

Shalom.

As believers, Scripture often compares us to plants or crops that have been planted by God.

For example, Psalm 1:1-3 (NIV) says:

*1 Blessed is the one
who does not walk in step with the wicked
or stand in the way that sinners take
or sit in the company of mockers,
2 but whose delight is in the law of the Lord,
and who meditates on his law day and night.
3 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.*

This shows that every righteous person everyone who has been saved is *planted* somewhere spiritually.

It's important to understand the different kinds of places God allows us to be planted. Knowing this will bring peace to your heart, because many

Christians, when facing certain challenges, begin to lose faith, grow weary, or even turn back. But when we understand *where* and *why* we are planted, new strength rises within us.

Here are four main places where believers are planted:

1. We Are Planted Among Weeds

In Matthew 13:24-30, Jesus told a parable:

“The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field.

But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away.

When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.

The owner’s servants came to him and said, ‘Sir, didn’t you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?’

‘An enemy did this,’ he replied.

The servants asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’

‘No,’ he answered, ‘because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them.

Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the

harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.'"

Later, in verses 36-43, Jesus explained that the good seed represents the people of the Kingdom, the field is the world, and the weeds are the people of the evil one. God allows both to grow together until the final harvest.

This means we are planted among the ungodly we will never live in isolation as believers only. We must expect to be surrounded by people who do wrong, to be challenged by their ways at work, in our neighborhoods, at school, and yes, even in the church. Sometimes you'll even see them prosper and receive good things just as you do, for the same rain that waters you also waters them.

But what does the Lord desire from us?

He doesn't want us to separate ourselves or build our own little world of believers only. Jesus prayed, *"My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one"* (John 17:15).

God's will is that we bear righteous fruit *while living among* the wicked just as Daniel did in Babylon, Joseph did in Egypt, and Jesus did in this

sinful world.

So, whether you're living with an unbelieving spouse, among difficult neighbors, or working in a corrupt environment shine your light! Don't wait for a day when you'll finally be surrounded only by believers; that day may never come. Focus more on shining your light than on being separated from darkness. That's God's will for us.

2. We Are Planted Among Other Good Trees

Jesus also told another parable in Luke 13:6-9 (NIV):

"A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any.

So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?'

'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it.

If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.'"

Think about this: the man owned a *vineyard*, full of grapevines, but he chose to plant a *fig tree* right in the middle of it. Yet, that fig tree refused to bear fruit.

This speaks to us. Sometimes God plants us among other good trees among communities of people who may already know Him or have their own roles to play and He still expects *us* to bear fruit, the same fruit of salvation that we received at first.

This is where many believers stumble. When they move to a new place perhaps another city or another country they grow spiritually cold because “there are no Christians like me here.” They say, “I’m alone; I can’t do much for God.”

But brother, sister, don’t think that way. God expects fruit wherever you are. Even if you’re the only believer there, share the gospel, live out your faith, and do what God calls you to do. He wants to see you fruitful.

Sometimes God allows us to be placed in unfamiliar environments where we seem to stand alone. When that happens, remember that fig tree among the grapevines and don’t grow lazy or discouraged.

3. We Are Grafted Onto Another Tree

Unlike being planted *among* weeds or other trees, sometimes we are *grafted onto* another tree.

Israel is described as the natural olive tree, and we Gentiles as the wild olive tree. When Israel rejected God's grace, some of its branches were cut off, and we were grafted in to share the same root and richness of God's covenant.

Romans 11:17-18 (NIV):

"If some of the branches have been broken off, and you, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root, do not consider yourself to be superior to those other branches. If you do, consider this: You do not support the root, but the root supports you."

We must take this seriously. We were not the original branches we were grafted in by grace. That's why we must work out our salvation with "fear and trembling" (Philippians 2:12).

The evangelist Reinhard Bonnke once shared that early in his ministry, God told him to go and preach the gospel. He hesitated, and God said, *“The grace I gave you was first given to another who rejected it. If you refuse, I will take it and give it to someone else.”*

From that moment, he obeyed wholeheartedly and went out to preach.

Let that be a reminder: we were grafted in by grace, not by right. Let us remain humble, faithful, and fruitful because if we become unfaithful, even we can be cut off.

4. We Are Planted in Very Fertile Soil

Finally, consider this account from Mark 11:12-14, 20 (NIV):

“The next day as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry. Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to find out if it had any fruit. When he reached it, he found nothing but leaves, because it was not the season for figs. Then he said to the tree, ‘May no one ever eat fruit from you again.’ The next morning, as they went along, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots.”

At first glance, it may seem unfair why curse a tree when it wasn't fig season? But Jesus saw that given its healthy appearance and environment, it *should* have borne fruit.

Think of crops grown in a modern greenhouse. Because they are well cared for fertilized, watered, and protected they produce fruit even out of season.

In the same way, when we are saved, we immediately receive the Holy Spirit, who empowers us to witness, to live righteously, and to bear fruit. We don't have to wait years to mature spiritually like believers of old before the Spirit came. The moment we're saved, we are equipped to make disciples.

So don't see yourself as too young in the faith or too inexperienced. The Lord expects fruit *now*. If He returns and finds none, He may remove what's unfruitful, even if we think it's "not yet time."

Dear believer, remember you've already been planted in richly nourished soil. Don't wait for another season. Start now! Tell others about Christ. Don't worry about how much Scripture you know; it's God who convinces hearts, not you. Speak with courage, and He will be with you.

Conclusion

By understanding these four key places where believers are planted, we are reminded how to live faithfully on this earth with patience, reverence, diligence, and perseverance so that we don't stumble or lose heart.

Maranatha! (Our Lord is coming.)

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