

Marilyn
Hickey

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Marilyn Hickey

Marilyn Hickey Ministries
P.O. Box 17340
Denver, Colorado 80217

Unless otherwise indicated,
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MORE THAN CONQUERORS

The Bible identifies us as “more than conquerors.” I have been meditating on the scripture that we are “more than conquerors.” We can say that, and we should speak it into being, but how do we prepare to be a conqueror? How do you prepare to be a conqueror as a young Christian? What are the various steps to take? Let’s look at them.

1. SEED—The first step that you take as a Christian is to let the seed of God’s Word, the incorruptible seed, come into your heart.

“The seed is the Word of God” (Luke 8:11).

“Being born again, not of corruptible

seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever" (I Peter 1:23).

We are born of incorruptible seed. God's Word is incorruptible seed, and when we receive Jesus, we receive incorruptible seed. So you begin your new birth, your salvation walk, as a tiny little seed.

Have you ever wondered: just how do I grow and mature in the Lord? How do I enter into these stages? It seems like some Christians grow so quickly, and then there are others who struggle in certain areas of spiritual growth. One person will be instantly delivered from cigarettes, and another will struggle for a long time before he is finally free. Or, you'll see one person hungry for the Word and another who has a real struggle just reading the Word. However, in spite of these struggles, you still have the incorruptible seed within you, and that's the first step.

"Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in

him, and he cannot sin, because he is born of God" (I John 3:9).

I think that if I asked for a show of hands as to who has never sinned since they were saved, we'd have no hands raised. Is that scripture a little complicated to you? It was to me. I thought, "What does that mean? I have sinned, and I do sin." But the seed that is in you, that new birth, the Word of God that is in your spirit, that part of you does not sin. It is the old man, the old nature that gets involved in sin, but the new nature in you cannot sin. That's why the Word of God encourages us to live in the new nature and crucify the old one. Reckon yourself dead unto sin and alive unto God and His Word.

2. REED—The Bible quite often refers to people as "trees." Jesus spoke of the corrupt tree, that you could know it by its fruit; and you know a good tree by its fruit. Thirteen times in the Gospels Jesus spoke of people as being trees. Always, the ultimate good of a tree is not just to give shade but to bear fruit. However, a tree doesn't bear fruit right

away. We planted an apple tree in our yard five or six years ago and this year we finally saw some apples. The ultimate purpose of that tree is not to have leaves and give shade but to bear apples. Thus the ultimate purpose of God for us is that we bear fruit.

First the seed must be planted. That little apple tree started with a seed. Then it grew and was spindly, and just stood there as weak as it looked. A tree in this stage is not very strong; the wind could blow it over. You can even ruin it by running over it with a lawn mower!

It was prophesied about Jesus in Isaiah 42:3 that a "smoking flax he would not quench, and a bruised reed he would not break." A bruised reed is the young tree, a tree that is in a delicate position. He is not going to hurt that reed because it's in that special place. I have found that new converts are very delicate, and you really want to care for them. Jesus said about them, "If you harm these little ones, it is better that a mill

stone were hung around your neck and you are thrown into the sea."

What was He talking about? These little ones are the reed stages of spiritual growth, easily bruised, easily swayed by the wind. They have the incorruptible seed, but they're just putting up little shoots, and that's the time they could be damaged so easily. They need tender loving care, they need to have their questions answered, and they need the friendliness and warmth of a church. It is a delicate time in their lives.

3. TREE—This is the stage in your life where, with the seed, you have advanced beyond the new convert stage. You have foliage and now the Lord is desiring fruit from you. Let's just look at a few of the scriptures about trees, and then we'll go on from there to fruit production. Of course, these are the areas in which you begin to become more than a conqueror.

"Then said he, Unto what is the kingdom of God like? and whereunto shall I

resemble it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and cast into his garden; and it grew, and waxed a great tree; and the fowls of the air lodged in the branches of it" (Luke 13:18,19).

