

## Lessons from Redwood

Redwood tree, or Sequoia, is evergreen and is the tallest tree or the biggest living thing in the world. The tallest Redwood is 379.3 ft high and 26 ft in diameter. It is native in Northern California and Southern Oregon coasts. Some of them are as old as 3500 years of age.

The bark of the Redwood tree can grow as thick as 12 inches and it is very effective in resisting fire and tree pests such as termites. It is also resilient in water damage unlike other kinds of trees. With these characters, Redwood lumbers are great building materials.

Although a Redwood tree grows to hundreds of feet tall, its roots grow to only 12 feet deep and 80 feet wide. These roots would not be enough to keep a giant tree standing up by itself. The secret for the survival of the Redwood trees is that their roots intertwine with each other, forming a firm foundation.

Redwood trees are vulnerable to wind and fire. Strong wind may push down some tall trees and a forest fire will burn some small trees. However, it is not necessary a bad thing for the Redwood forest. A fire will clear an area to allow sunlight to reach the ground. The ashes will provide the needed nutrients for the seeds to germinate. When a tree is forced down by strong wind, the branches from the trunk will grow as individual trees. The stump of the fallen tree will regenerate and the dormant buds known as burls from the roots will become new shoots. The fall of one tree will end up generating more trees.

We can learn many lessons from a Redwood tree. Like the tree bark, we must put on our full armor of God to resist temptations. (Ephesians 6:11) We must let our roots intertwine with our faith community to stand firm. Like wind and fire, we must let the Holy Spirit push and cleanse us so that we can grow in multiple ways. Dedication and sacrifice are needed but we can make disciples only with the help of the Holy Spirit.

**Let us pray:**

**Almighty God: Make us Redwood trees, standing tall to witness your glory. Send your Holy Spirit to push and cleanse us and make our church grow in numbers and usefulness for your sake. Amen.**

## 向紅木學習

四季長青的紅木樹是世上最高的樹，也是世上最大的生物。紅木樹可長至379.2呎高。樹幹的直徑可達26呎。紅木長於北加州及南俄勒岡州的沿海一帶，最老的紅木享壽3500年。

紅木的樹皮厚達12吋，用以抵禦山火和白蟻或昆蟲的侵害。紅木在水中也不會腐爛。正因如此，它成爲上好的建築材料。

雖然紅木能長高至數百呎高，但它的根只達12呎深及80呎寬，這本不足以使其一柱擎天，它的秘密是，其根會與周圍的樹根彼此盤結，成爲一堅固的根基。

紅木也怕風與火，強風會吹倒高樹，山火會燒焦較小的樹。但對紅木來說此並非完全是壞事，山火能在林中燒出一片空地來，讓陽光射到地上，木灰變成了肥料，由此一來，紅木種子便能發芽了。當一大樹倒下後，樹幹上的枝子都向上生長，向下扎根，長出許多新樹來。樹頭及根中的樹結，都因母樹倒下而發芽了。所以一棵樹倒下，並非死去，反是長出很多新樹哩！

我們要向紅木學習，像紅木長出厚樹皮一般，我們也要穿戴神所賜的全副軍裝，就能抵擋魔鬼的詭計(以弗所書6:11)。我們要在主裏繫連妙結，彼此支持，一同對抗人生的沖擊。我們更要祈求如風似火的聖靈做激勵、帶領及潔淨的工作。使我們能爲主長出美好的新枝。我們當然要付上努力和犧牲，但只有藉聖靈的幫助，我們才能成功地帶人歸主。

**請禱告：**

全能的天父上帝，求祢使我們能像紅木一樣，仰天而立，榮耀祢的聖名。求主差遣聖靈帶領我們，潔淨我們，使我們教會的人數增加，爲祢的名作合用的器皿。阿們。