

Where did you plant Yourself?

Read **Psalm 1**... Show me where you've planted yourself and I'll show you what you will become - whether you will prosper or not! Have you ever noticed that where you plant a tree in our garden makes all the difference; as to whether or not it grows into maturity and productivity. This is because some of your garden is probably in good soil and some of it in thick clay. Good soil helps to nourish growing trees while clay does not. Likewise, **Psalm 1** is all about establishing your roots in good soil. The Psalmist paints a portrait of two lifestyles - both with corresponding results. He establishes the fact that in life there is a great divide. In one place you can flourish and prosper, yet in another you can dry-up and wither! Where you plant yourself seriously effects the "condition" of your life, and it determines how much "prosperity" your future holds.

Now, let's look more closely at **Psalm 1**. Let us try to unearth the essential elements of Bible-based Prosperity:

(1) **Prosperity is selective.** *"Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful."* If you desire to prosper in life you need to choose your company very carefully. Even more so, you should not take counsel from the ungodly! Over the years I've seen too many Christians allowing themselves to be influenced by the world system. Remember, we are in the world, but not of the world! We are here to change them and not to allow them to change us! With regards, prosperity, the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just (**Proverbs 13:22**). You shouldn't be trying to prosper using the same methods as the unbeliever. Your prosperity is secure in God. Your Heavenly Father has laid up (put aside, stored) riches for you. Therefore, you need to get close enough to Him to find out exactly where those riches are stored!

(2) **Prosperity is distinctive.** Verse 3: *"Whatever he (the blessed man) does prospers."* There is a "position" of prosperity. It is individual and it has distinct attributes! Prosperity is seen throughout both the Old and New Testaments. Genesis records the account of Joseph's life. Even though Joseph was betrayed by his brothers, separated from his father, and imprisoned for doing the right thing, nevertheless we read that, *"Joseph prospered, as he lived in the house of his Egyptian master"* (**Genesis 39:2**). Prosperity has to do with influence. *"The Lord will grant you abundant prosperity – in the fruit of your womb, the young of your livestock and the crops of your ground"* (**Deuteronomy 28:11**). It has to do with abundance for daily living. *"For the Lord bestows favour and honour; no good thing does He withhold from those whose walk is blameless"* (**Psalm 84:11**). It has to do with unrestricted blessing.

In Psalm 1 we find a strong connection between blessing and prosperity. In fact, they are interchangeable: *"Blessed is the man who..."* *"Whatever he does prospers."* And the word 'blessed' is plural. Literally the Psalmist wrote that 'many are the blessings bestowed upon such a man'! Prosperity is not primarily wealth, or money, or status, or popularity, or fame, or success. But rather, prosperity has to do with a person's wholeness – with a state of abundance, goodness, blessing, health, and security. Prosperity is first of all spiritual – it pertains to your soul. From there it works its way out into all other aspects of life. *"I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in good health, EVEN as your soul prospers."* (**3 John 2**)

(3) **Prosperity is reliable.** The third noteworthy feature of this picture of prosperity is that it is totally reliable. **Psalm 1:6**: *"For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous."* How does He do that? Again, from the account of Joseph: *"The Lord*

was with Joseph and he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master.” Consider Moses’ words in **Deuteronomy 28:11**: “The Lord will grant you abundant prosperity – in the fruit of your womb, the young of your livestock and the crops of your ground.” In the same chapter, verse 63: “It pleased the Lord to make you prosper...” Jeremiah wrote (**Jeremiah 17:5-7**): “Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who depends on flesh for his strength and whose heart turns away from the Lord. He will be like a bush in the wastelands; he will not see prosperity when it comes... But blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him.” Since the source, God Himself, is completely reliable so too is our prosperity. When we are plugged into an unlimited source, we can experience constant and abundant prosperity, because our prosperity is as reliable as its Source!

(4) **Prosperity is available.** But how do we gain this state of prosperity? The Palmist shows that there is a distinct path to prosperity. **Psalm 1:2**: “But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on His law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither.” To prosper we must have deep affection for and pay diligent attention to the words, will, and revelations of God. This is precisely what Jeremiah told the Israelites to do (6:16): “Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls.” The ancient path, the good way, was God’s word. The Psalmist says, “But his delight is in the law of the Lord...” In other words, the blessed (prosperous) man delights in the Word of the Lord!

The Psalmist continued, “...On his law he meditates day and night.” Meditate is a very figurative word. It pictures a cow chewing her cud. I’ve read that the cow has several compartments in her stomach. She can go out in the morning, graze on the grass when the dew is on it in the cool of the day. Then when it gets hot in the middle of the day, she can bring it up and chew the cud all over again! That is how we are to meditate on God’s word. We must not only meditate on His word at specific times, because it should be interwoven with all our activities throughout the day. Your prosperity is as available to you as God’s word is! Therefore, access it all the time!