Here we see faith as the incorruptible seed and the growth and the progress of it. Then Jesus tells us that there are some trees that are not good trees, and there are some that are excellent trees.

"For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh" (Luke 6:43-45).

What's the first stage? Seed. What is the

seed? The Word of God. What is it called? The incorruptible seed.

What is the second stage of growth? Reed. What is special about this growth? It can be easily bruised. Also, in this stage a reed doesn't have much strength to it, so when the wind comes, it blows with the wind in any direction.

Simon means a reed, and if you follow Peter's early life you'll see that he was certainly a reed. He blew in whichever direction the wind blew. This was a part of his new convert growth. And Jesus said to him, "Peter, I've prayed for you that your faith fail not. When you are converted, you are going to strengthen the brethren. When you get to be a tree, you're really going to help the brethren, but now you're a reed. I'm not going to look at you as a reed; I'm going to call you Peter—a strong, solid rock." Jesus was seeing Peter as He wanted him to be, strong, solid, producing fruit. This is the step of beginning productivity as a tree.

What is the third stage of growth? A tree producing fruit.

The corrupt tree speaks corrupt things, and the good tree speaks good things. How does a tree begin to bring forth fruit? How do I grow? How do I become a conqueror? How am I that scripture in activity? The first thing to do in my spiritual life in order to become productive is to put the Word in my heart.

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. 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" (Psalm 1:1-3).

This tree has fruit and leaves, but why is it productive? This scripture tells you: because he is meditating in the Word day and night.

This man has an unlimited source. He's not dependent on circumstances. He is meditating day and night. So when a tree begins to move into productivity, it is because that tree meditated on the Word and spoke the Word, "For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." He had to put the Word in there in order to have something to speak. According to Psalm 1, the first step toward growth is MEDITATING, reading, being in the Word; and the second step is SPEAKING THE WORD. It says that when you speak the Word, that's the fruit. The tree is producing fruit. So here are two ways to begin to produce fruit:

1. Meditate (Psalm 1:1-3).
2. Speak the Word (Luke 6:43-45).

The third way is the Holy Spirit (Psalm 104:16).

"The trees of the Lord are full of sap; the cedars of Lebanon, which he hath planted" (Psalm 104:16).

Sap in a tree brings life to it. The Bible

tells us that the "letter killeth, but the Spirit quickeneth." So here we see that the Spirit brings life. We are meditating on the Word day and night, we're reading the Word, we're involved in the Word, and we're speaking the Word. But there has to be something else in spiritual growth: keeping full of the Holy Spirit (the sap). The Bible says, "don't be drunk with wine, wherein is excess, but be filled with the Spirit." Here "filled" does not mean an initial experience but means keep being filled, keep being filled, keep being filled. It's that continual flowing of the sap. The Holy Spirit begins to quicken the Word that is in you, bring it to life, and then bring forth fruit.

There is a progressive growth here, and in this growth there is something else that begins to make us fruitful, makes us conquerors, put us over. It has to do with WORSHIP. Did you know that trees clap their hands? Are you a tree? Then you ought to clap your hands.

"For ye shall go out with joy and be led

forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands" (Isaiah 55:12).

Your attitude is extremely important to your spiritual growth. You can be in the Word, you can speak the Word, you can be full of the Spirit, but still come to church depressed because you had a fight with your mate, or you kicked the dog, or you're having problems with your business, and so on. Depression, heaviness, murmuring, negativeness can stunt you from spiritual growth.

I don't know why that little apple tree has not grown bigger in our yard. Maybe it's because one time I cut it off with the lawn mower and it had to grow back. Whatever the cause, its growth has been stunted and it's really slow to bring forth any fruit. In the same way, some Christians have had the seed, and they've come beyond the new convert stage. They're not just blown this way and that; they're really in the Word and

filled with the Spirit, but they allow negativism and problems to press upon them. They are not fruitful as they should be. I love the scripture that speaks about this:

“To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He might be glorified” (Isaiah 61:3).

