

## Root Deep

### Introduction

If you've ever gathered firewood, have you noticed which branches burn up most quickly? The dry ones that haven't been connected to the tree in a long time. They snap when bent, and there are no signs of life inside. On the contrary, the branches connected to the tree are hard to burn up and hard to break. Even if you tear them from the tree, their plant veins remain green with nutrients for around a week.

In John 15, Jesus tells us, "I am the vine; you are the branches." When we are disconnected from God's Word, we become spiritually dry and snap easily. Yet, when we are deeply rooted in God's word, we gain the nutrients we need to become alive in Christ and bear the fruit of His Holy Spirit. Understanding the depth of Christ's love, as described in Ephesians 3:18, is crucial for remaining in Him. Being "rooted and established in love" (Ephesians 3:17), we are filled with "all the fullness of God" (Ephesians 3:19). As the love of God flows through us, we are able to more fully love one another (John 15:17).

### Read Your Bible

- **Ephesians 3:14-21**
- **John 15:1-17**
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### Apply God's Word to Your Life:

1. How does the Holy Spirit help us bear fruit, according to Ephesians 3:16 and John 15:1-8? What kind of fruit should we expect in our lives?

2. What does it mean to be "rooted and established in love" in Ephesians 3:17, and how is this similar to the vine and branches metaphor in John 15?
3. How does understanding the depth of Christ's love in Ephesians 3:18 help us remain in Him, as described in John 15:1-17?
4. How does being filled with "all the fullness of God" in Ephesians 3:19 relate to the joy Jesus speaks about in John 15:11?
5. In practical terms, what does bearing fruit look like for a Christian? How does Ephesians 3:20-21 encourage us in this aspect?
6. How do the themes of love and unity in Ephesians 3 and John 15 challenge us to live differently in community?
7. What steps can we take to ensure that our spiritual roots are deep and strong?

### **Reflecting on the text:**

1. What have you learned about God?
2. What have you learned about the world?
3. What have you learned about yourself?

### **Pray**

Gracious God, root us deep in Your love. Help us remain in Christ, the true vine, bearing fruit that reflects Your grace. Give us the courage to share the Gospel boldly, knowing it is Your power for salvation. Thank You for the fullness of life and strength You provide through Jesus. In His name, Amen.