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SERMON NOTES

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BEYOND SUNDAY: GROWING THROUGH GOD'S WORD

Be Rooted in the Word to Grow in Faith

Spiritual growth does not end on Sunday. As believers, we must be firmly rooted in God's Word, continually growing in faith, and developing in every area of our lives.

- **Isaiah 37:31–32 (NIV)**

What Do Roots Represent?

Roots provide the support and nourishment necessary for healthy growth.

1. **Foundation** — Resilience and Tolerance
   - A strong foundation helps us remain grounded during difficult times.
   - God's Word strengthens our faith and helps us endure challenges.
2. **Flexibility** — Adaptability
   - Like roots that grow and adjust to their surroundings, believers must learn to navigate changing circumstances.
   - Spiritual maturity helps us respond to challenges with wisdom and grace.
3. **Functionality** — Usefulness
   - Functionality describes how useful something is for its intended purpose.
   - Our spiritual growth should produce practical results in our lives, our families, our church, and our community.

Highland Bible Institute (HBI): Two Core Missions

- **Colossians 2:6–8 (NIV)**
- HBI seeks to help believers become established in Christ, grounded in biblical truth, and mature in their faith through two core missions.

Mission 1: Teach the Word of Truth

- **2 Timothy 2:1–2 (NLT)**
- **2 Timothy 2:14–15 (NIV)**
- **Hebrews 5:11–12 (NIV)**
- Learn the Word: Study Scripture carefully and develop a deeper understanding of biblical truth.
- Handle the Word correctly: Interpret and communicate Scripture faithfully.
- Teach others: Pass biblical knowledge to trustworthy people who can teach others as well.
- Grow beyond spiritual infancy: Move from needing basic instruction toward maturity and a deeper understanding of God's Word.

Mission 2: Encourage Growth in Faith — The Jesus Way

- **Luke 2:52 (NIV)**
- Jesus grew in four important areas. His example reminds us that spiritual growth involves the whole person.

1. **Intellectually** — Growth in Wisdom
   - Develop understanding, discernment, and the ability to apply God's truth to life.

2. **Physically — Growth in Stature**
    - Recognize the importance of physical development and responsible stewardship of our bodies.
3. **Spiritually** — Growth in Favor with God
    - Deepen our relationship with God through His Word, prayer, obedience, and faithfulness.
4. **Socially** — Growth in Favor with Others
    - Develop healthy relationships, demonstrate love, and interact with others in a Christlike manner.

HBI Class Disciplines

HBI provides opportunities for believers to develop biblical knowledge, strengthen their faith, and prepare for effective Christian living and ministry.

1. **Biblical Studies -** To understand God's Word accurately and develop a solid biblical foundation.
2. **Contemporary Christian Living -** To live out biblical principles faithfully in today's world.
3. **Church Ministry -** Study and preparation for practical service in specific areas.
4. **Christian Doctrine -** Study of foundational Christian beliefs.

Why Spiritual Growth and Maturity Matter

- **Ephesians 4:11–13 (NIV)**
- God gives leaders and ministers to equip His people for service and build up the Body of Christ. The goal is for believers to grow in unity, knowledge of Christ, and spiritual maturity.

Love God and Put His Word into Practice

- **Luke 10:27–28 (NIV)**
- Jesus teaches that we are to love God with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind, and to love our neighbors as ourselves.
- The Word of God must move beyond knowledge and become a way of life.

Growing in Compassion and Service

- **Matthew 15:32 (NIV)**
- Jesus demonstrated compassion for people and concern for their needs. His example teaches us that spiritual maturity is expressed not only through knowledge but also through love and practical care.