

Pastor's Corner

Leaves in Spring

April 1, 2009

Dear Friend,

It's spring!! All the trees are coming out around my house with their little leaves just bursting with life.

Did you know the Bible says that Christians are like trees? Take a look at the very first Psalm – *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.*



Wouldn't you like to be like that? That is a little picture of what God's plans are for you!! He says that when you spend time in His law (the Hebrew word *torah* used here means all of God's instructions for us) He will plant you, and He will send streams of living water, and you will have fruit, you will not wither, and whatever you do will prosper. Sounds pretty good, doesn't it?

In Jeremiah we find God again talking about wanting you to be like a tree. "But blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit." (17:7, 8).

But the trees around my house are all getting new leaves because their leaves withered and fell last fall. But I know of some trees that keep their leaves all year, and they never wither. A palm tree is an example. Summer, winter, rain or shine, they still have their green leaves. And that's what's Psalms is saying. No matter what is happening, God wants you to spend time in His word, and you will be like an evergreen, never dropping a leaf.

If the Christian thrives and progresses at all, he must do so amid strangers to God, amid scoffing, subject to ridicule. He must stand upright like the palm tree in the desert. The sky may be as brass, the desert sand may beat about the palm tree's roots, and pile itself in heaps about its trunk. Yet the tree lives as an evergreen, fresh and vigorous amid the burning desert sands. Remove the sand till you reach the rootlets of the palm tree, and you discover the secret of its life; it strikes down deep beneath the surface, to the secret waters hidden in the earth. Christians indeed may be fitly represented by the palm tree. They are like Enoch; although surrounded by corrupting influences, their faith takes hold of the Unseen. They walk with God, deriving strength and grace from him to withstand the moral pollution surrounding them. Like Daniel in the courts of Babylon, they stand pure and uncontaminated; their life is hid with Christ in God. They are virtuous in spirit amid depravity; they are true and loyal, fervent and zealous, while surrounded by infidels, hypocritical professors, godless and worldly men. Their faith and life are hid with Christ in God. Jesus is in them a well of water springing up into everlasting life. Faith, like the rootlets of the palm tree, penetrates beneath the things which are seen, drawing spiritual nourishment from the Fountain of life.

Signs of the Times, July 8, 1886.

When the testing time shall come, those who have made God's word their rule of life will be revealed. In summer there is no noticeable difference between evergreens and other trees; but when the blasts of winter come, the evergreens remain unchanged, while other trees are stripped of their foliage. So the falsehearted professor may not now be distinguished from the real Christian, but the time is just upon us when the difference will be apparent. *The Great Controversy, page 601.*

Spend time with God and His word today, and everyone will see the results. We're praying for you!

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