

“The Tree”

One morning about a month ago when Willow and I went out for our walk, I noticed a tree around the curve from my house had fallen; not a big tree, maybe 5” diameter, but every bit of 25’ long. The top of the tree had come to rest right at the edge of the street. Since it wasn’t creating a hazard, I wasn’t in a hurry to call the road department to remove it, but after a few days I did lop off about 3’ from the top.

A couple of weeks ago, I decided to call the road department to have them cut it up and remove it. Just the other day as I walked by it again, I wondered why they hadn’t come out yet, but the next day I discovered why - the Lord wanted to show me something. That’s when I realized that the branches I had lopped off were all brown and dead, but the tree itself, which had fallen over, was still all green and alive!

This intrigued me, and I formed an investigation to see why. I soon realized that although many of the tree's roots had been broken off, there were still two or three that remained attached, so it was connected to its life source and getting the nourishment it needed to survive! I’ll bet by now you know where I’m going with this lesson from nature, don’t you?

Has your life fallen on hard times lately? Have you had health issues that have kept you down? Family issues? Financial problems? I don’t need to remind you that life can be really hard sometimes! We go through seasons where everything seems to be going our way, and then all of a sudden something blindsides us and knocks us down, just like strong winds knocked that tree down.

This tree helped me understand what 2 Corinthians 4:7-9 says: *“But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.”* They knew where to turn when things got bad - they clung to their source of power - Jesus!

Our enemy wants us to think that if life strikes us with a cruel blow, we are down and out for the count, with no hope of ever getting back up on our feet again. I can’t say it any better than what the Bible says a few verses later in 2 Cor. 4:16-18: *“Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”* Fix your eyes on Jesus and you will rise up once again! Hallelujah!!

