

We have new neighbors. They are very nice people who moved to Brenham after being flooded twice in Houston. He enjoys working in the yard, and the yard looks great. However, he waters his yard more than I do. It's nice and green, but I wonder about drought tolerance.

I don't water my yard a lot. If I watered it a lot, then the roots wouldn't go down very far. They would remain close to the surface. If we had a drought, the grass would quickly die without water. Watering less makes the roots go deeper into the ground which is where the moisture will be in a drought. Deeper roots – deeper drought resistance.

Deep roots are important for faith, too. Shallow roots are okay in the lush green times of life, but often fail when the droughts of life occur. Crisis, unexpected hardships, failures and other life droughts bring withering heat to faith which shallow roots can't tolerate. The deeper the roots the more tolerance we have in the face of life droughts.

Like my neighbor, we may think we are doing the right things to grow deep roots, only to find our roots are shallow. We may attend church every Sunday and still not put down deep roots. We can pray daily and still not cultivate roots that last. We can have a Bible quote for everything and still not reach the living waters deep in the earth of faith.

The problem is we settle for superficial faith. We want easy sermons that make us feel good. We don't want the world to sneak into worship and remind us of what's happening daily in our lives. We want membership instead of discipleship. We want a faith that supports our prejudices instead of challenging them. We want easy-peasey Jesus to promise us all good things.

Jesus had a parable which speaks to the shallowness of faith. He said, "A sower went out to sow..." We all know what happened on the good ground.

Pastor Parnell