

THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



1115 What Can We Learn From a Tree?

All of life's lessons don't come from books, or even YouTube and TikTok videos. There's a lot we can learn just through observation. I'm Jerry Roberts, and let's see what we can get from observing trees, next, on The Extra Point.

We get so busy, most of the time engrossed in our work or something else, and we don't see what's really in front of us. We so often miss out on the teaching moment.

Such is the case with trees. A few days ago, I saw a post that featured a massive and utterly magnificent California redwood. It was simply jaw-dropping. The person standing in front of it looked like an ant — and a small one at that.

I gave it a like, then a little while later I saw another post with trees. I shared that one to my profile page, and that must have whispered to the Facebook algorithm rulers that I was into trees — and I've been fed a steady stream of trees and stuff about trees ever since.

According to Botanic Gardens Conservation International, there are 60,065 species of trees around the world. The country with the most is Brazil, with 8,715, but that number will shrink if the fools keep clearing out the Amazon Rain Forest. If you're keeping score, the U.S. has about 1,400 species unique to our territory.

One of those things that came across my Facebook feed was a meme that pointed out what you and I can learn from this wildly varied life form. Let's look at that.

Lesson One: Everything starts small, it takes time to grow. Big Ed, my first boss, used to say it. My mom said it. "Jerry, you need to be more patient." It took me a long time to fully accept that. Trees start with a single seed, just like we do. They need patience, just like we do. How are you doing with patience?

Lesson Two: Stay grounded and connect with

your roots. The ability to stay grounded will help us focus on what's really important when life throws us storms in the form of challenges. Like trees, our branches may look bare when the winds of life die down, but our roots keep us firmly planted.

Lesson Three: Turn over a new leaf. You and I should not fear change. Everything changes, even if it sometimes seems to take a long time. Trees go through an annual renewal as leaves fall to the ground. Shouldn't we find a way to be renewed as well?

Lesson Four: Bend before you break. While we learned the value of trees staying grounded in lesson two, just as it is for us, it's also beneficial to remain flexible. When we show that, others may be encouraged to do the same.

Lesson Five: Stand tall, regardless of what you face. A tree never stops being a tree, and standing as tall as God intended it to stand. Why would we settle for anything less?

Lesson Six: Never stop growing. Experts differ a bit in their interpretation as to whether trees stop growing. The majority seems to agree that while trees will eventually stop getting taller, they will continue to add rings and width.

The experts also say that a tree never truly stops growing unless the roots dry out, and the roots only dry out when the tree no longer receives a flow of nutrients.

You and I are in the same boat as our friends from the forest. We need a continual supply of nutrients, too.

(Con't.)

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We need them at home and we need them at work. May we never stop growing, and may we help others do the same.

Six lessons today, that we can learn from trees.

That's the Extra Point. Be responsible and make something good happen today. For 93.3 and the Ray Gibson Show, I'm Jerry Roberts.

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