

GOD'S BLESSINGS
PART 3 - HOW HAS GOD BLESSED US?
PART 2 - A BLESSED LIFE
PSALMS 1:1-6

GOD'S BLESSINGS
PART 3 - HOW HAS GOD BLESSED US?
PART 2 - A BLESSED LIFE
PSALMS 1:1-6

INTRODUCTION

There are a number of yardsticks by which natural men (and even carnal men) use to measure being blessed in this life! (Now they usually don't call it being "**blessed**", they refer to it as "**prosperity**" or "**success.**") Among the things that people of the world look at are: **possessions** (i.e. wealth in its broadest definition), **power, position, and prestige**, just to name the top four. These are all indicators of **worldly prosperity or worldly success!**

But how does God measure success? Measuring our success (or blessings) as Christians, **is and should be** different from that of the world!

In this Psalm, we find insight into what makes a believer successful or blessed!

This morning, as the plumb line of God's Word moves alongside your life, see for yourself just how you measure up to God's standard for a blessed or successful Christian living. As we move through this Psalm, allow me to share with you **The Characteristics Of A Blessed Life...**or we could call it **The Characteristics Of The Successful Believer** or The Blessings of Obedience.

I. THE PATH OF THE BLESSED BELIEVER. (vs 1)

A. The Blessed Believer Is Separated In His Walk Of Life.

1. He doesn't BELIEVE like the wicked!

He doesn't listen to their counsel or their invitations to evil.

His hearing is turned a little higher!

2. He doesn't BEHAVE like the wicked!

2 Corinthians 5:17—"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

He is a new creature! He has a new, divine nature!

So, he "*puts off the old man*" and then "*puts on the new man*" so that he can live a life pleasing to the LORD!
(Ephesians 4:22ff and Colossians 3:8-17)

3. He doesn't BELONG with the wicked!

He is to separate from living as they live!

2 Corinthians 6:17—"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,"

He feels out of place when surrounded by the devil's crowd!

B. Notice The Downward Digression – Walk...Stand...Sit.

1. From walking in the advice/influence of ungodly people
2. To standing in agreement and alignment with them.
3. To sitting in collusion with them in their scorn against righteousness and the righteous!

Where do you get your counsel from?

Who is it that you stand in alignment with?

Do you justify engaging in the same scorn as the world against Biblical righteousness?

C. The Blessed Believer Realizes That There Is A Vast Difference Between Himself And The World He Was Saved Out Of, And He Seeks To Walk, Live, And Conduct His Life Accordingly!

THE PATH OF THE BLESSED BELIEVER...

There is a blessing in walking in God's ways instead of the world's!

GOD'S BLESSINGS
PART 3 - HOW HAS GOD BLESSED US?
PART 2 - A BLESSED LIFE
PSALMS 1:1-6

II. THE PLEASURE OF THE BLESSED BELIEVER. (vs 2)

The blessed believer is genuinely and completely in love with the Word of God!

A. The Word Has Captured His Full Affection. –

Delight = Pleasure

The Word of God isn't a Book of **fables, myths and legends**. To the child of God it is the very **Word of Truth!**

*1 Thessalonians 2:13–“For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, **when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.**”*

It is God-breathed, infallible, inerrant and absolutely perfect!

The successful believer **loves** the Word and he **lives** it, finding in its pages all he needs to **grow and prosper** in his new life in Christ Jesus! **He loves it because he recognizes its value!**

What is the value of the Word?:

1. It is SPIRITUAL FOOD!

*Job 23:12–“Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; **I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.**”*

a. It is SPIRITUAL MILK!

1 Peter 2:2–“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word that ye may grow thereby.”

Just as milk gives a baby what he needs to grow up strong and healthy, so the Word of God gives the baby Christian everything he needs to grow up strong and healthy!

GOD'S BLESSINGS
PART 3 - HOW HAS GOD BLESSED US?
PART 2 - A BLESSED LIFE
PSALMS 1:1-6

b. It is SPIRITUAL MEAT!

Hebrews 5:12-14

It provides all we need as we mature to make us strong in the Lord!

c. It is SPIRITUAL BREAD!

In *Matthew 4:4* Jesus quoted Deuteronomy 8:3 when he said–
“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”

Bread is a staple food of the world! Anywhere you go, it is part of the diet of people!

