

# Quiet Time

(An Object Lesson)

**Date:** 02/16/2024

**Topic:** A Deep Tap Root

**Thoughts:** The tree took root by a retaining wall on the side of our home - probably planted by a bird dropping. I neglected to remove it for some time being distracted by other projects. It was about 1.5 ft tall when I decided it was time to get it out. I pulled at the base of this young tree, but it wasn't budging. On my to do list was the reconstruction of the 4-foot retaining wall. The rain had washed away the dirt at the base making the structure unstable. I decided to remove all the blocks exposing the dirt, get the tree out of the way and then redo my wall foundation in preparation for the wall reconstruction. When I had completed the block removal, I quickly discovered why the tree wasn't budging. Despite being only 1.5 ft tall above ground, the tree had an established tap root about 3.5 ft below ground. The above ground image of the tree didn't communicate the significance of the root structure below.

As I struggle with spiritual challenges, I am discovering that there are sinful ways in my heart that reflect my tree experience. On the surface, God reveals an issue in my life that needs to be addressed. But I procrastinate due to other priorities, finding comfort that the issue doesn't seem critical and that I will get to it soon enough. Meanwhile it drives a deep tap root into the soil of my heart. When it comes time to extract the issue, the challenge is great. A major reconstruction is required due to my negligence. The metaphor for the struggles of the soul is powerful.

Areas needing to be addressed:

- Selfishness – I need to have the attitude of Christ (Phil 2:2-5)
- Pure Motives of the Heart - 1 Chronicles 28:9, Ps 119:9-11

**Prayer:**

- Confessing and Requesting (come before God asking for the Holy Spirit to work)
- Understanding from God's word and wise counselors in dealing with issues.

**Actions:**

- Accountability Partner – spend time with a trusted brother asking for help with an issue (exercising humility)
- Search God's word for a deeper understanding of the sinful struggles and the perspective God desires.