

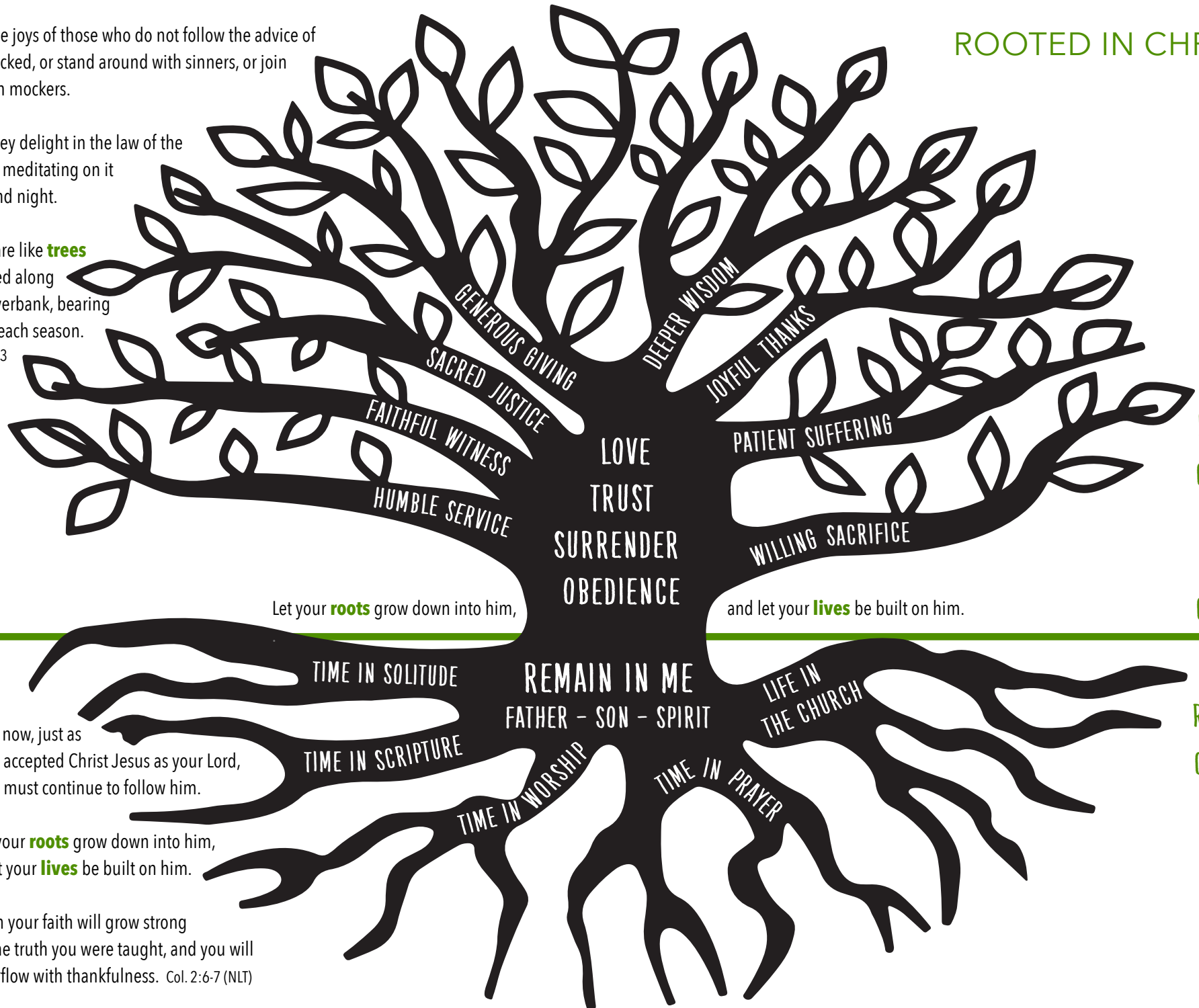
Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers.

But they delight in the law of the LORD, meditating on it day and night.

They are like **trees** planted along the riverbank, bearing **fruit** each season.

Ps. 1:1-3 (NLT)

ROOTED IN CHRIST



Let your **roots** grow down into him,

and let your **lives** be built on him.

And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him.

Let your **roots** grow down into him, & let your **lives** be built on him.

Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness. Col. 2:6-7 (NLT)

LIVING FOR CHRIST



BUILT ON CHRIST



ROOTED IN CHRIST

ROOTS ...rooted and built up in him...

Center Roots

The source of new life (Father, Son, Spirit) is primarily experienced, learned, and known through **scripture, worship, and prayer**. Some faith traditions would also include the sacraments.

Outer Roots

Believers spend time in scripture, worship, and prayer in two primary contexts:

personal solitude
communal life of the church.

Some new believers who do not yet have a church family experience communal faith in a one-on-one discipling relationship or a small group study. Scripture often privileges the communal experience of faith, but also includes many examples of private and personal devotion.

Psalm 1:1-3

...they delight in the law of the LORD, meditating on it day and night. They are like trees planted along the riverbank...

Jer. 17:7-8

...they are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water...

Hosea 14:5-6

...it will send roots deep into the soil like the cedars in Lebanon...

Eph 3:17

Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong...

Col 2:6-7

... let your roots grow down into him...

TRUNK ...established in the faith, just as you were taught...

The core character of a believer is shaped by:

love	both from God and for God
trust	in both Father and Son
surrender	to the Lord fully (die to self)
obedience	as designed by God as modeled by Jesus as made possible by the Spirit

As our character is transformed, established, and renewed by the Spirit, and as we develop regular habits of a life of discipleship, our core character will deepen and develop, impacting both our *roots* (as we desire to go ever deeper) and our *branches* (as we live God's planned design for us).

Psalm 52:8

But I am like an olive tree, thriving in the house of God. I will always trust in God's unfailing love.

Isaiah 61:3

In their righteousness, they will be like great oaks that the LORD has planted for his own glory...

Isaiah 44:3-4

...they will thrive like willows on a riverbank...

Jer. 17:7-8

Blessed are those who trust in the LORD and have made the LORD their hope and confidence. They are like trees planted along a riverbank...

Matt. 7:17-

A good tree...

Phil. 2: 5, 8

You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had...he humbled himself in obedience to God...

BRANCHES and FRUIT ...overflowing with fruitfulness...

As we root ourselves in Christ and are recreated in our core character, our thoughts/actions/attitudes/words begin to reflect Christ, align with Biblical commands and examples, and fulfill the two greatest commands: to love God with our hearts, souls, and minds, and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

humble service	faithful witness
sacred justice	generous giving
deeper wisdom	joyful thanks
patient suffering	willing sacrifice

When we both embrace and embody these various expressions of our faith, we bear fruit – not by our own power, but by the Spirit living within us. The specific expressions (fruit) will look different for each person, based on things such as age, understanding, maturity, depth of roots, strength of character, cultural context, and more.

Jer. 17:7-8

...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.

Hosea 14:5-6

Its branches will spread out like beautiful olive trees...

Matt. 7:17-

A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. A good tree can't produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can't produce good fruit...just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions.

Psalm 1:1-3

...They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season.