(5) **Prosperity is productive.** Then the Psalmist said, “He is like a tree planted by streams of water.” This tree and water imagery would have been extremely meaningful to a wandering nation like the Israelites. Spending years in the desert lands they knew the vital, life sustaining importance of water. For a tree to bear fruit in those conditions there had to be a constant supply of water. But the Israelites also understood the spiritual imagery – to be planted by the water meant to put your roots down deep into the soil of God! It was God from whom they drew their principles and upon whom they made their decisions; His Word was the charter by which they organised their lives, the constitution by which they lived. Their roots drew nourishment from the rivers of grace, mercy, and forgiveness. This was how they were to receive refreshment and renewal for living a prosperous life. However, we must not overlook the fact that in this Psalm there is a “personality” of prosperity also! **Psalm 1:3**: “He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.” And remember too that prosperity is composed of seasonal productivity. “...Which yields its fruit in season.” When blessing “is needed” the prosperous person has an abundant supply and he shares it.

He is a constant source of blessing to others. As the tree yields fruit, so his life manifests blessing for others. His life is productive and effective - and always “in season.” Therefore, prosperity is not a matter of how much we earn but how much we share! Not how many blessing we receive, but how many blessings flow through us!

(6) **Prosperity is stable.** *"Whose leaf does not wither."* The prosperous person is secure, he does not wilt in the heat of life, does not succumb in the midst of a battle, does not give up in the middle of trials. Rather, because he has great strength, he bears the fruit of Christ and blossoms in all circumstances. There will be patience in suffering, faith in the times of trial, humility in the time of prosperity, courage in the face of temptation, strength when difficulty arises, and a witness when opportunity knocks. In other words, there will always be a "ready supply" of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control – which is the fruit of the Spirit! Note, a prosperous person is not conformed and chained to the accidents and misfortunes of life; rather, he melts and moulds all negative circumstances into the means of grace whereby he can secure the victory. Prosperity is stability.

(7) **Prosperity is peaceful.** *"Whatever he does prospers."* Those who are prosperous have an inner peace and serenity, a deep confidence and trust that their God will use everything that they have to offer. A prosperous person sees with his soul, not his eyes. The creed of such a person comes from **Romans 8:28**: *"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, those who have been called according to His purpose."* The song of the prosperous person is; *"It is well with my Soul."* All things which transpire are not good, but they are ultimately used for good in the divine plan and purpose of God. Prosperity is not a matter of what happens to us but what we do with what happens to us. And what we should do with what has happened to us is this... Bring it to the Cross of Jesus Christ and leave it there!

Every action you take and every decision you make impacts on where you end up. Jesus is waiting to nourish you with ever "living water" that never runs dry. But you must first root yourself (plant yourself), no one else can plant you. You must choose the correct soil for your life. And you must choose it every day. *"Blessed is the man whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and on His law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers."*

To recap: (1) Prosperity is selective; (2) prosperity is distinctive; (3) prosperity is reliable; (4) prosperity is available; (5) prosperity is productive; (6) prosperity is stable; and (7) prosperity is peaceful.

What else have we learnt about Prosperity from this psalm:

We have learnt that the man who prospers has:

- a. Purpose. The word "planted" implies purpose. The tree is not where it is by mere chance. An intelligent agent has planted it there. As it grows it is fulfilling a distinct purpose. So it is with the prosperous man. He will be able to discern in his own life the outworking of God's divine plan and purpose.
- b. Steadfastness. The fact that this man is like a planted tree suggests he is unwavering. He is not the plaything of every breeze that blows. He marches in time with the author of the sixteenth Psalm, *"I have set the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand I shall not be moved."* How we need such staunch men!
- c. Usefulness. The man is rich in usefulness. He *"brings forth his fruit in his season."* Where he farms the wheat fields grow golden, and the sweet flowers of the "Spirit" (Galatians 5:22) - love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness,

goodness, and the rest - flourish in rich abundance. Where he walks, tired hearts forget their aches and losses and find themselves richer in peace, rest and hope.

Finally, the most important thing a man can do in order to prosper is:

- Root himself - plant himself in good soil!

Begin right now to root yourself! Connect with the living waters of God. Attach yourself, branch-like, to Jesus the Vine. You will become seed-bearing in no time! You'll be amazed at the prosperity that will begin to flow into your life!

"He has sent me to provide for all those who mourn in Zion, to give them crowns instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of tears of grief, and garments of praise instead of a spirit of weakness. They will be called Oaks of Righteousness, the Plantings of the Lord, so that He might display His glory." (Isaiah 61:3)

The main reason you need to plant yourself is for God to display His glory through your prosperity!