

Where Are We Rooted? The Root of JESSE ?

We are to make sure that we're rooted in the right place. With all the bitterness that we're seeing in the tensions around the world, and how easy it is to get caught up in it all. God warns us:

"...make sure no one lives with a root of bitterness sprouting within them which will cause trouble and poison the hearts of many." (Hebrews 12:15)

"Lay aside bitter words, temper tantrums, revenge, profanity, and insults. But instead be kind and affectionate toward one another. Has God graciously forgiven you? Then graciously forgive one another in the depths of Christ's love." (Ephesians. 4:31-32)

Four Ways to Recognize Any Bitterness in Our Hearts*

1. Are you replaying the tapes, rehashing conversations, and looking to justify your anger?

1 John 4:20: "Anyone can say, 'I love God,' yet have hatred toward another Believer. This makes him a phony, because if you don't love a brother or sister, whom you see, how can you truly love God, whom you can't see?"

2. Is your mouth out of control? Are you losing your cool, being critical, snappy or rude?

Romans 3:14 (emphasis mine): "Bitter profanity flows from their mouths (those who are under bondage to sin), only meant to cut and harm."

3. Are you sick? If bitterness is left unchecked, it interferes with our body's hormones and immune system, causing sicknesses.

James 5:15: "And the prayer of faith will heal the sick and the Lord will raise them up, and if they have committed sins they will be forgiven."

4. Are you causing others around you to be infected?

Hebrews 12:15: "...make sure no one lives with a root of bitterness sprouting within them which will only cause trouble and poison the hearts of many." (*Note: Adapted from "4 Ways to Spot a Bitter Root" Erin Davis)

The good news is this: the Father has already provided everything you need to be free of bitterness! Romans 8:4: "So now every righteous requirement of the law can be fulfilled through the Anointed One living His life in us. And we are free to live, not according to our flesh, but by the dynamic power of the Holy Spirit!"

Every command that the Father gives us, He has already given us the power to perform and overcome. 1 Corinthians 15:57: "But we thank God for giving us the victory as conquerors through our Lord Jesus, the Anointed One."

We are to yield and let God pull out roots and weeds. Unlike us who work so hard sometimes at healing and deliverance from such things, He seemed to do it effortlessly.

He needs us to be free. He will set you on fire with His love and then He uses us as integral parts of the work that He is doing in His Church. We are destined to be a part of God's pure and spotless Bride that He gave His Blood for. God then can use us to set others free by His love, mercy and grace."

Christians that have been deeply rooted in bitterness for years will begin or grow with encounters of the true and living God in His ways of grace. Those who were once entrenched by the ways of judgment will now discover the Father's unconditional love. He will truly root and ground them in His love. Ephesians 3:17: "...the resting place of His love will become the very source and root of your life."

Ignited by the Fire of the Father's Love

Watch as bitter roots are set on fire and love takes its place as He ignites His people with His passion and fire. The fire of His presence and of His love is coming to do a deep and personal work in His people, His Beloved. You are His beloved.