

I Am Planted

Points To Ponder:

- God's plan for your life is that you flourish.
- God plants you where you will be fruitful.
- God sets you where He wants you to be in the body.
- There is a purpose on your life to help others reach their potential.

GOD PLANTS YOUR LIFE

READ Genesis 2:8

Being planted is your place of fruitfulness.

1. God PLACED Adam in the garden of Eden.
2. God chose the location for Adam. It was necessarily about Adam's happiness but his fruitfulness.
3. God didn't ask Adam's opinion about the garden - God just placed Adam there.
4. It was in the garden where all of Adam's contentment would reside.
5. The land of perfect contentment is the place where God plants you.
6. It was in the garden where God brought forth Eve. The place God plants you is the place the desires of your heart will be met.

Why is there such a 'consumer' mentality about church today vs. a PLANTED mentality?

Consumer Mentality = I go to the church that makes me happiest. When I no longer enjoy it, I leave and go elsewhere or nowhere.

Planted Mentality = God has placed me here to grow me, perfect me, and make me fruitful - I will not leave when I'm bored, hurt, mad, or unhappy.

Why is your FRUITFULNESS connected to being PLANTED?

GOD PLANTS YOU IN A BODY

READ I Corinthians 12:12-27

Being planted gives you a place to call home.

1. The Church is a body made up of many parts.
2. For the church to function properly it has to have working parts that function.
3. God places the parts in the body where He deems them necessary.
4. God places you in the church where HE wants you to serve.
5. Every person has a purpose and a part to play for the local church to accomplish its mission.
6. We need each other. There is great healing in diversity.

Why do you think God likes placing us in the middle of diversity?

Why is being placed in a body, made up of many parts, God's manner of growing us up?

Do you know the part you play? What is it?

TO BE PLANTED YOU MUST KNOW PEOPLE ARE NOT YOUR PROBLEM

READ Ephesians 6:10-12

1. Many never get planted in a body because they don't get along well with people.
2. People are not the problem.
3. There are evil spiritual forces at work to rob you of being fruitful.
4. Those evil spiritual forces deceive us to make us think that people are the issue at hand.
5. The struggle isn't with people.
6. This revelation is critical if you are going to remain planted in a local church body for any length of time = PEOPLE ARE NOT MY PROBLEM.

Why is it so easy to blame people when the true nature of your struggle may be spiritual?

Why does the devil enjoy shifting your issue to people when you're frustrated?

Many times, the people that frustrate you the most are just exposing your own issue rooted in your heart? Why is this so?

We can grow the most through those that may challenge us the most? How so?

TO BE PLANTED YOU MUST KNOW PEOPLE ARE YOUR POTENTIAL

READ Ephesians 4:14-16

1. It's in other people where your potential resides.
2. It's hard to reach your potential when you are isolated and not part of God's body.
3. Mediocre is the best you'll ever be alone. When you're isolated and alone - apart from God's body, your potential is squelched.
4. God has designed the body, the church, to be the force behind your greatest potential.
5. Your perfected self comes forth as you are 'fitted' with a body of believers.
6. It's a functioning body of Christ, the church, that makes your life healthy as everyone does their part.

Who is it in your life that stretches you to reach your greatest potential?

What is something you've always wanted to do, but still haven't completed? Can you enlist someone to help you reach that potential?

Do you make excuses when people try to help you? Why?

WHEN YOU'RE PLANTED YOU HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO FORGIVE AND BE FORGIVEN

READ Ephesians 4:31-32

1. Being planted in a church body will expose evil behavior. How so? Because your worst behavior will try and surface when you have to deal with people.
2. Being planted forces you to rid yourself of evil behavior.
3. Being planted gives you the chance to forgive others and recognize the power of forgiveness in your own life.
4. It's in doing life together as the body of Christ we realize the true power of being in fellowship.
5. The fact we must forgive means there will be opportunities to be offended.
6. An attitude of forgiveness will keep bitterness from springing up in your heart. Forgiveness keeps you planted.

Is your Christian walk swayed by other people's evil behavior? How so?

Can you identify behavior in your own life that may be offensive to others?

Are there areas of your behavior that could be classified as 'evil behavior'? Your speech, your attitudes toward others?

Is there anyone you need to forgive at present? Do so.

WHEN YOU'RE PLANTED IT GIVES THE WORLD TO CHANCE TO SEE THE MASTERPIECE OF GOD'S GRACE.

READ Ephesians 2:1-10

1. People watch the faith you have.
2. The heavenly realms watch the faith you have.
3. We all have a sorted past.
4. Mercy levels the playing field for all.
5. We, the church body, are to be an example of God's great grace.

GRACE = The power for all of our pasts and our stories to work together to bring God glory because of what Jesus has done for us all.

How does all of our varied pasts display God's grace to onlookers?

Do you see your past as the potential to be part of God's masterpiece of grace?

Are you willing to offer grace to other people's past?

Why is grace such an important ingredient to God's great masterpiece called - THE CHURCH?