

Class 1 Week of June 14, 2026



Getting to the Root of the Matter: *Why depth determines your durability.*

Scripture Focus: Jeremiah 17:7-8, Matthew 13:20-21, Ephesians 3:17-18 Psalm 1:3

Introduction: The Invisible Battle

If you look around at our world today, it is easy to become overwhelmed by the sheer velocity of the storms. We see cultural shifts, sudden financial upheavals, fractured relationships, and personal anxieties that seem to blow through our lives like hurricane-force winds. In a world obsessed with what is visible—with the "canopy" of our lives, our outward success, our public profiles—we are constantly trying to fix our problems from the outside in.

But the Bible instructs us to look down into the depths. Repeatedly, scripture says to us to look at what is hidden.

2 Corinthians 4:18

"While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal

Daniel 2:22

"He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him."

The scriptures teach us that the quality of your **visible** life is entirely dependent on the condition of your **invisible** life. In the economy of God, the canopy is a product of the root. Today, we are going to look at what the original languages of scripture call the ***Shoresh*** (Hebrew) and the ***Rhiza*** (Greek)—**the root**. We are going to discover that if you want to survive the drought and weather the storm, you must master the secret of the trees we see standing tall each and every day.

Point 1: The Trap of the Shallow Root (*Rhiza*)

Read Scripture: Matthew 13:20-21

In the Parable of the Sower, Jesus describes a specific type of person. He says, *"The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since they have no root in themselves, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away."*

Notice the phrase Jesus uses: **"No root in themselves."** In the original Greek, this is the word *rhiza*. It means an internal, self-sustaining spiritual engine. The person on the rocky ground has a beautiful canopy. They sprout up quickly. They have the right vocabulary, the right look, and initial enthusiasm. But beneath the surface of their life, there is a hard shelf of unyielded rock.

The tragedy of shallow faith is that it works perfectly fine until the sun comes up. In botany, the exact same sun that ripens a deeply rooted plant will scorch a rootless one.

The Application: Many of us are living with a "rocky ground" reality. We rely on external conditions to keep us happy. If the economy is good, if our relationships are smooth, if our health is perfect, we flourish. But the moment external pressure hits, we wither. Jesus is telling us that external pressure doesn't *create* a crisis; it merely *reveals* the **lack of a root system**. You cannot survive a major crisis on a surface-level faith. You need depth. Religion should never be a superficial mental exercise, an accessory to an outfit on Sunday, or shallow. Depth, according to the bible, requires painful self examination and elimination. This painful process of destroying self (what is apart from God) is not a one time occurrence, but a *continual* correction. Turmoil swings mercilessly in everyones life more than once, but it is only those who are deeply rooted who are able to stand firm and tall.

When a person who only has "intellectual faith" or shallow faith faces a situation where sticking to the truth requires sacrificing their selfish desires, reputation, or personal gain, they immediately "wither away". They drop their beliefs instantly because they never actually loved the truth—they only loved how the truth made them look or feel.

Point 2: The Secret of the Desert Root (*Shoresh*)

Scripture: Jeremiah 17:7-8 & Isaiah 53:2

How do we get that depth? The Prophet Jeremiah gives us a vivid botanical picture from the Old Testament:

"But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. They 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."

In the Hebrew mind, a root—a *shoresh*—is the absolute foundation. It is the bedrock. In the arid landscape of the Ancient Near East, trees survived because their *shoresh* bypassed the dry desert sand and dug deep into subterranean water tables.

This is exactly how Isaiah describes the Messiah in Isaiah 53:2: *"He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root (shoresh) out of dry ground."*

Think about that imagery. A root in dry ground survives because it does not ask the environment for permission to live. It draws its sustenance from an invisible, supernatural aquifer. Notice how this is formed in ***dry ground***. A common misconception preached in many churches today is that God is found in happy moments, financial success, great health- moments of life where you consider yourself blessed. But to truly have depth and a deep rooted relationship with the Lord, He is found in the dark times, the hard times, the empty and sad moments, the moments which places pressure on us to be stronger, braver, angrier, and patience.

Psalm 51:17

"The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise."

Psalm 34:18

"The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit."

Isaiah 66:2

"For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word."

The Application: You might be in a "dry ground" season right now. You might be in a toxic workplace, dealing with a lonely season of grief, or navigating a severe financial drought. The world tells you that you are going to wither. But God says that if you position your *shores* in Him, you can stay vibrant even when the environment around you is dead. Your joy does not have to depend on your circumstances; it can depend on your Source. The only way to learn how to do this is by reading the Word over and over again. Study it. Analyze it. Arm yourself in it.

Point 3: The Gift of Being Settled (*Rhizoo*)

Scripture: Ephesians 3:17-18 & Colossians 2:7

Finally, how do we establish this root system? The Apostle Paul uses a very rare Greek verb in Ephesians 3:17, praying that we would be "**rooted and grounded in love.**"

The Greek word here is *rhizoo*. And the grammar of this word carries a beautiful, hidden promise. In the original text, Paul writes this in the **perfect passive** tense.

- **It is Passive:** This means you do not force your own roots into the ground by your own willpower or human effort. God is our Husband. God is the gardener. Your job is not to frantically manufacture stability; your job is to yield to the soil of His love and let *Him* anchor you.
- **It is Perfect:** This means it is a completed action with permanent, ongoing results. Once God roots you, you are settled.

When your identity is *rhizoo*—anchored passively and perfectly in the Truth—the metaphor shifts from a fragile plant to an unshakable fortress. Colossians 2:7 says we are to be "*rooted (rhizoo) and built up in him.*" Your internal life becomes organically alive, and your external life becomes structurally sound.

Conclusion: Managing Your Soil

The challenge before us is not to go home and try to force ourselves to look better, smile more, or fake our way through the storms. The challenge is to manage the ground of our lives.

If you have a **root of bitterness** (Hebrews 12:15) growing secretly in your heart from a past trauma, do not try to trim the leaves. Ask God to dig deep and pull it out by the bedrock. Ask God to show you the way. Ask Him to give you the strength to take a hard long look at yourself, as painful as that can be.

If you are living a **shallow, surface-level life**, ask God to break up the rocky shelves of pride and self-reliance in your heart so His truth can take deep root.

And if you are in a **season of drought**, stop looking at the dry sand around you. Send your roots out by the river. Anchor your mind in prayer, anchor your heart in His promises, and anchor your identity in His love.

We can prune a tree to make it look perfect to the neighbors, but as any arborist knows, the real hazard is always what is hidden underground—and just like those trees, our spiritual safety depends not on our outward religious performance, but on the secret, invisible root system of a changed heart.