

QUESTION: How do you get roots into God instead of man, like Jeremiah 17:5-10?

ANSWER:

- **Jeremiah 17:5-10** "Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind and makes flesh his strength, and whose **heart** turns away from the Lord. For he will be like a bush in the desert and will not see when prosperity comes, but will live in stony wastes in the desert..... **Blessed is the man that trusts in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is.** For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreads out its roots by the river, and shall not fear when the heat comes, but its leaf shall be green; and it shall not be fearful in the year of drought, neither shall it cease from yielding fruit. The **heart** is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it? I the Lord search the **heart**, I try the mind, to give to everyone according to his ways, and according to the fruit (results) of his doings."

Some key words in this Scripture itself give us the answer: **trust, hope and heart**. We are cursed if we put our trust in mankind or human ability ("flesh"). Trusting in human strength, whether it is our own or someone else's, will only carry us so far, and we will eventually end up like the bush in the desert - withered and dry, and in stony, deserted ("waste") places. On the other hand, **putting our TRUST and HOPE in the Lord** is the way to blessing, and a prosperous life of wholeness, fruitfulness and happiness, like the flourishing tree planted by the river. If the tree represents your life, then **the ROOTS are your HEART**. You must **turn your heart to the Lord completely**, and let your relationship with God and His word be the thing that most consumes your time, effort and devotion. Notice, in verse 5, that it is the one "whose **heart turns away** from the Lord" that is cursed. Our human hearts are deceitful and full of sin ("wicked"), so we cannot trust in our own hearts, but with our heart, we must put complete trust in the Lord. It comes down to choosing - making a CHOICE - to turn your heart towards God ("delighting in Him"), or to turn away from Him and do your own thing.

- **Deuteronomy 30:19-20a** "I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, **the BLESSING and the CURSE. So CHOOSE LIFE** in order that you may live, you and your descendants, **by loving the Lord your God**, by obeying His voice and by holding fast (clinging) to Him; for this is your life and the length of your days....."
- **Psalms 1:1-3** "How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers! But **his DELIGHT is in the law of the Lord (God's word)**, and in His law he meditates day and night. And he will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers."

How do you CHOOSE the blessings of God over the desires of your sinful heart on a daily, practical basis? You choose to "hear Jesus' voice" and "follow Him" **every MOMENT**, and with every decision you make. You CHOOSE every day to "**abide in His word**". **You choose DAILY to live in and ACCEPT** the peace, power, love and sound mind that Jesus gives you. Jesus tells you, "Take My yoke upon you and **LEARN from Me.**" **You learn from Him as you ABIDE (stay, spend time) in His WORD**, and you CHOOSE the things you have learned from God's word over the things you have learned from your deceitful heart.

- **John 10:27-30** "My Sheep **HEAR My voice**, and I know them, and **they follow Me.** And I give them ETERNAL LIFE, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand."

- **Matthew 11:28-30** "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you REST. Take My yoke upon you and **LEARN from Me**, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find REST for your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light."
- **John 8:12 & 31-32** "... 'I am the LIGHT of the world. He who follows Me shall NOT walk in DARKNESS, but have the light of life.'" "Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, '**If you ABIDE in My WORD**, you are my disciples indeed. And you shall KNOW THE TRUTH, and the TRUTH shall make you FREE.'"