

Sermon Series Title: *Rooted: Keeping the Faith in World Influx*

Sermon Title: "The Testimony of a Tree"

Date: February 28, 2021

Scripture: Job 14:7-9, 14

For there is hope for a tree, if it is cut down, that it will sprout again, and that its shoots will not cease.

Though its root grows old in the earth, and its stump dies in the ground, yet at the scent of water it will bud and put forth branches like a young plant...If mortals die, will they live again?

All the days of my service

I would wait until my release should come.

Passage Background and Summary

This passage from the Old Testament book of Job highlights the fact that in spite of the losses Job suffered, he never lost hope. In fact the word "hope" is used in the book of Job more than any other book. In 14:7-9, Job's hope is found in a tree. "If [a tree] is cut down," he says, "it will sprout again." (v.7). "Though its roots grow old...at the **scent of water** it will bud and put forth branches like a young plant." (v.8-9).

Sermon Summary

Pastor Warnock ends his series of sermons titled, *Rooted*, where we have been reminded of the importance of remaining rooted in God, especially during difficult times. Life is difficult sometimes. When circumstances are difficult all around us, it is tough not to allow what's happening on the outside to penetrate us. Job was well acquainted with tough circumstances; after all he had lost everything. Yet he did not lose hope. In fact he even found hope in a tree.

We too can learn from the testimony of a tree. Even if a tree's branches die, if the tree is planted next to water and its roots run deep, it can come back. In fact, the pruning, cutting back, on some branches can help a tree to grow, for it is its roots that cause a tree to stand. Similarly when we are facing tough circumstances being rooted and grounded in God helps us to stand. Being rooted in prayer, worship, bible study, fellowship and giving, helps our roots to grow deep. There are also times in our lives when we may need to cut back some things in order to grow. And when "our roots grow old" when all around us appears to be dying away, there is Living Water in that very same ground. And, all the roots need is a **scent of water** in order for the tree to bud again. The very "scent of water," the Living Water, allows us to live again, to love again, to be restored and renewed.

Reflection Questions

1. Have you typically looked at the book of Job as a hopeful book? Why or why not?
2. Who or what keeps you rooted?

3. What scriptures keep you rooted?
4. What things in your life do you need to prune/cut back?
5. Which of these are you most rooted in: prayer, worship, bible study, fellowship or tithing?
6. Which of these could you be better rooted in: prayer, worship, bible study, fellowship or tithing?
7. In which areas of your life are you hopeful for a “scent of water”?
8. In which areas of your life are you experiencing “scent of water”?