

## *Returning To Our Roots*

We are living in a fast-paced, ever-changing world. Over time we tend to lose focus on where we are, where we are going, and where we need to be. With the passage of time goals and ideals change, oftentimes for the worse. Sometimes as Christians we need to reboot, get rid of the clutter that has accumulated over time, and get back to our roots. There is great benefit in looking back at the beginning of the church to help us refocus our journey through this life.

1. Returning to our roots allows for greater understanding. We learn and better understand our heritage, where we came from, and even why we possess the values we do.
2. Returning to our roots provides context. When we return to our roots, we can see why the first century Christians did what they did and believed what they believed. It provides a context with which we can better understand attitudes and behaviors and the reason for such.
3. Returning to our roots grounds us. There is something important about remembering the things that made you, the beliefs that you were taught, the traditions that held meaning for you, and the character that was instilled in you. They give you a firm foundation on which you can build.
4. Returning to our roots reminds us of our identity. It's important to know who we are, whose we are, and the characteristics we share with those before us. When doubts and insecurities come (which they will), when we remember who and whose we are, it fuels our strength to stand firm.

Brother Richard Oldham will be bringing a series of lessons on what the first century church looked like. God gave us a pattern in the New Testament for a reason. Having this constant reminder of who we should be and the way we ought to live will help us refocus and change our lives to continually be the Christians that we ought to be – people pleasing to God. Don't miss out on this great spiritual feast. These lessons were designed to benefit you in your spiritual walk. Plan to be there each service and don't forget to invite your friends.

Larry DeLong