

DAILY DEVOS WITH PHIL**DAY 6 : PEACE OVER PANIC**

Hi Everybody,

Welcome to another Daily Devo. This week we're going to look at trees. We can learn a lot from them. In fact, Jesus speaks about mustard seeds growing into trees in Matthew 13:31–32 (NIV): *'The Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.'*

Jesus shows us the picture of the mustard seed growing into a beautiful tree, where birds can perch. And I believe that can be a picture of our lives too. God desires to see our lives grow into beautiful, healthy trees. So, how do we do grow?

Firstly, we have to understand that time is our advantage. Around the world, people are in lockdown right now because of the coronavirus (and perhaps wishing they could get on with their lives). But now is actually a very good time to take stock of our lives, to rethink how we do things and to grow in some areas so that we can come through this better and stronger than before.

Consistency is vital to growth. When you do good things consistently, you become healthier and stronger. You can't see the roots of a tree, but the roots anchor the tree and consistently draw nourishment from the ground. What about the unseen areas of your life that shape who you are? Lockdown is a good time to build healthy disciplines in those areas.

Maybe commit to reading your Bible every day for the next five days. Or commit to journaling every day for a week – talk to God in this way; write down your thoughts; write down some dreams and goals. Committing to good habits and practising them consistently will give you momentum in life.

Let your roots go down deep in good soil – that means, your relationship with Jesus; the Word of God; your marriage; your family relationships; your church community (in fact, it's vital to remain planted in church On-the-Line). Anchor yourself and draw nourishment here. Deep, strong, healthy roots mean a healthy tree.

Colossians 2:7 (AMPC) says: *'Have the roots [of your being] firmly and deeply planted [in HIM, fixed and founded in HIM], being continually built up in HIM, becoming increasingly more confirmed and established in the faith ...'*

I encourage you, let your roots go down deep in the right places. Look at those areas in your life where you need to build consistency and strength. And, together, we're going to grow and flourish, even, or perhaps *especially*, in the current season we're facing. God is with us in this.

Don't forget – spread the love, not the virus.

This is Phil, God bless.