When you carry around heaviness, depression and despair, you are not acting like a tree of righteousness, and you're not bringing glory to the Lord. It hinders your productivity! It slows your spiritual growth! It can stunt you as a Christian. It can keep you from being more than a conqueror. If you wonder how to get rid of this, the scripture tells you what to do: you are to take the garment of praise and give Him the spirit of heaviness. Don't carry it! If you want to get

rid of this right now, put your hand on your heart and pray this prayer:

Dear Father, I come to you in Jesus' Name. I give You a spirit of heaviness, and I take the garment of praise. I leave You my depression, and I take the oil of joy. I give You the ashes of old, dead things that hang on me, and I take beauty. Amen.

We know that the tree is supposed to bring forth fruit, but in Psalm 1 it also said that his leaves would not wither. The man who is in the Word is always fruitful and productive, and he's bringing forth leaves. What are leaves for?

“And by the river upon the bank thereof, on this side and on that side, shall grow all trees for meat, whose leaf shall not fade, neither shall the fruit thereof be consumed: it shall bring forth new fruit according to His months, because their waters they issued out of the sanctuary: and the fruit thereof shall be for meat,

and the leaf thereof for medicine" (Ezekiel 47:12).

This scripture is talking about the end-time millennial temple.

"In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations" (Revelation 22:2).

Leaves are for healing! So a tree that is the tree of righteousness, meditating in the Word, speaking the Word, full of the Holy Spirit, keeping the sap running all the time, clapping his hands, keeping out of depression—that tree is to bring forth leaves that can bring healing. It can bring all kinds of healing: spiritual, physical, or mental. These are all trees who are in the Word, speaking the Word, full of the Holy Spirit, and clapping their hands in praise.

We've heard so much about the aloe vera plant. Many things are being done with it

now, even making cosmetics. If you get a burn, you break off one of those little leaves and put the liquid on the burn. It takes all the pain away and the redness too. That leaf brings healing! I thought, "Oh Lord, may Christians move in the Spirit, and the joy and the anointing of the Lord, that we can begin to bring such healing wherever we go." That's marvelous, isn't it? The opportunity to bring healing.

The next stage is FRUIT production. We have a desire to be fruit-producers. When I began to look up all these references to trees, I found out that many of the Old Testament believers began to speak their spiritual growth into existence. They began to speak of themselves as trees. Remember, it is out of your heart that you bring forth fruit; out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

David is the best Old Testament example of speaking the Word of faith. Read his Psalms. He tells his problems, there's no question of that. I do not think it is wrong to

let it "hang out." I just think it is wrong not to speak the Word as the solution. David really tells you how bad he felt sometimes. He felt like throwing in the towel; then he got hold of the Word. David confessed that he was like a tree. There is something very particular that I want you to see:

"But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God: I trust in the mercy of God forever and ever" (Psalm 52:8).

What did David say he was like? A green olive tree. Now listen to Hosea:

"Ephraim shall say, What have I to do any more with idols? I have heard him, and observed him: I am like a green fir tree. From me is thy fruit found" (Hosea 14:8).

Remember, Hosea is the one with the nasty wife. Bad news! But he's calling himself a green fir tree. David said he was a green olive tree. And notice that both verses have green in them. Green always symbolizes eternal life. Fruit is coming forth as the eternal life which is the life of the Father.

We want that tree bringing forth life; we want it to bring forth fruit, and speaking it is part of it. But then it is something else for that tree to really grow up, to be mature.

The little apple tree that we planted only had two apples last summer. That's not exactly an abundant harvest, is it? I lived on an apple farm while I was growing up in Sewickley, Pennsylvania during the war years. I sold apples at a farm stand. It was a very nice time. I had to walk through those orchards every day to go to school. We were able to recognize all the kinds of apples—banana apples, MacIntosh, etc. It was really enjoyable. Of course, what we were looking for were the mature trees with the most apples. We wanted trees that were really productive. If they didn't produce, they would be trimmed back, sprayed, all kinds of things done to them to get them to produce. Those that didn't produce would eventually be cut down. Jesus said that! He said, "the axe is laid to the root of the tree." He said He would cut down the

corrupt trees that were producing corrupt fruit.

