

## **Trees: a devotional reading**

There I stood at the bank of the river in Virginia. The floodwaters were raging, swirling round and round. I couldn't see the rocks that lay at the surface of the river where the water gently flows over them any other time of the year. There in the midst of the muddy, murky water stood a young tree. It looked so very fragile, not much bigger than the flagpole in my classroom. The waters raced by, tugging and pulling with all their might. It seemed the tree was under attack by a water monster hungry for its dinner. Though the water monster moved the tree slightly, this brawny little tree would not allow the monster to uproot it from its rock. It clung, holding on for dear life. I noticed that it seemed to stand tall and maybe even smile at the raging waters rushing by. I watched other trees go zooming by and wondered what the difference was. Why was this little tiny tree so able to endure, while others were not? I imagined its roots somehow being anchored to a big rock, a huge rock, and one that the strongest tempest could not budge. I pictured the little roots clinging to the rock like a newborn baby wraps his little fingers around Daddy's big strong finger, with a grasp that does not intend to ever let go. As I watched the little tree stand firm, I thought of how life on this planet sometimes seems to swirl around us. Satan tries to send situations that make us feel like we are standing in the middle of a river with rising floodwaters. Or maybe he sends false doctrine that tries to pull us away from our Rock, our Jesus. If we have spent time getting our spiritual nutrition, our roots, though they maybe small, are oh so strong. We cling to Jesus, purposing in our heart to not let go of that Rock, no matter what will come our way.

### **Scripture:**

#### **Matthew 7:24**

Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a **rock**:

#### **Matthew 7:25**

And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a **rock**.

#### **Hebrews 10:23**

Let us **hold fast** the profession of our faith without wavering

#### **Revelation 2:25**

But that which ye have already **hold fast** till I come.

#### **Revelation 3:11**

Behold, I come quickly: **hold** that **fast** which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

#### **Revelation 3:10-12**

**Psalm 16:8**

I have set the LORD always before me: because he **is** at my right hand, **I shall not be moved.**

Psalm 16:7-9 (in Context) Psalm 16 (Whole Chapter)

**Songs:**

I Shall Not Be Moved

Master the Tempest is Raging

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