

Tree Farm: Growing Momentum

The word I felt God give us for next year was, “Increasing Momentum”. I believe we’ve already started to see this momentum building and it’s going to continue to grow into next year.

The Bible says we are like trees growing in faith and righteousness. Today as we continue our series Tree Farm, I want to talk about what we can do to help to continue to increase this momentum.

My prayer is that by the end, we’ll all be ready to take steps to position ourselves so that we don’t miss out on this momentous move of God.

The Story of the “Methuselah” Tree: Judean Date Palm

Discovery: In 1960-65, during excavations at Masada, an archaeologist found a small cache of date seeds inside a jar inside Herod the Great’s palace storeroom. Those seeds were approximately 2,000 years old.

They belonged to the extinct Judean date palm, famous in biblical times for producing extraordinarily large, sweet, medicinal dates. The Romans wiped out these tree groves after the Jewish revolts and the variety has been considered extinct for nearly 1,800 years.

[Picture of the Methuselah Tree]

In, 2005, a botanist in Israel, was given three of those seeds for an experiment. She soaked them in water, In 3 months, a tiny sprout appeared – the first Judean date palm in nearly two thousand years.

They named this tree, Methuselah, after the longest-lived man in the Bible. [Genesis 5:25-27] Only this Methuselah came back from the “dead” after an extraordinary length of time. In one year, the first fruits - dates from this resurrected Judean palm were harvested.

The Increasing Momentum = A Time of Harvesting Fruit

We are in a time where we are starting to see glimpses of a revival. A time of answered prayers that we have sown and have been waiting for. Seeds planted a long time ago, thought to be dead, will start to break through the hardened ground.

God is resurrecting things that we thought were dead and gone, God is resurrecting old seeds that we thought were stolen, lost, or had fallen on barren ground.

Revival is stirring, there's a growing momentum upon us and we need to align ourselves, personally and as a church, to get on board with the growing momentum.

Key Scripture: They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Psalm 1:3

The first step the botanist took in resurrecting the extinct Methuselah tree was to retrieve the “dead” seeds.

That leads me to my first point today, which is:

1. Momentum Grower: Digging Up the Dead Seeds

– It's Time to Unearth those Dormant Promises.

In the Bible, seeds symbolize God's word, His promises, our faith, and destiny.

It is the same with my word, I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it. Isaiah 55:11

The Word of God is an incorruptible seed, it carries potential for life, but it MUST first be dug up!

And now that you belong to Christ, you are the true children of Abraham. You are His heirs, and God's promise to Abraham belongs to you. Galatians 3:29

We carry Generational seeds of blessing belonging to Abraham in the Abrahamic Covenant.

God wants to dig up old promises we've buried – unanswered prayers, forgotten callings, or dreams that feel dead. As a church, believing in those promises again will increase this momentum: Dormant seeds need to be watered, cultivated and replanted in our hearts. Which leads me to my second point today:

2. Momentum Grower: Watering Those Seeds Again

Water, in scripture, often represents the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is our Helper – with His help we can increase momentum through prayer.

Restore our fortunes, Lord, as streams renew the desert. Those who plant in tears will harvest with shouts of joy. They will weep as they go

to plant their seed, but they sing as they return with a harvest. Psalms 126:4-6

Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, 'Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.' John 7:38-39

2a. Watering Promotes Unity & Flourishes Our Growth

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. Psalm 92:12-14

Jesus is the vine and we are the branches, connected by one root system.

Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. John 15:4-5

2b. Watering together in Prayer Restarts Stalled Momentum

For I will pour out water to quench your thirst and to irrigate your parched fields. And I will pour out my Spirit on your descendants, and my blessing on your children. They will thrive like watered grass, like willows on a riverbank. Isaiah 44:3-4

Connection in a Church Community restarts stalled momentum.

I also tell you this: If two of you agree here on earth concerning anything you ask, my Father in heaven will do it for you. For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them. Matthew 18:19-20

The Word promises His Presence and Response when we Unite in Prayer

A United Church is like a healthy vine—interconnected network drawing from the same source, one vine with many branches thriving together.

Planted—rooted, connected—in God's house. That's us! Staying connected keeps us flourishing, fruitful, even in difficult seasons.

3. Momentum Grower: Prepare the Vessel = Cultivating our Hearts for Fruitfulness.

The soil represents our hearts – the place where God's seed takes root.

The seed that fell on good soil represents those who truly hear and understand God's word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty or even a hundred times as much as had been planted. Matthew 13:23

But blessed are those who trust in the Lord and have made the Lord their hope and confidence. They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water...the heat and drought do not affect them and their leaves stay green and they never stop producing fruit. Jeremiah 17:7-8

For they are transplanted to the Lord's own house. They flourish in the courts of our God. Even in old age they will still produce fruit. Psalm 92:13-14

Church, just as the Methuselah's resurrection took intentional steps – digging up seeds, watering and preparing the vessel and soil, even though it took years for it to bear fruit –

God is resurrecting dormant things in us today. This positions us for exponential growth: deep roots, abundant fruit and increasing momentum as individuals and a united body of Christ.

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you and lead me along the path of everlasting life. Psalm 139:23-24

Momentum starts First with Accepting Jesus Christ

Salvation Prayer - Don't miss it! Let's align with what God is doing. Commit today to the following next steps

My Next Steps THIS WEEK:

- ☐ **Come to Prayer & Fasting Week, Sun Jan 1/11- Sun Jan 1/18**
- ☐ **Give to Special Offering Today to Help Those in Need**

**Call
up
the
Hosts**

Special Offerings

Remember this – a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. You

must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully." 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

**End of the Year offering: Feed orphans and fight human trafficking,
Feed & care for the needy here.**

