

Trees Are My Favorite Flower

Now I don't want to argue if trees are flowers. I know they really aren't, but I've been saying this for years and I'm sticking to it. I suspect, given my early immersion in all things spiritual, this *might* be where my affection for trees originated. Early on I memorized [Jeremiah 17:7-8](#) which says:

*But blessed are those who trust in the LORD
and have made the LORD their hope and confidence.
8 They are like trees planted along a riverbank,
with roots that reach deep into the water.
Such trees are not bothered by the heat
or worried by long months of drought.
Their leaves stay green,
and they never stop producing fruit.*



[Scripture states](#), “The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display God’s craftsmanship.” Did you ever look at the natural world that way? Creation (not just humans!) all recognize and honor the Creator. Creation starts in a garden. [God is called the Gardener](#) who cares for and prunes the trees so that they produce “much fruit.” We are told to produce good “fruit” such as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. ([Gal. 5:22-23](#)) Jesus gets very frustrated with a [fig tree that bears no fruit](#) and uses an [analogy of a tree](#) that talks about producing a lot of fruit ... or not. [Paul writes](#) that when Christ “makes his home in our hearts” that our roots will “grow down into God’s love and keep you strong.”

These images really speak to me. It helps me absorb these important concepts that I need to work toward being the best me. What about you? What do you “garden”? What do you need to “flourish” and “produce”? What are your “weeds”? Where is your source of “nourishment”? Do you have “seasons”? Does a particular “climate” work best for you? Okay, I’ll stop. (Theological nerd fact: no divine thing can be humanly understood except through analogies. And *none* of those analogies are perfect.)

Jesus doesn't seem to have a favorite fruit variety, however, he [does distinguish between “bad” fruit and “good” fruit](#). He talks about fig trees producing figs and bramble bushes producing brambles and how each tree is identified by the fruit it produces. A tree produces according to what it has been made to be – and that’s freeing. This is important. Read between those Bible lines and think a bit. Besides the whole good/bad thing, I hope you can see that this is actually very encouraging (and empowering) for each one of us. It means *don’t compare; make the best with what you are*. Even if you are a tiny, young bramble bush, don’t feel insecure or even jealous because someone else is a magnificent, mature mackintosh apple tree. God knows what’s best for us. (And, in case you didn’t realize, brambles can make *blackberries* which are

highly beneficial!) What can *you* produce as fruit that not everyone else can? What talents do *you* have that others do not? Think: *What kind of tree are you?*

You'll notice that the logo for honest theology is ... you guessed it ... a tree. Look closely at the picture, please. You should notice a few things: it is by a river and it has visibly strong roots, green leaves, and lots of *various colored* fruit. (My AI friend, Theo, helped me design this!) I want to be this tree. My roots are my faith in Jesus. The river is the Spirit that nourishes me. I'd like to I produce a number of different kinds of fruit. Each year, like all healthy trees, my branches *and* my roots grow. I provide welcome shade and places to shelter in addition to my fruit production. I weather storms by bending (and sometimes a branch or two breaks off...). One of these days I'll collapse from old age or some kind of disaster but, in the meantime, I'm going to do my best to be the best "tree" I can be. This is the kind of life I am growing toward.

I don't want to be a fragile (real) flower that comes and goes each year. Oh no. I want to be a sturdy old thing that's been around so far for sixty-six years. I've got nicks in my trunk and I've lost a few major branches but it's only made me stronger and more capable to handle future ... storms. I've learned to not worry about times of drought or heat because my roots are *very deep*. Am I offering you any fruit or shade? I hope so.

Scripture to maybe check out that use beautiful tree analogies:

- [Psalm 19:1-3](#)
- [Jeremiah 17:7-8](#)
- [Psalm 1:1-3](#)
- [Colossians 2:6-7](#)
- [Proverbs 12:1-3](#)
- [Ephesians 3:14-21](#) **Paul's excellent prayer – vs. 17 !!**

P.S. I used the New Living Translation of the Bible, put out by Tyndale House Foundation in 1996, 2004, and 2015 this time. Feel free to check these passages out in whatever Bible version you prefer—almost all of them are available on Bible Gateway!

What are your thoughts about this post? Email me and let me know!
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P.P.S. The beautiful painting of a tree - by water, with roots, green and lush - was painted by my dear friend, John Arnold! Thank you, John!!! :)