



# NEW HEART BEAT DEVOTIONS

## Roots

Every year, my wife would bring in the flowers from our 30-year-old lilac bush. To me, I could not stand the smell of them. I was so glad last spring when, she asked me to cut it down because it was dying. It was huge like a tree. It took two days to saw it into pieces. But that was not the worst part of the mission. I was told to dig up the roots because if I didn't, it would come back. That part took about two weeks. As you can tell from the picture, the roots were everywhere. Lastly, I had to plant grass seed where the roots had been growing.

"Lilac shrubs reproduce by seeds, but they also grow new plants from suckers. Shoots grow from the roots parallel with the surface of the soil. As they go along, they send up sucker shoots. Each of these can grow into a new bush. A single lilac plant easily forms a grove of these shrubs over time. The big problem with getting rid of lilac bushes is that the plant regrows from any piece of root section left in the ground. Because of this, cutting down the bush at ground level is a very temporary solution. Quite quickly, you will have many lilac shoots coming up from the stump area."<sup>1</sup>

This is also true with weeds. If you do not get the roots, they will keep coming back. I normally dig my weeds out and end up with trash cans filled with them. Using this method, it leaves my yard holey. One year, I did use chemicals that claimed to get rid of weeds at their root. However, it not only killed my weeds but also the grass with it. Then I had to plant grass seed again.

Do not trust the ways of the world to get rid of the roots in your life. They may damage your good roots. "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly. But his delight is in the law of the Lord and in His law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper." PS 1:1-3 Here are five F's for weed root control from our Creator.

**Far:** Stay as far from sin or your weaknesses as much as possible. If Eve would have stayed far from the forbidden tree, she would not have sinned. Do not go back to the old friends and places. "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" Rom 6:1:2

**Flee:** If you find yourself in the wrong place or wrong situation then flee as fast as you can. Don't stand and talk to the serpent. "Flee also youthful lusts" 2 Tim 2:22. "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." 1 Cor 10:13

**Friends:** When you are with Christian family and friends, you will be more accountable. When temptation comes, you typically first make sure no one is watching. Eve should have been with or asked Adam, or even their best friend God, if what Satan was saying were true. "Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety." Prov 11:14

**Focus:** If we stay focused on the Word of God and doing the work we should be doing, we should not have time to sin. "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success." Josh 1:8

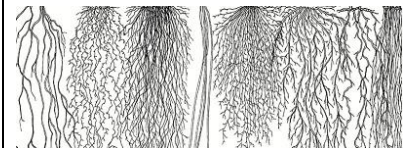
**Fulfillment:** True fulfillment only comes by doing the right thing. "For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." Gal 6:8

The roots I removed from my lilac bush. They were 10 ft long.



Charles Stambaugh

"But He answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up." Matt 15:13



Your roots will find you out.

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