

*"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." Psalm 92:12-13 KJV*



Scripture tells us that God inhabits the praises of His people. *"O my God...Thou art Holy, O Thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel."* We are to enter into His courts with praise. *"Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him, and bless His Name."* We are to give thanks in every situation. *"In everything give thanks [and] by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."* When we ask God for

things, we must not appear to be ungrateful for what He has already provided. Believers can only thrive if rooted in adoration of the Blessed Redeemer. The Church, is the "Body of Christ." A body cannot function without a head. Many "Churches" try to do the work of the ministry "without a head." A headless body is only good for burying. The "Head" controls the "Body." Jesus said, *"Without me, ye are nothing."* We must be firmly rooted in God's Word if we are to grow like the cedar. This cannot happen without water. Water is the life of the tree and the Word is the Life of the Church of God. *"Christ also loved the Church, and gave Himself for it; that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word, that He might present it to Himself a glorious church."* The Church must praise and adore Jesus first and foremost if there is to be any effective ministry or work accomplished. Praise is the "bread and butter" of believers. It is basic to survival. "Praise bands" do not glorify God, they glorify the music. Psalms and hymns do not need drums. *"Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."* Adoration for the Saviour is best played on worshipful lips. We'll never be blessed with God's presence in our hearts without His praise continually on our lips. Spontaneous affection is the most sincere. Praise the Lord!

Mighty cedar rooted deep,  
In its arms birds safely sleep,  
Water from the rock below,  
Strengthen, keep, and make it grow. ~CGP

Once a cedar wraps its roots around the rock of its foundation, it is hardly moved by the storm.

*"For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen." Ephesians 3:14-21 KJV*