



DEEPLY ROOTED 101

Saturday, May 20, 2023

Presenter: Sister Calandra Miller

The Sleeping Tree by the Porch

by Sister Calandra Miller

Today, I want to begin by telling you the story of the sleeping tree beside my back porch.

One night, the wind was howling, and the storm was raging. How they say it was “raining cats and dogs.” And it was one of those nights where there was a tornado watch. We didn’t stay up to find out whether there was a tornado. We prayed and went to sleep. And let God watch for the tornado.

So, the next morning, I woke up to get my coffee going and day started. Because now that Elder Robinson is with us, I’ve become a coffee drinker. I open the window because sometimes when the wind is gusting my stand-up greenhouse that’s made of plastic and light weight metal can fall over.

As I look out, I had to rub my eyes and shake my head to make sure my sight wasn’t deceiving me. Like wow! What in the world happened? Did we have a tornado while we were sleeping?

There was a tree laying beside my back porch with some of its limbs draped across the railing as if the tree was just lying their resting. And I say the tree was asleep their because no one in the house (not my husband, my father or Mother nor the children) heard the tree fall. And this is not a baby tree but a well established rooted and grounded tree.

Later in the evening, my husband and dad cut the remaining part of the tree down, chopped it up for firewood and left a portion of the tree. If you have ever had a tree cut down, you know you must call a stump grinder to completely remove the tree. Which is to cut the tree as close to the ground as possible and grind the roots. So, I believe this testimony was given to me to give to you because we never

called a stump grinder. Had we called one, I would not be able to give you this story.

Now, during the winter we used the cut wood for firewood. Some of it is still in the backyard now. Some of the limbs were used as kindle and buildup for the garden bed. Later in the year as spring came, I noticed that what was left of the tree started sprouting new leaves. As I walk out to the garden today, the tree is has received a new set of limbs and leaves. Although the tree is somewhat laying on the ground, the new growth is taller than me when I put my hands in the air. Part of the root is out of the ground and part of the root is in the ground. The tree is growing and living. I don't know what will become of the tree but for now the tree is alive. Which brings me to why we need to be rooted?

Sisters no matter what circumstance or storm comes your way, when you are deeply rooted, you will not cease to grow. As I saw in the scripture one time the word 'utterly', you will not be utterly cutoff.

Sometimes we get in our feelings about the leaves we lost, the branches that got pruned, the flowers that fell away, or the fruit that got eaten. We get upset and angry about the wind blowing through our branches, the rain soaking our leaves, or the hail that damaged some of the bark on our tree. We get caught in emotions because we don't look like the same tree from when we were planted or a time when you thought you were at your best. We forget who we are attached to. We forget about our roots! And...

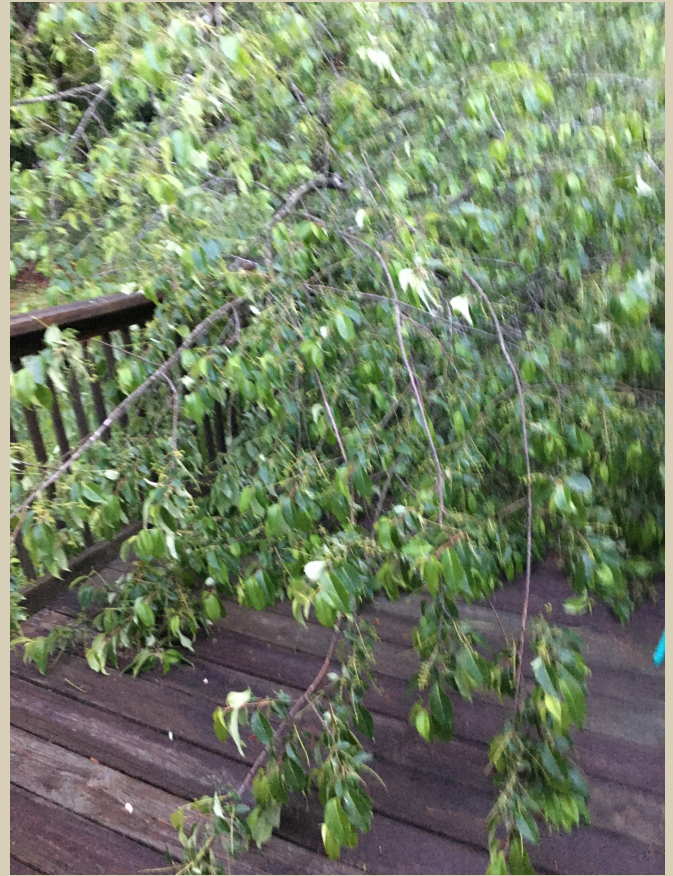
Even if you fall it is not forever. Because if you have been fruitful (faithful in obeying the word), some of your seeds fell in the ground and in time will bloom again. Those things that were cut from you didn't feel good but was used to feed and nourish another. What's left of the tree turns back to the dust and continues to feed and be the soil for others to grow in generation after generation. You will never truly die. We just make constant change until we become like our eternal Father. Don't you want to go back to God and say see Lord look the seeds that were planted which came from my tree. Don't you want to be rooted? Don't you want that kind of testimony?