Let's just talk about Christians for a minute. How can a Christian bring forth something that is corrupt? By **not** being in the Word, because the Word is incorruptible seed. He begins to feed on corruptible things. When you feed on these things, you are putting it through your mind, your eyes, and your ears. You're hearing it, then you begin to speak it. See how this goes in reverse? You're meditating on corruptible things; then you begin speaking of corruptible things. That's why Paul says in Ephesians 4, "let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth." When you do the Holy Spirit is grieved. When a corrupt tree produces corrupt fruit it is bad news. The process is the same, only in reverse. When you begin to meditate on bad things, to worry, to read the wrong things, and to speak the wrong things, what do you produce? Bad things.

The Bible tells us that we want the tree to

get really big. Maybe the first year that apple tree produces a whole bushel, but the second year they want it to produce two bushels. You may be saying, "Marilyn, I do meditate on the Word, I do speak the Word. I am filled with the Holy Spirit, I do worship the Lord. I do praise. In every way I know I keep myself from any depression or heaviness, but I want to be more productive. I want to see more fruit. I want to be more than a conqueror." OK, here's how:

"That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love..." (Ephesians 3:17).

Faith works by love! If you run around and love, love, love and have no faith, faith, faith, you are not productive. But if you reverse it with faith, faith, faith, and have no love, love, love, you are not productive either. They have to go together. This scripture talks about this: we are rooted AND grounded in love.

How do you really get love flowing in your life? Basically, love has two sources." Faith

is one source, because faith works by love, and you begin to take hold of the Word and act on the Word instead of your feelings. As you act on the Word, your feelings begin to line up. But then we read “that the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit.” Keeping full of the Word, and speaking the Word keeps you full of love, and that’s where you must be established—in love.

There is one area that is very sensitive and we must be careful. If we are not cautious, we can fall out of love with people. Many times people hurt us, especially people we admire who are in the ministry. But those of us in the ministry have to discern where and how to use our time. How do we discipline ourselves? The following is an example of a situation I often encounter.

When I hold a meeting, I invite people to receive Christ, and the baptism in the Holy Spirit. I also invite them forward for healing. Often there are those who come forward just to tell me they like my teaching, my dress,

have met my husband, etc., etc., etc. Soon, I have twenty or twenty-five comments. My natural reaction is, “Be quiet! I have serious things to do here!” I must put out what is superfluous and use the time I have with the people to produce something for the Kingdom. It’s easy to get out of a position of love, and to fall out of love with people. But, if you are going to fall in love with the Word, and keep full of the Holy Spirit, you are going to love people! But, you have to learn to say, “Now, I appreciate all of you. I appreciate your comments, and I’d love to meet you personally, *BUT*, I’m here just a brief time, and I must minister to the needs of the people. There must be fruit.” You have to be rooted and grounded in love; you have to have “tough” love.

As the love of God is shed abroad in your hearts, there’s a gorgeous scripture to remember that goes with it:

“And the remnant that is escaped to the house of Judah shall again take root downward, and bear fruit upward” (Isaiah 37:31).

It is when you are moving in the love of God that you can be most productive. If you don't have a good root system in love, you may have a ministry for a while that produces a little, but pretty soon it will fall away. It is very easy for the enemy to get people on an ego trip. Somebody says, "Oh, you preach well," "Oh, you teach well." You begin to think, "Man! Am I somebody!" If you are just a novice, and you let praise get in the wrong realm, then you've got a lot of foliage, but no root system. When some criticism comes, or hard times, your tree falls down. But if it's rooted in love, if your goal is set because you love the Father and you want to minister to His people, then your roots are going to go deep, and you're going to bear fruit.