In the same way, no matter where we may go, people have a need for the Bread of life!

d. It is SPIRITUAL HONEY!

I read an article by a nutritionist that said that honey is the perfect food. Not only is it sweet, but it does not spoil!

Psalms 19:10–“...sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.”

Psalms 119:103–“How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!”

Proverbs 24:13-14–“ My son, eat thou honey, because it is good; and the honeycomb, which is sweet to thy taste: 14 So shall the knowledge of wisdom be unto thy soul: when thou hast found it, then there shall be a reward, and thy expectation shall not be cut off.

GOD'S BLESSINGS
PART 3 - HOW HAS GOD BLESSED US?
PART 2 - A BLESSED LIFE
PSALMS 1:1-6

When life hands us **bitterness** and leaves a **bad taste** in our soul, nothing has the power to **encourage and sweeten** our life as does a Word from God!

It is SPIRITUAL FOOD!

2. It is SPIRITUAL LIGHT!

Psalm 119:105—"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and and a light unto my path"

We live in a world that is spiritually darkened by sin! There is nothing that can give **direction** to our life and **light** our path like the Word of God!

2 Peter 1:19—"We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:"

3. It is SPIRITUAL TRUTH!

John 17:17—"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."

Falsehoods abound in the world, even in religions of the world!

Only the Word of God can sanctify us so that we are set apart unto God for His purposes!

4. It is a SPIRITUAL MIRROR! – James 1:23-25

It shows us what is wrong in our lives so that we can correct it!

GOD'S BLESSINGS
PART 3 - HOW HAS GOD BLESSED US?
PART 2 - A BLESSED LIFE
PSALMS 1:1-6

There Is A Fourfold Profitability Of Scriptures!

2 Timothy 3:16-17—"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works."

a. Profitable For Doctrine – What's Right!

b. Profitable For Reproof – What's Wrong!

c. Profitable For Correction – How To Fix What's Wrong And Make It Right!

d. Profitable For Instruction In Righteousness – How To Stay Right!

5. It is SPIRITUAL WATER! – Ephesians. 5:25-27

a. It Cleanses!

Psalm 119:9—"Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word."

b. It Quenches!

Isaiah 55:1—"Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters.."

John 7:37—"Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink."

Revelation 22:17—"And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."

GOD'S BLESSINGS
PART 3 - HOW HAS GOD BLESSED US?
PART 2 - A BLESSED LIFE
PSALMS 1:1-6

Psalm 42:1-2—“As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. 2 My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God:...”

Psalm 63:1—“O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;”

c. It Refreshes!

Proverbs 25:25—“As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.”

6. It is a SPIRITUAL SWORD!

Hebrews 4:12—“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

Ephesians 6:17—“...the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:”

7. It is a SPIRITUAL FIRE!

Jeremiah 23:29—“Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD...”

*Jeremiah 20:9—“Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. **But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay.**”*

GOD'S BLESSINGS
PART 3 - HOW HAS GOD BLESSED US?
PART 2 - A BLESSED LIFE
PSALMS 1:1-6

8. It is a SPIRITUAL HAMMER!

Jeremiah 23:29—“Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?”

a. A Hammer Can Build Up!

b. A Hammer Can Break Up!

The blessed believer is in love with the Bible! He knows that in its pages, he can find all that his soul requires!

Because the Word of God contains the complete revelation of God to men. It meets every the need of the Christian's life! Do you love it as you should? Has it captured your full affection?

The Word Has Captured His Full Affection!

B. The Word Has Captured His Full Attention.

Not only does the blessed believer love the Book, but he seeks to live out the Book daily in his walk.

The Bible is meant to be internalized and to become the singular standard for faith and practice in our lives. And the believer that lives his life that way knows and experiences the blessing of God in his life!

Our every thought, our every move, our every decision is to be made against the backdrop of God's Word, and what it has to say about an issue.

However, before a life can ever be lived in this fashion, the Word of God must be consumed and made a vital part of who we are!

GOD'S BLESSINGS
PART 3 - HOW HAS GOD BLESSED US?
PART 2 - A BLESSED LIFE
PSALMS 1:1-6

The Psalmist declares that the blessed believer spends his days and his nights in the pursuit of the Book.

Does the Bible fill your thoughts as it should? Do you find yourself consumed with its content and mesmerized in the meditation of it?

