



# Uprooting “Any Root of Bitterness”

*Hebrews 12:14-16*

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<sup>14</sup> Pursue peace with all *people*, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.

<sup>15</sup> looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of **bitterness** springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled; <sup>16</sup> lest there *be* any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright.

# Background on a Root of Bitterness

- God warned Israel against bitterness helping to turn them away from Him to idols (**Deut. 29:14-19**)
  - Notice the root of bitterness seen as start of apostasy
  - Generation before knew bitterness in bondage (**Ex. 1:14**)
  - Passover meal reminded them of bondage (**Ex. 12:8**)
  - Bitterness should have been associated with false gods
  - Yet, Israel forgot bondage & was bitter towards God
- Hannah was miserable as her rival provoked her
  - But in her bitterness, she prayed to God (**1 Sam. 1:10**)
  - God heard Hannah and delivered her from it

# What Is Root Cause of My Bitterness?

- Could be putting selfishness above God's will
  - **Jonah** No preaching to Nineveh – comfort desired
- Could be pride & envy at success of another
  - **1 Sam. 18:6-9** Saul in reaction to David's victory
- Could be a desire to have the place of another
  - **Acts 8:18f** Simon the sorcerer wanted to impart gifts
- Could be desire for preeminence
  - **3 John 9-10** This was the problem of Diotrephes
- Might fail to see problem & think I am right
  - **Romans 3:9-18**
  - **James 3:13-18**

# How Do I Destroy Root of Bitterness?

- Bible Study & Prayer Direct the Change
  - **Philippians 4:4-9**
- Requires Humility & Submission of Self
  - **1 Peter 5:5**
- Must Be Patient, Longsuffering & Thankful
  - **Colossians 1:9-12**
- Must Be Tenderhearted & Forgiving of Others
  - **Ephesians 4:31-32; Colossians 3:12-13**
- Let Love & Desire to Bless Replace Bitterness
  - **Colossians 3:14; Romans 12:9-21**