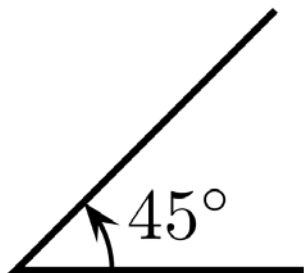


How We Grow

Rachael Martin 8,3,2018

I was working the other evening and pulled into a parking lot to wait when I noticed two trees on this one island and they were both the same kind of tree and they were both the same height – however one was leaning like almost at a 45 degree angle.



As I sat there and looked at it – I was thinking to myself that I had never seen this type of tree lean like this. I've seen palm trees that grow at really crazy angles like the one above – but never had I seen this type of tree grow like this. We have a neighbor down the street that has a palm tree in their yard that is leaning with meaning. I've always thought how strong a palm tree must be. Then when I saw this different type of tree, it started me to think broader that there could possibly be other types of tree that grow just as oddly but still maintain enough root structure and nutrient to thrive.

Thrive indeed – this tree not only was thriving – but it had a beautiful bloom on it. Then I felt Holy Spirit bring a lesson to my spirit that so many things can happen to us in this life but if we are secure and nurtured, we can still thrive – we can still be used. This tree is not only living, but it's thriving, it's creating beauty, it's still creating shade for animals and humans and it's still providing a place for creatures of all shape and size to live and eat.

There are trees that grow and flourish on the side of rocks and mountains! We can grow even in the hardest of conditions, if we have strength and determination, that can only be given by Someone who knows exactly what we need. Sure, we could be bitter and bite the heads off people who get near us because we are busy licking our wounds, but where will that leave us – and what hope would it give others?

I believe God is saying that hardships, struggles, pains, and uncertainties don't have to limit our growth – if we allow God to walk with us through these times in our lives, we can grow in ways that will not only help us, and bring about a beauty within us but they will allow us to help others and these differences – whatever you want to call them – scars – blemishes – marks of change – if we let them – can be a wonderful way to allow others to see that Christianity is not all cake and roses – but that we are people too – but we live and grow and have our being through the One Who carries us through the same tough times they have. What a great way to show others Jesus in us. ☺

Ephesians 4:13-16 - until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood,^[a] to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

© 2018 www.gatheringathisfeet.org EMAIL: gina@gatheringathisfeet.org