

DAY 5 MORNING/MIDDAY OFFICE

Silence and Stillness before God (1-2 minutes)

Scripture Reading

I ask the Father in his great glory to give you the power to be strong in spirit. He will give you that strength through his Spirit. I pray that Christ will live in your hearts because of your faith. I pray that your life will be strong in love and be built on love. And I pray that you and all God's holy people will have the power to understand the greatness of Christ's love. I pray that you can understand how wide and how long and how high and how deep that love is. Christ's love is greater than any person can ever know. But I pray that you will be able to know that love. Then you can be filled with the fullness of God. (Ephesians 3:16-19, ICB)

Devotional

Sometime ago, I came across an article where the author talked about looking through the Scriptures for the phrase "deeply rooted." He found "firmly rooted" (Psalm 1:3), "old roots" (Job 14:7), and "rotted roots" (Isaiah 5:24).

Finally, he found something called the Montgomery New Testament that translates Ephesians 3:17 to include the words "**deeply rooted**". Maybe it's the parable of the sower and how Jesus talks about '**good soil**' that leads us to think the best roots are deep roots. He went on to say:

But consider the redwood trees of America's Pacific Coast. Many of these redwoods exceed 300 feet, with the tallest tree clocking in at 379 feet . . . that's taller than the Statue of Liberty! Some of these trees are believed to be more than 2,000 years old.

These gigantic trees have very shallow root systems! Their roots extend more than 100 feet from the base, intertwining with the roots of other redwoods. (Regi Campbell)

This **interconnectedness** is the secret
to their stability and strength.

One man said it this way: **The best way to survive and thrive in faith is by becoming a part of a community of interconnected people who share faith in Christ, who are being changed by Christ, and who are joined together in the mission of Christ...[which is] to love God and to love people.**

Question

Are you interconnected to such a community? If not, seek until you find it.

Prayer

Take time to thank God for your faith community.

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