

Intro: It seemed like a good idea at the time! I was in my RV on my way to Denver on I 80 to Denver for a conference I had stopped and asked at the NEB welcome center about camping places on water...hmmmm
Gave me location...leave 80, cut through, stop at campground...Go South, pick up 70, go to Denver
Never looked at legend of map: Thought it was what, 20 miles? MD map...not so...70 miles!
Ten mins out No Signal I started to freak out! Anxious...what if there is a problem...NO HELP. All Alone!
No one to call, no one to lean on, no one to come alongside and give me the support I need. ALL ALONE

That is what David is talking about in Psalm 1 The Importance of Being CONNECTED...Not W/Phone But LIFE
Psalm 1 Page 383

Now when I'm talking about being "Connected" to others, I mean Face To Face, Real time Connection!
Not Online, Not Social Media, Not some kind of Skype, Facetime, Social App Connection...(Coat tie, Underwear!)
Today is CONNECT DAY: After Each Service in the Gym literally every group and ministry represented

In Psalm 1 David Gives us 5 Reasons We Should Be Connected

1. Be Connected To The Right People To Be Happy: Vs 1

Blessed is the man: Lit= *Happy, Fruitful, Overwhelmingly joyful. Not just calm happy, but enthusiastically joyful*
You want to have a good life...hang out with the right kind of people...and AVOID the wrong kind!

3 To eliminate: Notice there is a progressive increase in the amount of time you spend...and the severity of sin/disobedience

- Walk w/Wicked: Start with a series of activities...one at a time *General misconduct random*
- Stand w/Sinners: Adopt practices...Develop bad Principles *Missing mark of law Intentional act*
- Sit w/mockers: Become fixed in your bad ways *Ridicule spiritual things Disparage*

David is saying...DON'T do this...be careful who you hang out with!

1Co 15:33 Do not be misled: "*Bad company corrupts good character.*" Paul quotes and early greek poet! WELL KNOWN

#1: Be connected to the right kind of people; Avoid the wrong kind

That's what a group does for you...connects you with people on the same path...encourage one another along way!
Instead of sitting with those in spiritual Decline...With those seeking Incline!

2. Be Connected To The Right Input: What's old saying: GI/GO Vs 2

We all decide who and/or what we are going to listen to as a guide to inform our life.

Already established that we don't want to lean on the wrong kind of people...so where do we turn? Where do we look

You would think David would say, Pick the RIGHT kind of people...but he doesn't. Instead He says, Look to God!

Literally what he writes is, You should take delight, joy, pleasure: In the "*Law of Jehovah*"

Turn to God...and allow His word to infiltrate your mind and your heart, inform your actions, form you opinions!

Instead of doing what we often do, which is turn to God LAST...after we have polled everyone else...START with HIM!

Meditate: Ponder (murmur) Allow His word to so permeate you that your thoughts start to reflect HIS thoughts!

Lit = *to take pleasure in His word, or delight in His word...Could be translated...to find PURPOSE in His word!*

App: What David is telling us is this...We need to regularly, consistently, get input from the truth of God's word.

Pr 14:12 "*There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.*"

#2: Be Connected to God's Word (*Not just once a week sermon! Study, Meditate, Immerse*)

That's what a life group, BS Group does...Pours word of God into your life

3. Be Intentionally Planted (Connected) In The Right Place! Vs 3a

Here David is talking about intentionality. Notice that he doesn't say the tree "happens" to be by water

He says the tree is PLANTED by water. The location is VERY intentional...Not random, not by chance or convenience

The tree is there because it is planted there...because THAT is where it is going to find what it needs: WATER

Water is regularly used symbolically of God's provision in the life of His people. Connected to Water...Connected To God

~Sometimes God puts (directs) us where HE wants us to be

~Often we have to CHOOSE...I KNOW where the water is, I know where the spiritual supply is: I GO THERE!

Streams: Often used to describe a channel cut in the ground to irrigate

Joh 7:38 "*Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.*"

App: David is telling us: PLANT YOURSELF IN A PLACE WHERE YOU FIND LIVING WATER

Don't just randomly say, Hey, I'll find it when I find it...I'll get a little on way to work, maybe a sermon, Read when I can

Intentionally PLANT yourself with a group of people that are seeking to study and find life in God's word!

#3: Be INTENTIONAL about connecting face to face with people studying God's word...YOU NEED THAT!

ILLUS: Two different kinds of root systems in trees

1. Most familiar with: Tap root: Goes down to seek and find the water: (Cedar of Lebanon) Fig 400ft

2. Other...Surface level: Intertwined with one another to Support and sustain (Redwoods!)

Listen: As Christians...we NEED both!

