

## PALM TREE CHRISTIANS

**TEXT: Psalms 92:12: *The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.***

Why is a Christian to be like a palm tree? Palm trees thrive on persecution.



Give that tree a valley where winds never blow and storms never come, and it does not do well. It thrives because it dwells deep. It withstands storms because its roots are lengthened by storms until they reach subterranean streams. In storms, other trees fall out, but not the stately palm!

Palm trees never let themselves grow crooked even though weights be on it. Is that true of you? The more we are driven to our knees in prayer when the winds of adversity come, the stronger we will be.

Palm trees are in the evergreen family. They are green year round and endure winter's blasts and summer's heat. They do not dry up or freeze out. What a peculiar Christian testimony is given to the world when they are in victory and out of victory with every breeze. Paul was an evergreen in the Philippians' jail.

**Acts 16:13-31:**

**13 *And on the Sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither.***

**14 *And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.***

**15 *And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us.***

**16 *And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying:***

**17 *The same followed Paul and us, and cried,***



saying, *These men are the servants of the Most High God, who show unto us the way of salvation.*

**18** *And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the Name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.*



**19** *And when her masters saw that the hope of their gains was gone, they caught Paul and Silas, and drew them into the marketplace unto the rulers,*

**20** *And brought them to the magistrates, saying, These men, being Jews, do exceedingly*

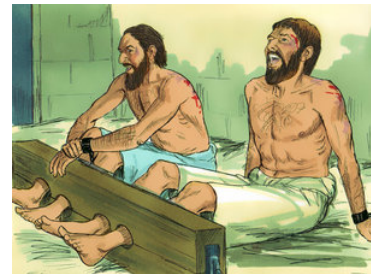
*trouble our city,*

**21** *And teach customs, which are not lawful for us to receive, neither to observe, being Romans.*

**22** *And the multitude rose up together against them: and the magistrates rent off their clothes, and commanded to beat them.*

**23** *And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely:*

**24** *Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks.*



**25** *And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.*



**26** *And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.*

*doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled.*

**28** *But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here.*

**29** *Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas,*

**30** *And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?*



**31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.**

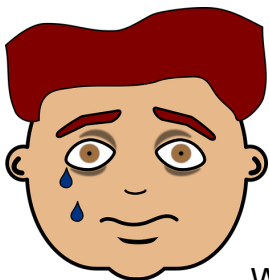
### ILLUSTRATION 1:

In the days when the Salvation Army was very young, General Booth — one of its founders — took some of his soldiers to Sheffield for a street meeting. It was a very wicked place with an intoxicated crowd of men swearing and blaspheming at the nearby saloon. He stopped and started singing, *"There is a fountain filled with Blood"*. The saloon door swung open, and a crazed man with drink began to jeer and mock them. But undaunted, they sang and testified.

Booth began to preach the Gospel and about the power of Jesus to save. Out the door came a vicious, enraged man wielding a beer bottle and struck Booth on the face with such force that the bottle broke and cut him. With blood trickling down his face, he said, *"God bless you brother"*, and kept preaching.



Some time later General Booth was telling this experience when there was a disturbance in the audience. A big burley fellow came down the aisle to the platform. Throwing back his overcoat, he stood there in a red jersey of the Salvation Army with words across his chest, "Blood and Fire". He



spoke, *"General, my General, I am the man that threw that bottle, and when you said what you did, an arrow of conviction struck my heart, and I knew that no man in himself could speak that way."* Tears rolled down his cheeks as he continued: *"After a few weeks I knelt at Drumhead and turned my stony heart to Jesus."*

When the jibes and gossip and unkind words are spoken against us, are we Palm Tree Christians?

### ILLUSTRATION 2:

An English sergeant in the Service in Egypt came back to the barracks with his men after a hard, weary day of working in the rain. Their boots were full of mud, their clothes were wet, and their bodies were weary. He was checking up on his men to ensure that all were in. He came to a private on his knees praying. It made him mad, and he kicked him on one side with his muddy boots with one foot, and then again with the other. The man was quiet and again knelt to keep praying, and the sergeant

left. The next morning the sergeant found his boots polished and shining. He asked the boys how it came about, and then they told him it was the man he kicked for praying.



Years later he became a shining witness for Christ back in England, and when asked how he came to know Christ and be called to the Lord's work, he told this story.

Palm trees bear fruit almost all the time. The dates have hardly begun to ripen in one beautiful cluster before another starts to grow. There is not a single day out of 365 when it is not preparing for the giving of fruit. It is not affected by growth like other trees. It is independent of circumstances or the environment. In Arab countries, they say when all other men's food is gone in times of drought, they live on dates. Palm Tree Christians cannot help bearing fruit.

Palm trees bear fruit almost all the time.

There are 360 uses to which the trunk branches, long leaves, and fruit are skillfully applied. From its leaves, baskets, bags, brushes, and mats are made. From the branches some make cages for poultry, and fences for gardens. From the fiber of the trunk thread, ropes, and rigging are made. The body of the tree furnishes fuel. From a Phoenix variety of the Palm tree, a meal has been extracted from the trunk for food.



Can we afford to waste our talent? Dare we indulge in nothing but idle words? If Salvation will open for us the Gates of Heaven and put our names in the Lamb's Book of Life, giving us an eternal home in Heaven, then the title deed to a mansion in the skies is worth telling others about! I want my life to tell others about Jesus. Don't you?

The palm tree has its life hidden in the center, and not in the surface as other trees. The palm tree has no bark, and so it can never be killed by grilling it. Most trees have a bark under which the sap flows, and they grow by an increase of the layers of wood put on every year just under the bark. Hence, if the bark is pulled off the tree it dies. This grilling represents the life which is natural, but which can be seriously damaged by outward circumstances, persecutions, distress, neglect, or ill usage.

We constantly meet people who live on the surface, and know hardly anything of being hidden in Christ. But a palm tree draws its life up thru the center inner-heart life of the tree.

**Your life is hid  
in Christ.**

Your life is hid in Christ. Because of this inner heart, it explains why palms do not grow in diameter like other trees, but upward, by adding year by year fresh joints on top.

Palms — especially the coconut — are constantly bearing fruit, blooming every month, and always have a clusters of fruit at the top. This corresponds with the Bible truth: the Tree of Life yields fruit every month.

***Revelation 22:2: In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the Tree of Life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.***

No tree on earth has constant fruitfulness as the palm, so no wonder David speaks of thus.

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Lastly, the palm is long lived. At 100 years, it will yield as beautiful foliage and fruit as younger ones, thus confirming the Word of God. Palm Tree Saints will bring forth fruit into old age:

***Psalms 92:14: They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing;***