



# I Tree, You Tree

*Leanna Bolden  
Eternally Speaking Now*

**"The fruit of the righteous is a **tree of life**,  
and he who wins souls is wise."**

*Proverbs 11:30*

I spent hours attempting to make lists of all the **trees** mentioned in the Bible along with their symbolisms, but the more I worked on that intriguing study, the longer this writing became— and the foggier its purpose.

Apart from God and people,  
**trees** are the most frequently mentioned living things in the Bible.  
*That's a ton of verses.*

When I was about to give up on this writing altogether, the Lord swooped in and reminded me of the main verses He'd originally put on my heart. What a relief. I love Scripture studies, but an exhaustive examination of this topic wasn't going to happen in time for this month's blog.

Before I get into the verses for today though, let me tell you what we *won't* be discussing. (Indulge me for a moment, please-- I really did spend a lot of time looking into this topic. I can't let it go to waste. Plus, it's great info.)

- Yes, we could enjoy an exciting exploration of the **Tree of Life** in Genesis, Revelation, and throughout the Proverbs...
- We could be wowed by how the Lord utilizes **trees** for illustration, like the almond **tree** for a **watchman** or the mulberry **tree** for a **battle plan**...
- We could peruse the Proverbs and Psalms for **trees** presented as pictures of **wisdom, fertility, prosperity, strength, provision, and blessings**...
- We could spend weeks—even months—delving into Jesus' reference to **trees** like the mustard seed full grown (the **kingdom of heaven**), the good versus bad **trees** (**fruitfulness and judgment**), and the fig **tree** (which stands for the nation of **Israel** and additionally, in spiritual application, the **people of God** today)...
- We could have some fun with Abraham under the oak, Zacchaeus in the sycamore, and the behemoth's tail likened to an oak...
- We could even discuss satan's successful temptation of Adam and Eve at the base of the **Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil**, in addition to man's abominable use of idols, pagan sacrifice, and sorcery beneath the **trees**...

Jesus began His triumphal entry into Jerusalem  
with cuttings from palm **trees** underfoot,  
and He finished His **life-saving work** on the cross—  
the most humbling yet powerful **tree** of all.

Indeed, we could talk about all that (and more) right now, but today, I'm to focus only on one main section of Scripture about **trees**. I trust the timing as it flashes on your screen is perfect and of the Lord.

Following is Isaiah 61:1-3.

I realize many of you are familiar with these verses and implore you not to brush past them.

Take a moment of peace for your soul,  
and read them slowly.

**"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me,  
because the Lord has anointed Me  
to preach good tidings to the poor;  
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;  
to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;**

**to comfort all who mourn,  
to console those who mourn in Zion,  
to give them beauty for ashes,  
the oil of joy for mourning,  
the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness;  
that they may be called trees of righteousness,  
the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified."**

Notice the two-fold application of these verses: this is sensational.

1) These renowned words were first spoken in the Old Testament as a prophecy of the Messiah to come-- *spoken by God about God*. Hundreds of years later, Jesus Himself, God in human flesh, boldly stood in the temple and spoke from these very Scriptures, revealing *Himself* as the Messiah who *had come*.

*He heals* our broken hearts,  
*He frees* us from our captivity,  
*He comforts* us,  
*He trades* our depression for **praise**,  
*He exchanges* our mourning for **joy**, and  
*He brings beauty* from our ashes.

This is one of the many reasons why I immensely love Jesus!  
Do you know Him this way?  
Surrender to Him and ask.  
It's that easy.  
*It is He who does it.*

**"...for it is God who works in you  
both to will and to do for His good pleasure."**

*Philippians 2:13*

2) And now, for all who have surrendered their lives to Christ, His Spirit lives within us.

He not only does this work *in us and for us*,  
but He also does it *through us for others*.  
What an incredibly creative and thrilling way to live.

**"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,  
who comforts us in all our tribulation,  
*that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble,  
with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God...*  
if we are comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation."  
*1 Corinthians 1:3-4, 6b***

### **So, why does the Lord do all of this?**

Look again at Isaiah 61, verse 3 above.

He states it clearly:

He does this so that

***"they may be called trees of righteousness,  
the planting of the Lord,  
that He be glorified."***

This begs the question, "Who are *they*?"

The answer again is two-fold:

We are called **trees of righteousness** as Jesus ministers to us,  
and in turn, *others* are called **trees of righteousness**  
as Jesus uses *us* to minister to *them*.

Yes, we (and they) are little **trees** for Jesus.  
We (and they) are "the planting of the Lord."

**That the Lord may be glorified.**

## CHALLENGE

I don't think it's a coincidence that the Holy Spirit prompted me to share about this topic, on the heels of last month's writing (which was entitled, *Dead Dreams: [read here](#)*).

Autumn leaves carry a **strangely beautiful** image of dead dreams that wither and fall yet are used to **nourish the soil** of our lives to eventually bring forth fresh, **new beginnings**. Similarly, we, **trees of righteousness for the Lord**, endure and persevere through various seasons of life:

- beholding the Spring with fresh buds and sprouts;
- embracing the Summer with full blossoms and warmth;
- experiencing the crisp air of Autumn and its brilliant colors; and
- finding quiet rest through the Winter, despite the cold and frost.

What's wonderful is this: unlike the **trees** of fall whose leaves dwindle and fade, we who are **trees of righteousness for the Lord** *experience the opposite.*

An obvious proof for this is the fact that the fruit of the Spirit grows within those who are the **Lord's steadfast trees**. His fruit then extends out of us to bless and feed others. In addition, look at these powerful truths in Psalm 1:1-3.

"Blessed is the man  
 who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,  
 nor stands in the path of sinners,  
 nor sits in the seat of the scornful;  
 but his delight is in the law of the Lord,  
 and in His law he meditates day and night.  
**He shall be like a tree**  
 planted by the rivers of water,  
 that brings forth its fruit in its season,  
**whose leaf also shall not wither;**  
 and whatever he does shall prosper."

*How about that?*

What a promise.

What a legacy.

Our Father is faithful.

May we in turn be His

**unwavering,  
 wholeheartedly,  
 devoted  
 trees.**

**In  
 Christ,  
 I am a tree,  
 You are a tree,  
 We are all trees  
 To plant more trees—  
 The planting of the Lord,  
 That the Lord may be glorified.**

Go **glorify** the **Lord**, little **tree**,  
 and plant a bunch of others along the way.

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Flashback: Enjoy this writing from  
2018, "my Father's planting" - click/tap



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Fairmount, IL 61841