

Rooted Moms Podcast
Season 2 Ep. 08 | On God's Pattern for Thriving with Katie Gibson

We all have a desire to thrive.

- It's human nature to want more than what we are currently experiencing.
- Whether we are aware of it or not, we spend a lot of time, money, and mental energy trying to move towards a more thriving life.
- As Christians, we are always trying to figure out how to thrive *spiritually*. Ultimately, what we're asking is, "How do I live more of the 'blessed life'?" The kind of blessing we're talking about is the fruit we read about in God's Word— lives that are abundant with kindness and wisdom; faith that is vibrant and strong enough to weather any storm; a genuine love for Jesus that is contagious.

Our desire to thrive isn't just a good thing, it's a God thing.

- God desires for His people to thrive.
- Psalm 92:12-15 (NIV) The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; planted in the house of the LORD, they will flourish in the courts of our God. They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green, proclaiming, "The LORD is upright; he is my Rock, and there is no wickedness in him."
- Isaiah 61:3b (NIV) They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.
- Thriving trees are life generators. They provide fresh oxygen, shade, and nourishment— and they are pleasant to look at. Likewise, thriving believers are life generators that bring a breath of fresh air into whatever environment they are placed in; they provide shade for others to rest under; and they also produce fresh fruit that allows others to taste and see that the Lord is good.
- John 15:8 (NIV) "*This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit...*"
- Our thriving matters.

God has given us a pattern by which to thrive.

- As Christians, much of the frustration, exhaustion, pain, and disillusionment we experience in this life are simply a result of not following the pattern God has laid out for us.
- Jeremiah 6:16 (ESV) "Thus says the Lord: 'Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls...'"
- Jeremiah 17:5-8 (ESV) Thus says the LORD: "Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the LORD. He is like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see any good come. He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is in the LORD. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its root by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit."
- The thriving tree is *planted*. Those who have made Jesus their Lord have been planted. It is because of God's great mercy (not our works) that He has planted us.
- John 15:16 (NIV) "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit— fruit that will last— and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you."

First, we must surrender to the soil. We have to place our whole lives, our whole trust in Jesus by turning from our sin and our way of doing things to follow Jesus.

- John 12:24-25 (ESV) "Truly, truly I say to you, unless the grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life."
- "He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose." —Jim Elliot
- Isaiah 30:15 (NIV) This is what the Sovereign LORD, the Holy One of Israel, says: "In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength..."

We have been planted beside a source. That source is Jesus. **In Christ, God has given us everything we need to thrive, but we have to remain rooted.**

- Many Christians do not experience the abundant life Jesus promised because they are not really rooted. Instead they are:

- Stagnant— lulled into spiritual slumber by the distractions and comforts of the world.

"And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because salvation is nearer now than when we first believed." (Romans 13:11 NIV)

- Searching— spending their life dependent on people and things to fill what only Jesus can provide.

"My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water."
Jeremiah 2:13 (NIV)

- Striving— So busy trying to "live for Jesus" that they neglect to live *in* Jesus.

- Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV) tells us to " Trust in the LORD with *all* your heart and lean not on your own understanding..."
- **Remaining rooted** (trusting in the Lord) **is simple, but it's not easy.** Trust is not something that just happens. It cannot be mustered up. Trust is something that is built—or broken—over time through deeper knowledge of a person. The truth is that a big reason why many of us struggle to remain rooted in Jesus is that, if we're honest, is that we lack a personal knowledge of Him.
- Hosea 4:1b (ESV) "There is no faithfulness or steadfast love, and no knowledge of God in the land..."
- Hosea 4:6a (ESV) "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because you have rejected knowledge..."
- Hosea 6:6 (ESV) "For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings."
- The Hebrew word for knowledge comes from the root verb yada (yaw-dah) and means to ascertain by seeing— it insinuates first-hand, personal experience. Yada speaks of a deep,

personal, intimate relationship, so much that at times it's even used to communicate the act of intercourse (Adam *knew* his wife, Eve, and she conceived).

- The Lord, through the prophet Hosea was making a crystal-clear connection between a lack of rootedness, trust, wholeheartedness, and lack of personal, experiential knowledge of the Lord.
- 2 Peter 1:2-3 (NIV) "Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the *knowledge* of God and of Jesus our Lord. His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness."
- Hosea 6:3 (NLT) "Oh, that we might know (yada) the Lord! Let us press on to know him. He will respond to us as surely as the arrival of dawn or the coming of rains in early spring."
- God never asks for something which He hasn't already provided for. God has given us the gift of His Word so that, through it, we can know Him.
- **Three ways the Bible helps us get and stay rooted:**

1. God's Word reveals Jesus.

"The Bible is not an end in itself, but a means to bring men to an intimate and satisfying knowledge of God, that they may enter into Him, and they may delight in His Presence, may taste and know the inner sweetness of the very God Himself in the core and center of their hearts." —A.W. Tozer:

2. God's Word reveals our need for Him.

3. God's Word shows us God's right patterns of living.

- Psalm 1:1-4 (NIV) "Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand-in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers."
- John 15:4 (NIV) "Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me."

Finally, we grow in grace, trusting in Jesus for our transformation.

- Colossians 2:6-7 (NIV) "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness."