



Colossians 2:6-7 says, *“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.”*

As I was reflecting on the Bible, I selected the above two verses from Paul’s letter to the church of Colossae to reveal to the members of the church the principle that must guide the life of believers in Christ. The invitation of Paul to the Church in Colossae is at the heart of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. He says, “...just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in Him.” Receiving Jesus was the language of the first-century church. It means that human beings, when they are confronted with the message of salvation, are invited through the proclamation to receive Christ as the personal Savior of their life. If we are his followers, we also need to observe all of his teachings. The first Christian teaching that the church members of Colossae were exposed to was the need to observe the invitation to continue in Christ from the beginning of when they first accepted the Lord as their Savior.

The second point I wanted to make is connected to the first one. They needed to be “rooted” and built up in Christ. This metaphorical language is very powerful. It gives us the idea of a plant. As you plant a seed, the seed experiences a physical transformation from a seed into a plant. It first starts growing roots and then starts pushing up a tender, young plant from the soil. It begins to blossom out in delicate branches and leaves. At the same time that the plant starts growing deep inside the soil, it also starts growing up. In this process the plant establishes itself to be strong and firm as the days pass by. The wind and the weather will not destroy a plant that has established a solid foundation to grow on.

The third analogy comes from the words “built up in him.” This gives us the notion of building a house or a temple. A master builder needs to have a solid foundation before he can erect the structure of the building he is planning to build. The taller the building he wishes to construct, the deeper the underground support needs to be. The engineer also needs to study the soil he is building on so that the building will not collapse when the wind and weather exert forces upon it. Instability in the foundation would destroy the lives of those who are going to live in the building and risk the loss of life, time, resources, and money invested in the project. As Christians, we are building our lives in Jesus Christ. Therefore, Christians need to strengthen their life in the doctrine of Christ. This is learned and taught at home, in Sunday School, in Bible Study, and through preaching. This is an active faith that produces results and a life that is overflowing with thankfulness. Colossians 2:6-7 says, *“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.”*

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*Pastor Rey Díaz*