I can hear you saying, "But Marilyn, some people are hard to love!" I agree 1000%! One time I went into a church and I was to speak in the Sunday morning service, Sunday evening, and on Monday. I had just met the pastor. I asked him how long the Sunday morning service was and how long he wanted me to speak. He said, "Well, I

want you to speak as long as you are anointed. When you're not, I want you to sit down. And if you don't, I'll tell you." WOW! I'd never met this man before, and he was really to the point. Now remember what your goal is. "Well, he's not going to treat me like that! I've got lots of places to go. I have plenty of invitations. I'll just tell him that nobody talks to me like that!" And walk out. Oh, no . . . remember the goal? The goal is to produce the fruit and the leaves; and if you're in love with those people you're going to minister to, it doesn't make any difference what the pastor said. Remember to keep your goal right. If you are going to bear fruit, you have to move in love.

It is not always easy to love people. When Jesus said to Peter, "Peter, do you love Me? Do you agape Me?" "Oh Lord," he said, "You know I phileo You." "Feed My lambs." Then the second time He asked, "Peter, do you agape Me? Do you love Me with the love of God?" "Oh yes, Lord, you know I do." "Feed My sheep." And Peter never did say "agape." Then the third time He said,

"Peter, do you agape Me?" "Oh yes, Lord, I do." And then He said, "Feed my sheep."

When I read this, the Lord really dealt with me. He said, "If you're going to feed sheep, you're going to have to have the love that God has, because sheep feeders can get hurt." Jesus knew that Peter was going to go out and feed sheep. He'd been fishing for men, but then he was going to feed sheep. To love with just a natural love won't work. It says "Oh, you're sweet, 'cause you're nice to me, and I'm nice to you.'" Then you get sheep who are nasty and who say, "I can't stand you!!!" You want to say, "Tough! I don't like you, either."

Jesus was trying to get Peter to see that if he was going to feed sheep he needed to have agape love. You've got to love the sheep and expect nothing back. All you want for sheep is that they be fruitful, that they be healed, and that you are going to minister to them. You have to have that kind of love. Peter finally received it, didn't he? Remember that in Ephesians Paul said,

"that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith, that ye, being rooted and grounded in love."

Maybe you think you are more than a seed this morning; maybe you think you are a reed. Or maybe you think you're a tree; but you know, some trees get old. I know that there are people who say, "Well, I'm too old to do anything for the Lord anymore. Let the young people do it." That's not scriptural! There is a scripture in Psalms that tells about what you should be doing:

"The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree; he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing. To shew that the Lord is upright: he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him" (Psalm 92:12-15).

You don't stop bearing fruit because of age. "Well, Marilyn, apple trees do." You're not

an apple tree! You are a tree planted by the rivers of water, and as long as you are meditating in the Word, speaking the Word, clapping your hands in praise, in the Spirit, then you should be producing fruit even in old age.

Then this scripture speaks about being old. It says that you shall be "fat and flourishing." You don't want to be physically fat, but being spiritually fat is being anointed. You'll be anointed in your old age. You're still producing.

"To show that the Lord is upright, He is my rock and there is no unrighteousness in Him." Old people who are producing fruit (trees of righteousness) are showing that the Lord is the source and not themselves. Don't buy the idea that once you are sixty you retire. That's a lot of junk. You go into greater productivity. A beautiful example of this is Caleb. Remember him? He walked in at eighty-five years of age and said to Joshua, "I want Hebron." Joshua said, "There are giants there." "I know that. I saw them the

first time we were there, forty years ago. I am just as able to chase giants at eighty-five as I was at forty!"