We need to PLANT ourselves in a place where we have tap roots that seek out the living water of God

We need those relationships that knit our hearts and lives together in supportive community! Overcome whatever

WHERE? IN A GROUP!

4. Be Connected So You Can Produce Spiritual Fruit.

Vs 3b

Reading Pastor Orin's notes from a sermon he heard while he was away: **Roots Produce Fruit!**

When our roots go down and sustain us, We are connected to God and to others: We produce fruit "In due season"
Again, Fruit can be seen two ways:

1. What does God do **IN** me? The changes that He brings, Fruit of The Spirit: Love Joy
2. What He does **THROUGH** me! Uses me to impact others:

Illus: Wed night Group: 10 Things That Men Say Matter Most: Series of Conversations in Small Group
Talking about How God wants to Change us to make us Better: Fathers, Husbands, Employees, Christians, Friends
Shameless plug: Already Got 4-6 coming...Join us!
Other Groups: Young Marrieds, Families, Singles, Ministry Teams

See, here is the Key you have to pay attention to. If your Roots aren't Right: Deep...and Broad: Fruit non existent, Puny,

5. Be Connected So You Can Persevere In Tough Times.

Vs 3c

"Whose leaf does not wither" Lit = *to wilt; to fade; to faint; to fall away*

When you are connected the way you should be, with God and with others, you are able to weather the storms of life

Root is deep and strong, Connected To God through His word, Permeates your mind and heart, Trouble comes: Stand
You are able to have His perspective, and His insight, and His strength flowing up into you, that Living Water
Roots are broad, interwoven into the lives of others, love you care for you, pray for you, there for you: You can Stand
You find those kinds of roots in vibrant group relationships:

Illus: Talking with someone about that this week, Talked about "doing life together" That's what we all need!

- For some of us though...we don't have that...And in this area its more important than most: Isolated
Many of us don't have a family structure around us, (or dysfunctional) so when trouble comes we get rocked
We aren't able to stand...because we don't have the relational infrastructure.

That's why God gives us church families...and we find that in Groups.

When you are connected both ways, God and others...you are not alone in the tough times....Others right there with you!

Notice the conclusion: Whatever he does...it PROSPERS:

1. Because you are **DOING** the right things!
2. Because you have God and others seeking to bless and help you along the way

6. Be Connected So You Can Push Forward Spiritually And In Life. Vs 3d.

Prosper: Very Broad Word: Lit = *to push forward, to break out, to be profitable, to grow, to mature or develop*

Do you Want to Grow into the kind of person God wants you to be? The person God intends you to be?

Maturing, Developing, Growing, being fruitful and productive both personally and in relationships and life.

Then Plant Yourself in the right place, with the right people, doing the right things with God's help...and Grow!

That's really what the entire Psalm is teaching us.

David is saying,

Listen: That kind of growth and development doesn't happen randomly or unintentionally. It is produced right actions.
When you do the things that David tells us to do here, then you will be walking the path of maturity and growth.

Know the old saying right? When is the **BEST** time to plant a tree? 20 years ago
When is the **NEXT** best time to plant a tree? Today **NOW**

CONCL: Here is a question for you:

Are you flourishing...or withering? If you look at where you are planted...and the kinds of roots you have...tell you

There are a LOT of reasons for you to evaluate where you are today...and if you feel like you need something different...
PLANT yourself....

Go over the gym...Find the **RIGHT** place for **YOU**...And Plant. Don't wait. IT isn't too late...Amazing what God does

Take a moment and Look at the Family Night at RTBC...and you will find something for everyone

And if you say...I don't see a group that is exactly right for me....(Awana Worker) Sunday AM, Ministry Team

COMMUNION

COMMUNION

“You would think that a 350-foot-tall tree would need deep roots, but that’s not the case at all with the Sequoia. Redwood tree roots are very shallow, often only five or six feet deep. But they make up for it in width, sometimes extending up to 100 feet from the trunk. They thrive in thick groves, where the roots can intertwine and even fuse together. This gives them tremendous strength against the forces of nature. This way they can withstand high winds and raging floods.”

So, redwoods do not survive alone...ever. They form “tribes” or communities. Sometimes they grow so close to each other they merge at the base into one tree. The first thing they provide each other is strength and support: intertwining roots. Not deep, but wide, living in the embrace of others.

Tap Root: Wild fig tree in South Africa: 400 feet in the ground!