



After being battered all day by a hot south wind, the squash vines and tomato plants in our garden drooped in the fading light. They practically cried out for water from the sprinkler. But the trees in the yard were green and flourishing, though they required far more water

than the squash and tomatoes. The deep roots of the trees found a hidden source of water far below the surface where the garden plants struggled. Like those trees, people who trust in the Lord are not at the mercy of surface circumstances because we have deep roots to our eternal Source.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read and meditate on [Jeremiah 17:5-18](#). Jot down 1 or 2 new thoughts that seem important. Why are they important?
2. What geographical and human conditions in Jeremiah's society are described in relation to one another ([vv. 5-8, 11, 15-18](#))?
3. What "drought conditions" are you facing now?
4. In what ways do you find it easier to trust someone or something else besides God to see you through those circumstances?
5. Considering [verses 5-6](#), why will the person who relies on human strength be disappointed?
6. Re-read [verses 7-8](#) and answer this question, "How does God provide for the person who relies on Him instead of on human strength or human resourcefulness?"
7. When have you experienced God's strength in a difficult time?
8. How does God's promise in [verses 7-8](#) give you confidence?
9. Carefully consider [verses 9-10](#). What is the state of the human heart before God?
10. In [verses 14-18](#), what did Jeremiah continue to hope for?

MOVING FORWARD

Bring the most difficult circumstances of your life to your Savior and Lord, Jesus. Remembering the deceitfulness of the human heart, acknowledge any ways in which you are trusting something or someone besides God. Renew your trust in Him and allow the "living water" ([v. 13](#)) to refresh you.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

¹³ LORD, the hope of Israel, all who abandon You will be put to shame. All who turn away from Me will be written in the dirt, for they have abandoned the LORD, the fountain of living water." [Jeremiah 17:13](#)