Now that's the Word in someone who is meditating on it, speaking it, full of the Spirit. He's keeping full of sap, and he's a man who worships the Lord. He said, "I can do it. I have fully followed the Lord." When he goes in to chase the giants, he never has to. The Hebrew says that the giants "retired." I think that's hilarious. Giants seeing an eighty-five-year-old man come in and saying "You scare me!" and running off. That's what happens when you are a tree who is rooted and grounded in love, full of sap, meditating on the Word, speaking the Word. You are going to be productive. All of your life you will be productive.

There is one more thing here that we must consider: your productive years are only on this earth. You can leave fruit here that will go on, but when you die, your time of productivity is over. David said, "Teach me to number my days." This we need to

remember. How am I going to use my time well? Teach me to number my days so that I am productive. It seems to me that the more disciplined I am with my time, the more productive I become. But it also seems that the more the ministry grows the more disciplined I have to become. Every minute has to count, and that is what brings fruitfulness. If we can see that we only have a short life span (just seventy years, which isn't much in light of eternity), you'll see that we have to produce now. Don't think, "Oh well, someday I'll be a soul winner. Someday I'll do something for the Lord." Someday may never come! When it is over, when you die, that's it.

"If the clouds be full of rain, they empty themselves upon the earth: and if the tree fall toward the south, or toward the north, in the place where the tree falleth, there it shall be" (Ecclesiastes 11:3).

Realize that you have only one lifetime in which to be fruitful and productive and that you want to see the time used to the best

advantage. This is how you can be a conqueror in your life.

We have talked about trees, that they're fruitful, and that they **should** be fruitful. But did you know that it should smell good, too?

"Thy lips, O my spouse, drop as the honeycomb; honey and milk are under thy tongue; and the smell of thy garments is like the smell of Lebanon" (Song of Solomon 4:11).

We are to smell like Jesus because we are so into the Word. Christians who produce fruit and produce leaves are beautiful! They are lovely. But there is something else that Christians produce: souls. They are productive! We have talked about leaves a lot, but now we are going to talk more about the fruit.

What fruit should you produce? Souls. Some people say that it means a fruit of the Spirit. No, no, no . . . that's not all it says that the fruit of the Christian is, although that's part of it. You are of incorruptible

seed when you are born again. You have the potential of it. But there are three harvests in that seed: a harvest for you, a harvest for others, and a harvest for God.

Love, joy, and peace are for you as a newborn Christian. When you were saved, you felt love, you experienced joy, and you had peace. That's your harvest.

Longsuffering, gentleness, and goodness are for others. Fruit is to be produced in you and in others.

Faith, meekness, and temperance are for the Father. God wants faith. Without faith it's impossible to please Him. He wants temperance in our lives. He said that he who is moderate in all things shall be a master. So when I say, "OK God, I'll let You govern my life," I am temperate in my eating, in my speaking, and in all the things that I do. I'm a disciplined person. Meekness means self-discipline in your spirit. It has to do with your relationship to God. When that comes forth, it's the third harvest.

The Bible speaks of three harvests: First there is the thirty-fold harvest, which goes right back to the seed. This is the little incorruptible seed. The new Christian has a little tiny harvest as a seed. He has love, joy and peace. But he begins to grow up into a reed, and he has to learn that some Christians really are bad news. So he has to begin practicing longsuffering, gentleness, and goodness. Then he comes into his sixty-fold harvest.

Then, as he's putting roots down and his tree is going up and all his fruit is coming alive, he sees that there is another harvest that he wants most of all—to please the Father. He begins to grow up into Jesus, see the Father as He is. That's the hundredfold harvest. That's the tree that has fruit, leaves, roots downward, and is bearing things upward.

"The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life: and he that winneth souls is wise" (Proverbs 11:30).

Who is righteous? We are the righteous-

ness of God in Christ Jesus. This verse in Proverbs says this is a tree of life. We are trees of life in this world. Trees win souls, trees produce other Christians. They are soul winners.

