

Renewing...

Experience the Healing Power of Jesus Christ in Our Lives



WEEK #4

GETTING TO THE ROOTS

By Its Fruit You Will Know It

The image Jesus uses in the Gospel is one of a tree and the fruit it bears. Jesus isn't helping us become amateur arborists. Rather, he is illustrating a deep spiritual reality. Why do we continue to struggle with certain sins, behaviors, or character flaws? Because the tree is bad.

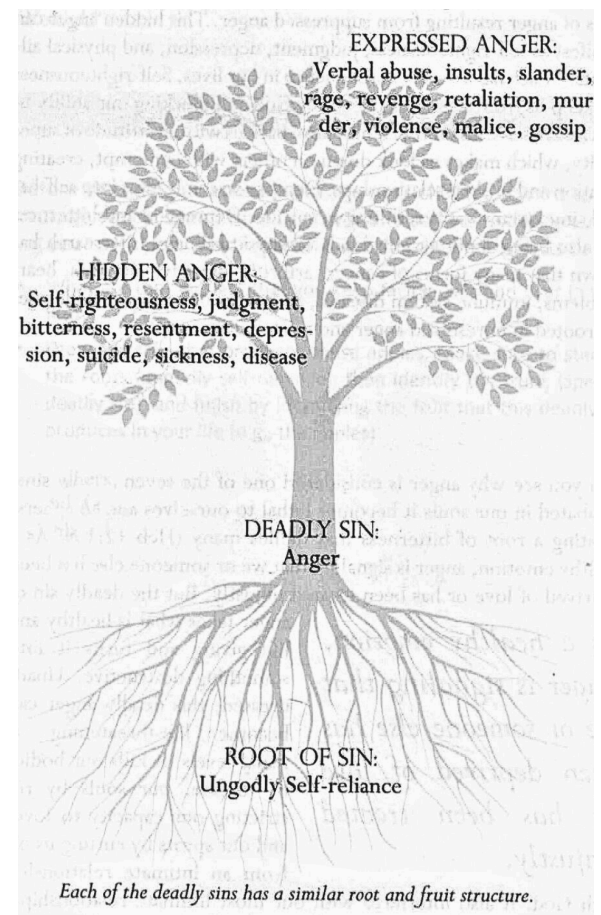
Leaves: Sins, Struggles, Flaws

The leaves or fruit of the tree is often what captures our attention. And rightfully so: these are the sins, struggles and flaws that we see and deal with and struggle with every day. Other people see them as well! They are on full display.

Trunk: Seven Deadly Sins

But what produces these leaves? Like a tree, the fruit doesn't come out of nowhere. And

it's no different with our spiritual life. The "trunk" to our "leaves" are most typically categorized as the seven deadly sins: **Pride, Pride, Envy, Gluttony, Lust, Anger, Greed, and Sloth.**



Getting At the Roots

How can we begin to discover the roots?

- 1) What are the “leaves”?
- 2) What is the “trunk”?
- 3) What are the “roots”?

Ask the Lord in prayer:

- 1) What are my sins? What are the three biggest attachments or addictions I have? What could I talk about for hours? What do I obsess about?
- 2) What are the roots of this? Where does this come from? When did this behavior or this obsession or this attachment start? What did it help in that moment, how was it an aid to me? What am I avoiding with this? What am I coping for with this?

QUOTES

“Seek out renewal by going to the ‘root’ of your sins. We must get to the bottom of our sins and then give them to the Lord, so that He will cancel them and help us go forward with faith. We are all sinners but if we go to the root of our sins and invite God there, he will come and make us a new man or a new woman. Just as Mary Magdalene did not have a physical ailment, but a ‘wound within,’ we are all sinners in need of healing.” ~Pope Francis, *Homily 2016*

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. How did this image from Jesus of a tree help you to understand your own struggles and flaws already? What is an insight you had about yourself?
2. Have you heard about the seven deadly sins before? What are some examples of each that you can think of?
3. Have you ever discovered the roots before? What were they?

NOTES

HUNGRY FOR MORE?

- Read and pray with our readings today:
 - Luke 6:43-45
 - Matthew 7:15-20
 - Galatians 5:13-25
- Read: Get a copy of *Be Healed* by Bob Schuchts from the parish or on Amazon and work through it during the ten weeks of “Renewing...”