The Bible is never better than when it is read and studied and
THEN LIVED OUT!

THE PATH OF THE BLESSED BELIEVER...
THE PLEASURE OF THE BLESSED BELIEVER...

III. THE PROSPERITY OF THE BLESSED BELIEVER. (vs. 3)

The promises of this verse are conditional! When we **live separated lives and feed our souls on God's Word**, then we can expect these things to happen for us!

A. His Position! – “...by the rivers of water...”
Always close to the life giving resources!
This was meaningful to Israel with her mostly arid conditions!
The tree planted by the river is never dry and wilted, but is green, lush and lovely!

The believer who lives close to God will never be dry and wilted either! He will be vibrant, lively and productive!

Many never know the joy of drawing off of Christ daily!
As a result, they are spiritually wilted!

The droughts of life and the dry seasons never seem to affect the believer who is planted near the flowing water of the Spirit of God!

He is connected to an unfailing source of life and strength!

GOD'S BLESSINGS
PART 3 - HOW HAS GOD BLESSED US?
PART 2 - A BLESSED LIFE
PSALMS 1:1-6

John 4:14–“But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.”

John 7:37-39–“In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. 38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. 39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)”

THE PROSPERITY OF THE BLESSED BELIEVER...

His Position – “...by the rivers of water”

B. His Prominence – “...like a tree...”
The life of the blessed believer stands heads and shoulders above all those around him!
It is easily seen when a man is rooted and grounded in the LORD and drawing his daily life from the LORD!

When we've been with Jesus, it should be obvious to others!
Acts 4:13–“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.”

C. His Permanence – “...planted...”
Unlike some plants, which live for a season and die out, the tree that is planted by the rivers of water sinks its roots and draws deeply from the flowing source of life!

So also is the life of the blessed believer! He has his life planted deeply by the LORD's ever flowing source!

GOD'S BLESSINGS
PART 3 - HOW HAS GOD BLESSED US?
PART 2 - A BLESSED LIFE
PSALMS 1:1-6

He draws deeply from the Word of God by the Spirit of God!

- D. His Productivity** – *"...bringeth forth his fruit..."*
The blessed believer is a blessing to all those around him,
because his fruit is plentiful!
We may never know just who is feeding off of our lives!

The Spirit filled believer walking in the Spirit will manifest the
fruit of the Spirit in his life! (*Galatians 5:22-23*)

- E. His Predictability** – *"...in his season..."*
This tree isn't a freak. Just as there are seasons of fruit bearing,
so there are times of both rest and growth!

As believers, we aren't to worry over the fruit! That is
the Father's business!

When everything else is as it should be, then the fruit will
come in its season! (Look at **John 15:1-5**)

- F. His Perpetuity** – *"...leaf shall not fade..."*
The successful believer is like an evergreen. He is always
manifesting the signs of life.

Our lives should be lives of consistency! We are called on by
the LORD to be a stable, faithful and dependable people!
*1 Corinthians 15:58—"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye
stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the
Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in
the Lord."*

The successful believer is consistent!
The storms of life are **unable** to knock him off course!
Thank the Lord for consistent people!

GOD'S BLESSINGS
PART 3 - HOW HAS GOD BLESSED US?
PART 2 - A BLESSED LIFE
PSALMS 1:1-6

- G. His Prosperity** – *"...whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."*
In other words, God will blessings are evident in his life.
His personal life...
His family life...
His business life... (e.g. Joseph in Genesis 39)
His Church life...
His Spiritual life...
Every area of his life will show that he is blessed of the LORD!

That isn't to say that there won't be stormy seas at times, but
the blessed believer will be able to sail those stormy seas with
Jesus until the LORD chooses to calm them once again!

CONCLUSION

Do you possess these characteristics of the blessed believer?

The word *"blessed"* here means *"Oh how very, very happy!"*

I hope through this message that you've seen yourself among the blessed ones
and are encouraged about your walk with Jesus!

You see, it is possible to be blessed of Christ and know it without being
self-righteous about it!

But, if you see yourself lacking in some of these areas that we've talked about,
then the LORD stands ready, willing and able to help you make things right in
your life where you too can be blessed!

Why not take whatever steps that are necessary to ensure that your life is
where it can be blessed to the max by the LORD! It all begins with
Salvation!