

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.

"Established in the faith" (*bebaiou menoī 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

ἐρίζωμένοι καὶ ἐποικοδομούμενοι ἐν αὐτῇ καὶ
Rooted and built up in him and
G4492 G2532 G2026 G1722 G846 G2532

βεβαιούμενοι ἐν τῇ πίστει καθὼς ἐδιδάχθητε
Established in the faith as ye have been taught
G950 G1722 G3588 G4102 G2531 G1321

περισσεύοντες ἐν αὐτῇ ἐν εὐχαριστίᾳ
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.