

**The Ark**  
**Keys to a Blessed Life**  
**March 13, 2019**

**Stewardship:**

*Galatians 6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.*

*8. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.*

*9. And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.*

*10. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.*

Spiritual principle of sowing and reaping.

If you sow seed – you reap natural harvest

If you sow money – you reap money

**It's important where you sow (v.8)**

God look at our material possessions as seeds and He sees two possible kinds of soil:

Natural – the flesh

Spiritual – Spirit

We can choose to use our resources to promote natural things or spiritual things.

**Once you have finished sowing – you cannot change the harvest.**

We reap what we sow

We reap in proportion to what we sow (2 Cor. 9:6 *He who sows sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he who sows bountifully shall reap also bountifully*).

**There is a “Season” for harvest**

**There is a condition for harvest – You must not give up.**

## Keys to a Blessed Life

Every time Jesus did a miracle, he required action on the part of the person receiving.

- If you believe
- Stretch forth our hand
- Fill the pots with water
- Etc.

This is how God works in our life also. **We have a part to play.**

Our obedience and diligence determine the degree of blessing we experience.

Now I'm not talking about your salvation. That doesn't take "works". That's all about God's Grace activated by our faith...simply believing and confessing... but wait... that is action on our part isn't it? We can't earn our salvation, but we do activate it.

What must we do to live a blessed life? What is our part?

PSALM 1 gives clear instruction:

### **Three things to avoid:**

NKJV Psalm 1:1 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;

The terms walks – stands – sits suggest a progression of influence that results from turning your attention in the wrong direction. The influence one allows others to have in their life, determines to a large extent your spiritual destiny.

### **Three Things to Avoid**

**Don't seek advice from ungodly people** – People who don't serve God will usually give you advice based on opinion and logic.... But remember God is not logical and miracles are not usual. When I need to know what to do, I may get natural information, but my wisdom must come from God and any "natural" advice I receive must line up with God's Word!

**Don't hang around with sinners** – You really are judged by the company you keep and birds of a feather do flock together... (my mom's advice). However, the real reason you need to avoid hanging around with sinners is because **sin is contagious** ...  
unbelief is contagious...  
negativity is contagious...  
a critical spirit is contagious... that brings us to the third thing.. the seat of the scornful.

**Don't be scornful** - the adjective scornful originates from the Old French word escarn, meaning "mockery," "derision," or "contempt." To look down on someone. To be critical. This is a difficult one isn't it.

Seeking advice from the ungodly; hanging around with sinners and being scornful blocks blessings.
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If you aren't experiencing blessings in your life you might want to examine yourself and see if you are guilty of any one of these three blessing blockers.

**The activity that brings blessings:**

**Psalm 1:2, But his delight is in the law of the Lord and in His law he meditates day and night**

**Delight in The Word. delight** - a feeling of extreme pleasure or satisfaction. To be blessed we must receive pleasure and satisfaction

from the Word. (*Psalm 37:4 NKJV Delight yourself also in the Lord and He shall give you the desires of your heart*). Find your pleasure and satisfaction in the Lord and His Word.

Meditate on the Word – meditate means to give serious thought to. To roll over and over in your mind.

**The result of eliminating wrong influence and activating right influence:**

*Psalm 1:3. 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.*

You will become strong and stable  
You will become fruitful  
You will avoid sickness  
You will walk in prosperity

That sounds like a blessed person to me!

**Now let's return to that word MEDITATE and how this word relates to our daily life:**

*Palm 1:2, But his delight is in the law of the Lord and in His law he meditates day and night*

Meditate on the Word – meditate means to give serious thought to. To roll over and over in your mind.

If meditation has to do with rolling something over and over in our mind... then think of the things you meditate on....

If you are upset you will roll the thing that is upsetting you over and over in your mind.

If you are angry you will roll the source of that anger over and over in your mind.

If you are fearful you will roll that fear over and over in your mind

The more you think about those things the bigger they get in your mind and they crowd out all your peace and joy.

Listen to this verse in *2 Corinthians 10:3-5* *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. (4) For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds. (5) Casting down arguments (KJV says imaginations) and every high things that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.*

Our mind is a battlefield where all our spiritual warfare is fought: *Above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. (Ephesians 6:16 NKJV).*

The Greek word for “**fiery darts**” is *noema* and means “*a dart thrown into the mind.*” It is a mind-targeted dart sent by the enemy.

We must learn to control our thoughts so we can walk in victory. Here’s another scripture about the importance of controlling our thought-life: *Romans 12:2* *And do not be conformed to the world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

We “renew” our mind through meditating on the Word of God.

Example of Meditation. Joy led our staff in meditating on *Proverbs 3:5-6* *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own*

*understanding. (6) In all your ways acknowledge him and He shall direct your path.* She had us say that verse over and over and then she showed us how to pray that verse... **“Lord, I trust in You with all my heart and I will not lean on my own understanding. I will acknowledge you in all my ways and you will direct my path”.**

Those verses became so real to us that when a problem arose in our lives, we automatically began to pray those verses. That caused our mind to “refocus” on God’s Word rather than our problem.

Then one day I read verse 7... **“Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord and depart from evil (8) It will be health to your flesh and strength to your bones.”** I was having trouble with my knee so this verse jumped out at me. I added these verses to my meditation of Proverbs 3.

As I read this powerful chapter I noticed that the entire chapter was filled with powerful promises, so I decided to meditate on the entire chapter this year.

**Proverbs 3:1 My son, do not forget my Law  
But let your heart keep my commandments  
For length of days and long life and peace they will add to you!  
2. Let not mercy and truth forsake you;  
Bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart,  
And so find favor and high esteem in the sight of God and man.**

**I’m doing that by reading it every day.** I mentioned to my husband that I was going to read Proverbs 3 every day this year and he said he was already doing it... Now my daughter, son-in-law, husband and I are all three reading this wonderful chapter every day. By the end of the year this chapter will be a part of our heart.

Last year I meditated on Ephesians and it still speaks to me in time of need.

**True meditation is:**

Reading the Word  
Listening to the Word  
Even Memorizing the Word  
Praying the Word

The result is:

Psalm 1:3. 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.

You will become strong and stable  
You will become fruitful  
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