

# Principles For Life

by Jeff Murphy

The Call Outdoors

## We are like trees but what happens when it storms?

If we take the time to look around us this weekend we will see we are surrounded by things that God created. No matter how big or small God took the same care in creating everything.

Right here in the Tuscarora State Forest alone there are a multitude of different flowers, plants, reptiles, fish, amphibians, mammals, insects and trees. And to us, a lot of them don't look much different than others of the same species, but all are unique in their own way.

If you look at the trees they all differ in one way or another, be it the bark, the shape of their leaves, the diameter of the trunk, their height, their fruit or nuts, even what is hidden from us - **their roots.**

And just like the trees we can look around the campfire tonight and see just how different God created each one of us. Like the trees we can see the external differences very easily and we can tell each species apart, but what we can't see very easily is each one of our root systems - **our hearts.**

{1 Sam. 16:7“But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”}

A few weeks ago we had some pretty bad storms. If you watched the trees you would have seen them swaying in just about every direction. Some stood steadfast, some just lost limbs and still others gave way all together. Of course just like trees until a storm comes along and makes our roots visible we all look pretty impressive. It may happen all in 1 storm or it may happen after a lot of storms. How is your root system? Do you spend time in the Word getting your roots fertilized? We must remember no matter how bad our personal storms get, they too will pass just as the thunderstorms do.

Ps. 119:28 - “My soul is weary with sorrow; Strengthen me according to Your Word.”

Is. 41:10 - “So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”