

# Oaks of Righteousness

“They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.” Isaiah 61:3b

Have you ever felt small and helpless? Like you didn't matter, and wondered what difference your life would make? Today we see our place in God's plan, and fit in perfectly with the wondrous things God wants to do.

God says he wants us to be oaks of righteousness to show others how he does things. Those oaks begin as little tiny acorns, which fall on the ground and go unnoticed until they begin to grow.

Growing into those tall, strong oaks begins with starting precisely where we are. No matter our worries, strengths, gifts, or talents, we all start in the same place. We begin as tiny acorns, buried in the soil. There is no other way to start. David Icke knows this. He writes “Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut, that held its ground.”

So, nut, do you not know what to do, which way to go? Or are you standing for something. Once you did not know of God's righteousness. Now you do.

To trust in the fact that God is growing you, sometimes slowly, sometimes in huge growth spurts. And know you are not alone. God plants millions of acorns every day as they fall from the tree, and they grow along with us. They can grow along with others who are planted. They can be eaten by animals of the world. Or they can die, unplanted, and lost in the darkness of sin.

God's plan is to grow us. He grows us day by day into oaks of righteousness which stand tall with other oaks he has planted. We provide beauty for the world, shade from the difficulties of life, and bring hope to those who need to climb out of their darkness.

“They, writes the prophet Isaiah, “will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.” The “they” is we, and the planting and nourishment are provided by God. This is the only way it can happen. And the wonders of God's actions amaze and change the world daily.

Elisabeth Elliot writes on this subject. Her words give us encouragement as we grow. “Think of the self that God has given as an acorn. It is a marvelous little thing, a perfect shape, perfectly designed for its purpose, perfectly functional. Think of the grand glory of an oak tree. God's intention when He made the acorn was the oak tree. His intention for us is ‘... the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.’ Many deaths must go into our reaching that measure, many letting-goes. When you look at the oak tree, you don't feel that the loss' of the acorn is a

very great loss. The more you perceive God's purpose in your life, the less terrible the losses seem."

So let go of the things which keep you from growing, dear reader, and see them as blessings which will be replaced with the branches of faith, leaves of love. What a strong example is the mighty oak which grows in forest or in town. Find one, look at it, and marvel that every one began as a tiny acorn, planted by God hundreds of years ago.

In fact, today's oaks are the result of generations of planting, going back millions of years to the first one planted by God. They grew into trees. They grew into forests. They covered the landscape and provided shelter in the form of shade or boards to build our homes. They stand as monuments to the creative and majestic architecture of God as he plants them in particular spots to do the very things he wants them to do.

Find the grand vision God has for you. Do not be satisfied with the usual thoughts or actions. E. F. Schumacher lifts us to think higher. "Our ordinary mind," he says, "always tries to persuade us that we are nothing but acorns and that our greatest happiness will be to become bigger, fatter, shinier acorns; but that is of interest only to pigs. Our faith gives us knowledge of something better: that we can become oak trees."

Let God grow you into the oak tree he has created. Go to church. Study God's word. Do not be satisfied with limited answers which do not take the spiritual into account.

Strong winds and difficulties only make us bigger and better. God's oaks of righteousness begin as tiny, ordinary acorns. They grow into tender saplings which become towering trees. They stand together as forests of faith, towers of strength, and visions of God's glory.

Stand strong. God is growing you.