

Last week we talked about the condition of the soil—that healthy growth requires the true gospel seed and choosing to be in gospel-shaped environments. But even in good soil, growth doesn't just happen automatically. This week, we're talking about how we put our roots down.

Isaiah 37:31, "Once more a remnant of the kingdom of Judah will take root below and bear fruit above."

2026 Vision for Cornerstone: It's "a year to take root below, so we can bear fruit above for years to come."

HOW TO PUT ROOTS DOWN:

1. We grow by putting deep roots down in Christ.

- Roots are the next step after salvation.

Colossians 2:6-7, So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

- Roots always come before fruit.

John 15:5, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

- Shallow roots can't withstand storms or opposition.
- Deep roots access hidden water others can't.
- Roots feed everything else (marriage, family, love, endurance, joy, etc.).

2. A clear mission keeps us rooted for the long haul.

- Cornerstone's mission statement: We are a church that enters into relationships to intentionally help people follow Jesus, be changed by Jesus, & join the mission of Jesus, so they can flourish.
- Matthew 4:19, "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

3. A church that wants to be deeply rooted has people who are daily rooted.

- In 2026, let's practice three daily habits that will root us in Christ, not to earn God's love, but to remain connected to it
- Gratitude: Rooting our hearts in God's goodness.

1 Thessalonians 5:18, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

- Prayer: Rooting our lives in dependence.

Philippians 4:6-7, Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

- Bible: Rooting our minds in truth.

Psalm 1:2-3, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers.