

LEARNING FROM TREES

The following (edited) article is entitled "All I Need To Know About Life I Learned From Trees" (author unknown).

- It's important to have roots.
- In today's complex world, it pays to branch out.
- If you really believe in something, don't be afraid to go out on a limb.
- Be flexible so you don't break when a harsh wind blows.
- Sometimes you have to shed your old bark in order to grow.
- Grow where you are planted.
- It's perfectly okay to be a late bloomer.
- Avoid people who would like to cut you down.
- Get all spruced up when you have a hot date.
- If the party gets boring, just leaf.
- You can't hide your true colors as you approach the autumn of your life.
- It's more important to be honest than poplar



Those are some good lessons. They remind me of some other lessons taught in Psalm 1:

"Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper." (Psalm 1:1-3)

The Psalmist says that a godly man is like a tree in three very important ways.

First, he is planted — he's got his roots put down deep, he's fortified, stable.

Second, he bears fruit — he develops godlike qualities in his character and life.

Third, he doesn't wither — he is able to survive under all circumstances, even days of difficulty.

May your spiritual life take on the qualities of a tree planted by the rivers of water.

- Alan Smith, Heien Street Church of Christ, Fayetteville, NC
- via: tftd-online.com

Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut that held its ground.

News & Notes

SYMPATHY: To David Malcomson and family at the sudden passing of his nephew, Christopher Malcomson, age 34, in Florida. God bless and comfort the family.

SURGERY: Jim Beagle's back surgery is scheduled for this Tuesday, Sept. 16th at Allegheny Hospital, Pittsburgh. Keep Jim in your prayers.

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Each Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. Join the ladies to help with this good work.

LADIES INSPIRATION DAY: Saturday, Sept. 27th, 9:00 a.m. at Southern Hills. Speakers: Tresie Shultz, Crystal Spencer, and Karen Taylor.

LADIES WORK DAY: Saturday, Oct. 25th, 9:00 a.m. to assemble care baskets.

PANTRY: Pancake mix & syrup. Also, winter outdoor items are being collected. Good, clean, useable coats, hats, gloves, scarves, etc. can be donated. Help those in need.

REQUEST FOR PRAYERS: Candy Dugger (Connie Cowdery's daughter) in Greenwood, MS.

THOSE WITH PHYSICAL PROBLEMS: *At Home:* Don Reynolds, Fred Larimore, Sr. (Karen Strum's father), Bobby Hadley, Mabel Sprout, Virginia Rickerd, Harry Nice, Michelle Hanlon, Dan Williams, Blondenia Orr, Jenny Rhodes, Bette Gentry. Remember and encourage others confined to their homes and in nursing homes. They are listed on the bulletin board.

MEETINGS & LECTURES

Sand Hill	Sept. 14-19	Jeremy Main
McKinleyville	Sept. 21-25	Different Speakers
CHESTER	Sept. 28-Oct. 2	Steve Higginbotham
New Philadelphia	Oct. 5- 8	Frank Higginbotham
Weirton Heights	Oct. 12-16	Ed Mellott
WVSOP (Moundsville)	Oct. 26-30	Different Speakers

— KINDNESS —

Kindness can be heard by the deaf, seen by those who are blind and spoken for those who cannot form the words. Love can turn strangers into friends. These simple truths are well-known by most of us yet how often do we use them or put them into action?

I was recently reading the account of what is called the story of the good Samaritan. I wondered what could bring more joy into my life than "spontaneous generosity," as a practical demonstration of God's love with no strings attached. The account recorded in Luke 10:30-36 is a part of Scripture that ought to jar our memory of just how we are to act. especially like verse 35, "On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.'" That is what is called going over and beyond.

Look for ways to be spontaneous in your kindness and love as you go through your day today.

- Jumpstart #510, Gastonia Church of Christ - Gastonia, NC