plagued the Church over the years.

✓ *But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,” Jude 1:20*

This is the other consideration of being built up and this is what you must do personally, as you begin to learn to walk with God. God gives the Holy Spirit to every one of us for us to be built up. As you pray in the Holy Spirit, you build yourself up on your most holy faith. When you pray in tongues, you are edifying yourself, though no one understands what you are saying. It is the exercise of your spirit and you thereby grow your inner man. You are also to take responsibility for your growth in the Lord and for you to be built up in Christ Jesus. It is your responsibility to decide the kind of things people load on your building; and to walk away when it is slanting you in degrees from Him who is the pattern God has lifted for our lives. As you come to the word of God with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord as in a mirror, you are being changed into His likeness from one degree of glory to another, even by the Holy Spirit.

✓ *being continually built up in Him, becoming increasingly more confirmed and established in the faith, Col. 2:7b (AMP)*

Just as the root of a tree is continually growing down, so must you be continually built up in Him. This, you must know that the building process is continuous and does not stop. It is moving from one degree of glory to another. As long as you are living, this building does continue. You

are becoming increasingly more confirmed and established in the faith and in your fruitfulness. A life has to be built, and must be continually built up in Him. Stagnation in this building is backsliding. A ministry has to be built. A prayer life has to be built; a marital life has to be built. Everything has to be built in Christ Jesus. The Christian life is not a scattered, sporadic, spurious kind of life. Nothing springs up anyhow. It is a building. It has a pattern and a standard and you must build according to pattern and continue to build it up.

Being built up in Christ is the determinant matrix for a progressive and fruitful walk with God. It takes some years to build a prayer life; a prayer life that is trustworthy has to be built. There is no miracle that will make the word of God to open to you overnight. A progressive revelation into the word of God has to be built. Your personal altars have to be built. To be able to take a scripture and teach God's people from the same scripture for some days, does not happen overnight. It is a building.



It will be a deception to say if I lay my hands on you and pray for you, the spirit of revelation will fall on you. That is not true; That will be an ordinary gimmick. Some preachers may tell you that if you could just bring a special offering, the anointing that is on the man of God will fall on you. That is a lie. Catching the suit of a man of God when he throws it at you will not cause his anointing to fall on you. It is an ordinary gimmick to mimic the mantle that Elijah cast on Elisha.

You know that Elijah's mantle that he cast on Elisha only recruited Elisha for several years of discipleship, following and pouring water on the hand of Elijah. Before he would catch the double portion of that anointing, it took about fourteen years of consistent following, not of chance meetings in a conference. Do not let anybody deceive you. Getting a lasting anointing is a building; it will involve your being built up in Christ. It is not sporadic.

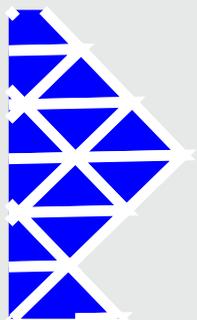
Christian life is a building; Christian spirituality is a building; a consecrated prayer life is a building. Understanding God's word and being able to rightly divide it is a building. Settle down and be built. The Bible says every house is built by someone but God is the one who builds all things. God raises builders to build people up; He will raise builders to build you up.

There are building blocks that should be laid in your life, one block on top of another. The builder God raises for you may give you a lesson to go through; when you finish it, he reviews it with you to see how you are faring. The following week, he may tell you to go and bring your wife for both of you to have a discussion with him. He is building you up.

Life is a building; so you have to be built. Correct fellowship and relationship with people have to be built; and trust has to be built. And the process of building is a painstaking process that the Holy Spirit Himself supervises for those who are saying, 'Here I am, Lord, build me.'

Yes, God has declared a 'Rehoboth' unto you and He has given us room to be fruitful in the land. You know that no seed will reproduce itself unless it falls down and dies, shooting down its root and growing up unto maturity. This is the crucial process we cannot ignore even in this season of our visitation. Now that God has made room for us, it is a room to grow your roots and get built up in Him so that you can be fruitful. It is a room to shoot forth large branches bearing upward fruits that abide. Fruitfulness is only a result of these parameters. Fruit, abiding, abounding and abundant fruit will attend to your life if you pay attention to these issues of deepening your roots in Him and being built up in Him.





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