The Easter Challenge – week 2

Stop Going to Church

1. Stop going to church - Be the church.

*Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.* ***Ephesians 5:1-2***

*And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.* ***Matthew 16:18***

*And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.   
 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching.* ***Hebrews 10:24-25***

1. Your life is a seed.

*The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon;   
 planted in the house of the LORD, they will flourish in the courts of our God.   
 They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green, proclaiming, "The LORD is upright; he is my Rock, and there is no wickedness in him."* ***Psalm 92:12-15***

* A seed can only grow when it is planted.
* “Going to church” is not the same as being planted.

1. When you are planted:

*Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him.   
 He 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."* ***Jeremiah 17:7-8***

* Your roots grow deep.
* Your roots produce fruit.

1. Growth takes time.

*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.* ***Colossians 2:6-7***