

**July 12, 2023**

The Lord wants you to live in His liberty and freedom.

**Jer. 17:7-8** *“But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in Him. They 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.”* (NIV)

Do you feel like you have been in a year of drought? We are living in a world that is continually being bombarded. The economy, the pandemic, the social unrest and so much more seems to continually draw our attention. I like how Jeremiah puts it into perspective: ***But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in Him.*** (v. 7 NIV) The key in this passage is the word *trusts*. The Hebrew word is **yivtach** which means *to feel secure, rely upon or put your complete weight upon*.

When I grew up on the farm, we had an old shed that had a rickety wooden floor. We only stored bales of hay inside to keep them from getting wet during the rainy season. Needless to say, there was not much maintenance done inside. I still recall the day that my grandfather picked up a bale of hay and his leg went right through the floor. Fortunately for him, he was not hurt, but it made him very leery of trusting that floor again.

The tree that is mentioned in this passage doesn't have to worry about getting enough water to grow because of where it is situated. The roots can tap into a continual flow of water. Where are you situated? Are you close to the stream of living water, or too far off to enjoy the benefit of it? Are you worried about the steps you need to take? The closer you get to the source of living water, the more secure your steps will be. He will nourish you and take care of you.

**Dear Father, You are our living water. You are all that we truly need. Help us not to look to anything else that this world says is so important, but instead, help us to trust in Who You really are. You are our living water. In Jesus Name, Amen**