

Colossians 2:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

Analysis

Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. Paul mixes metaphors—agricultural ("rooted," *errizōmenoi*, ἐρριζωμένοι) and architectural ("built up," *epoikodomoumenoi*, ἐποικοδομούμενοι). Both perfect participles indicate completed past action with continuing results: believers are already rooted and built, not striving to become so. Present growth builds on established foundation.

"Stablished in the faith" (*bebaiou menoi tē pistei*, βεβαιούμενοι τῇ πίστει) uses commercial terminology for legal validation, making secure. "As ye have been taught" appeals to original apostolic instruction through Epaphras, establishing primacy of first teaching over later innovations. "Abounding therein with thanksgiving" (*perisseuontes en autē en eucharistia*, περισσεύοντες ἐν αὐτῇ ἐν εὐχαριστίᾳ) pictures overflowing gratitude as faith's natural expression.

Historical Context

The contrast between initial teaching and subsequent innovation marks early Christian conflicts. Apostolic churches faced pressure to 'update' gospel for cultural relevance or philosophical sophistication. Paul consistently directs believers back to original teaching, not forward to speculative innovations. Spiritual maturity means deeper understanding of revelation already received, not discovering new revelation beyond apostolic deposit.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does your spiritual life demonstrate established roots and solid foundation versus unstable searching?
2. When evaluating new teachings, do you compare them to what you were first taught, or assume newer is better?
3. Does thanksgiving overflow in your faith, or have you become entitled and demanding toward God?

Interlinear Text

ἐρριζωμένοι	καὶ	ἐποικοδομούμενοι	ἐν	αὐτῇ	καὶ
Rooted	and	built up	in	him	and
G4492	G2532	G2026	G1722	G846	G2532
βεβαιούμενοι	ἐν	τῇ	πίστει	καθὼς	ἐδιδάχθητε
stablished	in	^{G3588} the faith	as	ye have been taught	
G950	G1722	G4102	G2531	G1321	
περισσεύοντες	ἐν	αὐτῇ	ἐν	εὐχαριστία	
abounding	in	him	in	thanksgiving	
G4052	G1722	G846	G1722	G2169	

Additional Cross-References

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

Jeremiah 17:8 (Parallel theme): For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.

Colossians 1:23 (Faith): If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

2 Thessalonians 2:17 (Parallel theme): Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.

Isaiah 61:3 (Parallel theme): 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.

Ephesians 5:20 (Parallel theme): Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

Romans 16:25 (Parallel theme): Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,

1 Peter 5:10 (Parallel theme): But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

Psalms 1:3 (Parallel theme): 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.

Psalms 92:13 (Parallel theme): Those that be planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God.