

Abiding in Christ

Let us return to the benefits that are to accrue to you in meditating night and day on God's word found in the following verses:

Psalm 1:2-3 (NKJV)

But his delight is in the law of the LORD,

And in His law he meditates day and night.

3

He shall be like a tree

Planted by the rivers of water,

That brings forth its fruit in its season,

Whose leaf also shall not wither;

And whatever he does shall prosper.

The word "planted" is from the Hebrew word **shathal** (pronounced *shaw-thal*) which literally means to *transplant*. Hence, this scripture is saying if we are believers, we are like trees that have been relocated, transplanted by "the rivers of living waters." The implication is that our origins was not landscape next to living waters—but rather landscape like that found in arid barren wastelands. The Apostle Paul aptly described our transference from the domain of darkness (the barren, arid wasteland of Satan) to our inheritance in the kingdom of light (the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus, God's dear Son) saying,

Col. 1:12-13 (KJV) **Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet (*able*) to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:**

¹³Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son:

The Prophet Isaiah speaking prophetically of the Lord Jesus' mission said he came to do the following:

Isaiah 61:3 (KJV) **To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.**

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pleasurable task. The Lord extended “Cart Blanche” privileges to those that delight themselves in him saying,

Psalm 37:4-5 (NKJV)

**Delight yourself also in the LORD,
And He shall give you the desires of your heart.**

5

**Commit your way to the LORD,
Trust also in Him,
And He shall bring it to pass.**

In these verses found in [**Psalm 37:4-5 (NKJV)**], the phrase “delight self” has a slightly different meaning than the word “delight” found in **Psalm 1:2**. In **Psalm 37:4** it is from the Hebrew word **`anag** (pronounced *aw-nag*) meaning to be *soft*, pliable, flexible, malleable, bendable, and supple. This infers that God has a form into which he desires to mold you—but he requires your freewill submission and cooperation, before He can shape you for the fulfillment of your assignment according to His purpose. The Apostle Paul described God’s purpose for molding us saying,

Ephes. 2:10 (KJV) For we are **his workmanship, created** (*meaning manufactured, fabricated and formed*) **in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained** (*fit up in advance*) **that we should walk in them.**

God has formed us for “good works.”

If you yield to His shaping, “**He shall give you the desires of your heart.**” Since God has molded and formed us according to His purpose, the desires and aspirations we have will be in conformity to His will. Therefore, the petitions and requests you make of God will become realities, because you are submitted to His shaping for the fulfillment of His purposes in the earth through you. When you perform God’s purpose, all things will work together for your good, for the Apostle Paul spoke saying,

Romans 8:28 (KJV) **And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.**

Again the Psalmist confirmed the benefits that are to accrue to us saying,

Psalm 37:4-5 (NKJV)

**Delight yourself also in the LORD,
And He shall give you the desires of your heart.**

5

**Commit your way to the LORD,
Trust also in Him
And He shall bring it to pass.**

If you become malleable in the Lord’s hand, He promised He would “bring it to pass” (in modern vernacular): He will cause your desires to become realities.

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Romans 8:1-3 (KJV) *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*

²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

³For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

There is a danger that every believer must guard against and that is the sin of complacency. The previous verse contains an awesome promise—but the question is are you really “in Christ Jesus”? Are you living a life in conformity with the word of God? The point being made is the things of God require continual engagement, because Jesus said,

John 8:31 (KJV) *Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;*

In this verse, the Lord Jesus is giving us the criteria for ensuring our discipleship remains in tact, which is continuance in the word of God. The word “**continue**” is derived from the Greek word **meno** (pronounced *men'-o*) meaning to *stay* in a given place, state, relation or expectancy, continue, dwell, endure, and remain. The word “**indeed**” is from the Greek word **alethos** (pronounced *al-ay-thoce'*) meaning *truly*, of a surety, or in truth. Therefore, a true disciple of the Lord Jesus is one who stays in the word of God and continually does its' bidding! How does one stay in the word? The injunction the Lord gave Joshua describes how believers remain in the word of God saying,

Joshua 1:8 (NKJV) *This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.*

This scripture tells us to never cease, but to continually declare, pronounce, proclaim, and audibly affirm the word of God. It also says we are to meditate in the word day and night. The word “meditate” is from the Hebrew word **hagah** (pronounced *haw-gaw'*) meaning to *murmur* [in pleasure or anger,] to *ponder*, imagine, meditate, speak, mutter, study, talk, and utter. We are to mull over God's word, turn it over in our mind, think about, contemplate and reflect upon it “**day and night!**” Hence, declaring the word and reflecting upon the word should be a continual exercise of every believer. The Psalmist confirmed this saying of the believer,

Psalm 1:2-3 (NKJV)

But his delight is in the law of the LORD,

And in His law he meditates day and night.

Observe that the believer is described as a person who delights in the Lord's law or statutes, for so is the Hebrew rendering of the word “law.” The word “delight” is derived from the Hebrew word **chephets** (pronounced *khay'-fets*) defined as ones' *pleasure*, or *desire*. Therefore, the person's day and night meditation in the word of God is not laborious drudgery—but rather a