You who are of Christ reading this story are the forest. Like the tree in my back yard, part of the roots/foliage reach for the light and the other part stays rooted. We too must continue to reach for Christ to stay rooted. While reaching towards the light with one hand the other hand must lean in to form shelter for others. In a forest or wooded area, trees stand next to each other. Some of the branches begin to intertwine. Not only do we provide support for one another, but we also house the least of these, the sparrows, insects, other birds, rabbits, chipmunks, squirrels, and other animals.

We provide a lil hide away from the wolves. We provide a lil coverage from the storm so that the littles members don't get so wet. They may get wet, but they won't feel the full brunt of the storm. We as deeply rooted saints provide encouragement, love, motivation, shelter, comfort, and a leaning post for other members. More members are coming. The storms will intensify. We must touch and agree, stay rooted and stand tall. And if we bend, we must be like the palm tree. Did you know the palm tree is not made internally like other trees. Palm trees have a spongy matter on the inside and not a hard core. This allows the tree in a hurricane of over 100 mile and hour winds to bend and bow but not break. We must not give up someone else's life is depending on our strength.

Stay rooted in Christ Jesus only!







Blueberry Bushes



How are we rooted?

- In the Love of Jesus Christ
- In gratitude
- Christ Like
- Walking in Humility
- Sober Minded
- In the Power of the Holy Ghost, hold on to your holy ghost
- Having the Mind of Christ
- Being a Helper
- Be confirmed in the word
- Ambassadors for Sisters of Unity
- Be Part of a Tree

How to Stay Rooted

- Stay with God. – Solid foundations build unshakable structures. Submit to God and your accountability (Mothers, husband, parents, Pastor.)
- Sisters Stay Together – We are human, sometimes drama occurs but that doesn't mean we should fall out for good. Relationships require consistent watering and nurturing.
- Relax Trust God – Jesus will get you to where you need to be. Trust God for the outcomes.
- Use Your Voice – Your witness is more effective when you tell it. Testify. Tell your story.
- Stay Connected to Like Minded People – Who has access to your heart and mind? Consistently purge and clean up your environment.
- Build Relationships – The most important relationship is the one you have Christ and then your husband. Relationships take energy and effort. You must work at them. Saints don't give up so easily on relationships.
- Be a FOLLOWER of CHRIST – Follow directions! Given by the mothers and the Pastors and the BIBLE. When we do what the word says our lives will begin to line up with it.

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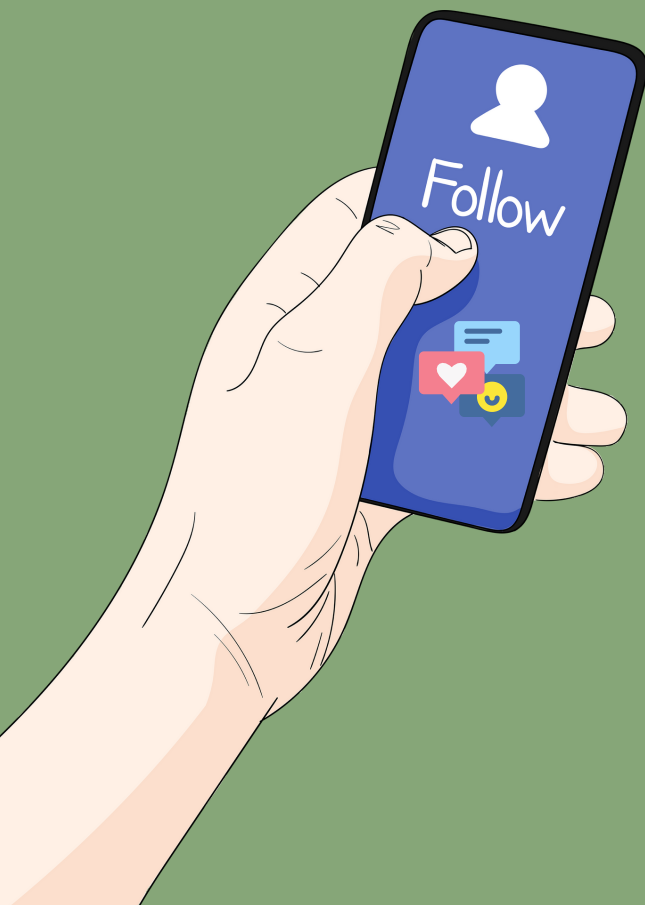
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