Let's review the steps of our growth in being a conqueror:

1. We are a SEED (Luke 8:11; I Peter 1:23).
2. We become a REED (Isaiah 42:3).
3. At last we grow to be a TREE (Luke 13:18,19; Luke 6:43-45).
4. We produce LEAVES (Ezekiel 47:12; Revelation 22:2).
5. And we produce FRUIT (Proverbs 11:30).
6. We are ROOTED in love (Ephesians 3:17).

Now how can we be conquerors who will not be uprooted? The tree mentioned in Psalm 92:12 is most unusual: "The

righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon." As far as is known, the palm tree was never uprooted. This is also talking about believers: they are not to be uprooted. A palm tree will bend, but it always comes back upright. You may go under attack and feel like you are going to fall over, but you'll come back up to your original position.

When a palm tree is cut down, no part is wasted. The roots are used to make ink, the pitch and bark are used for medicine, and the leaves are used for writing.

In the East they tell you that palm trees are owned by God: that He plants them, He waters them, and if anyone who is hungry comes in, he can eat the fruit. No one can say that it is his property and deny the fruit to any person. A stranger can come in and eat of that fruit. The leaves are soaked in water until they turn white and are used to write on. It is said that the writing never fades. Worms can't eat the leaves of this tree!

Now think about that—you're a palm tree! That's what David said, and that's what the Word says. The Bible tells us that God's Word is written on our hearts, but it doesn't say "written" as with a pen. It means "engraved." The palm leaf is white, and we are white in our spirits because we are the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. Palm trees always give something. From January to March they give milk. From April to June you can eat the meat of the fruit. From July to September you peel the fruit like an apple and eat it. From October to December you can eat it like a plum, skin and all.

Can you see that this is like spiritual maturity? The trees are Christians—you and I who are always producing. We're trees of righteousness, and we are planted in the house of the Lord. People who say, "I don't need a church," soon aren't trees at all. They are withered and don't have any fruit or leaves for healing. "But I don't need other Christians." Oh yes, you do. If you are planted in the house of the Lord, it says that when you are old you'll still be bringing forth

fruit. You'll be fat and flourishing. You'll be anointed and flourishing and bringing glory to the Lord. That's what a tree of righteousness is.

How do I grow as a tree? How do I produce fruit? How do I prepare to be a conqueror? I meditate on the Word, speak the Word, keep the sap flowing (the Holy Spirit), clap my hands in praise and keep my root system grounded in love. Then I have three harvests: 1) love, joy, peace (for me); 2) longsuffering, gentleness, and goodness (for others); and 3) faith, meekness, and temperance (for the Father). So I start out as a thirty-fold tree, then sixty-fold, and when I begin to be productive in the Father, I'm a hundredfold tree.

Now join with me to pray for trees:

Dear Father, I pray for all believers that You would give them a hunger for the Word, that You would give them a desire to speak the Word. Dear Father, I thank You that we have no more heaviness, and today we experience a new anointing of

the Holy Spirit. And, Dear Father, as we are planted in the house of the Lord as trees of righteousness, we thank You that as we grow, rooted and grounded in love, we are becoming more anointed and more flourishing, and this year we will be the most productive we've ever been. In Jesus Name, and for His glory. Amen.

Now close your eyes for a minute and picture yourself as a big, strong tree. Picture fruit on the tree, and full, green leaves. That's your faith-vision of yourself, more than a conqueror.

When Jesus first touched a blind man to heal him, the blind man said, "I see men as trees walking." He was beginning to see what Jesus saw. Then he saw clearly. Now you just saw yourself as a tree. If you hang in there and do these things we've talked about, it won't be just a visionary thing. It will be reality in your life. You will be more than a conqueror.

Receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of Your Life

The Bible says, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Romans 10:9-10).

To receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of your life, sincerely pray this prayer from your heart:

Dear Jesus,

I believe that You died for me and that You rose again on the third day. I confess to You that I am a sinner and that I need Your love and forgiveness. Come into my life, forgive my sins, and give me eternal life. I confess You now as my Lord. Thank You for my salvation!

Signed _____

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