



Bearing fruit

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those who **do** not
follow the *advice* of
the wicked, or stand
around with sinners,
or join in with mockers.

But they **delight**
in the **law** of the
Lord, *meditating*
on it **day** and **NIGHT**.

They are like
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all they *do*.



Alive Ministries South Africa

www.aliveministries-sa.org

Dear friends,

It is your strong desire for all residents of the Republic of South Africa to live a blessed and fruitful live in an environment where justice and righteousness reigns. You want to be a good Christian, you want to make a difference in your world today, you are trying hard, but somehow you just never seem to make it. Well, come with me into the reality and beauty of Psalm 1, discover how to bear fruit and get connected to the one and only source of living water direct from the throne of God.

Psalm 1

- ¹ *Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers.*
- ² *But they delight in doing everything the Lord wants, day and night they think about his law (all scripture).*
- ³ *They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season without fail. Their leaves never wither, and in all they do, they prosper.*
- ⁴ *But this is not true of the wicked! They are like worthless chaff, scattered by the wind.*
- ⁵ *They will be condemned at the time of judgment. Sinners will have no place among the godly.*
- ⁶ *For the Lord watches over the path of the godly, but the path of the wicked leads to destruction.*

1. Joy.

Oh, the joys of those who... (Psalm 1:1). Amazing he, the first word of the first Psalm is "joy". God wants us to have joy. *Your words were found, and I ate them. They bring me great joy and are my heart's delight, for I bear your name, O Lord God Almighty (Jeremiah 15:16).* Do you eat His word as daily food? It will bring you great joy! *I have not departed from his commands, but have treasured his word in my heart (Job 23:12).* His mighty word, my biggest treasure!

The Joy of the Lord is like **Joy**riding. You are using something what isn't yours. But in this case it is legal. Real joy is coming from the Lord! *You will show me the way of life. You fill me with joy in your presence and the pleasures of living with you forever (Psalm 16:11).* Joy for free! **Now**, and forever. This sounds not human, isn't it? *I have told you this so that you will be filled with My joy. Yes your joy will overflow! (John 15:11).* Have a good ride and **enjoy** it.

All these verses about **joy** have one thing in common: **Your choice** to hear His voice.

- *day and night they **think about his law** (Psalm 1:2b);*
- ***Your words** were found, and **I ate them** (Jeremiah 15:16);*
- *...but have **treasured his word** in my heart (Job 23:12b);*
- *You will **show me** the way of life. You fill me with joy... (Psalm 16:11);*
- ***I have told you** this so that you will be filled with My joy. (John 15:11a).*

2. Have a break, work on your roots.

They are like trees planted along the riverbank (Psalm 1:3a). So, we are like trees. Interesting. Where does a tree get its beauty, fruit and strengths? From the roots. Can we see the roots? No, its hidden. **The hidden part of life is the secret of our strength!** This is exactly what this psalmist is talking about. Those who are godly have learned, in the hidden inner parts of their life, to draw upon the grace and glory and strength of God. Their roots run deep into rich and moist soil, and this is what makes them beautiful and strong.



Are you still with me? So many Christians are stumbling today because they missing the essence of this secret. **Work on your roots!** It seems to be boring, no one can see it, but look at the results: receiving joy, delighting in all you do, bearing fruit, prosper in **all** you do, never wither and the Lord watches over your path.

And be aware my friend that your roots are not planted in doubt, gossip, insecurity, fear, etc, etc. These are tricks from Satan. Send them away in the mighty name of Jesus.

Again: *Oh, the joys of those who...think about His law day and night (Psalm 1:1-2).* Do you really know the Lord? How much do you delight in reading His word, for in His word you will learn what He wants. It's all about the time you choose to spend in **enjoying** the presence of God that strengthens you. It is your daily **choice** not to *follow the advice of the wicked,....* but to *think about His law (all scripture) day and night.* **Have a break in His presence.**

3. Which company do you choose?

Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers (Psalm 1:1). Ninety-five percent of our choices are coming from our subconscious. Be aware of that. You easily could get involved with persons and matters you shouldn't. Our friends and associates can have a profound influence on us, often in very subtle ways. If we insist on friendships with those who mock what God considers important, we might sin by becoming indifferent to God's will. True friends should help, not hinder, you to draw closer to God for *"bad company corrupts good character (1 Corinthians 15:33)."*

4. Where is your tree planted? To which source are you connected?

They are like trees planted along the riverbank (Psalm 1:3a). This tree is planted and rooted in Him, connected to the source of living water. A tree along the riverside, bearing fruit is also seen in the book of Revelation en Ezekiel. Now I am going to tell you something very challenging and exciting I learned from Ana Méndez Ferrell. Take your time and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you to understand it.

And I heard a great voice from the throne out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God (Revelation 21:3). This prophesy has been accomplished already! When did the Lord came to be among us forever? With Jesus first coming. When Jesus came to the earth wasn't He the holy tabernacle that would live with us forever? Isn't it written that we are the temple (tabernacle) of the Holy Spirit? So He wants to dwell in His holy tabernacle (us) already for more then 2000 years. *All who confess that Jesus is the Son of God have God living (Greek = to remain, abide, to sojourn, to continue to be present) in them, and they live in God (1 John 4:15).*

And he also said, "It is finished! I am the Alpha and the Omega—the Beginning and the End. To all who are thirsty (Greek = to suffer thirst, painfully) I will give freely from the springs of the water (Greek = water from the earth) of life (Revelation 21:6). This last word "life" is explained in the Greek Bible: *life real and genuine, a life active and vigorous, devoted to God, blessed, in the portion **even in this world** of those who put their trust in Christ, but after the resurrection to be consummated by new accessions (among them a more perfect body), and to last for ever.* After Jesus second coming there will be no pain and suffering anymore. These verse is applicable from Jesus first coming and will last forever.

¹ *And the angel showed me a pure river with the water of life, clear as crystal, flowing from the throne (Temple or Tabernacle) of God and of the Lamb. ² It flowed down the centre of the main street. On each side of the river grew a tree (Greek = a cross, a log or timber with holes in which the feet, hands, neck of prisoners were inserted and fastened with thongs) of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, with a fresh crop each month. The fruit*

will be for food and the leaves were used for medicine to heal the nations (Greek = foreign nations not worshipping the true God, pagans, gentiles). (Revelation 22: 1-2 and Ezekiel 47: 12). First, have a look at Matthew 11:13: *For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John (Matthew 11:13 NKJV). But if you read the books of the Prophets and God's Law closely, you will see them culminate in John, teaming up with him in preparing the way for the Messiah of the kingdom (Matthew 11:13 The Message).* The Greek bible is teaching us were this is all about: *especially concerning future events, and in particular such as relate to the cause and kingdom of God and to human salvation.* The prophesies about the Kingdom and human salvation are ending with John, we see them culminate in John's century. We have seen this fulfilled with the first coming of Jesus the Christ, where He took the victory at Calvary (our salvation), which is also the start of the (spiritual) Kingdom, all during the days of John. As a consequence those prophesies (also of Ezekiel 47:12) are fulfilled at that time in the first century. As we follow the Greek Bible we conclude following: The tree of life is the power of the cross of Christ (or Christ Himself) and the leaves are mend to heal the nations (those who did not yet bow down for the King of Kings).

¹⁴ *Blessed are those who wash their robes. They will be permitted to enter through the gates of the city and eat the fruit from the tree of life.* ¹⁵ *Outside the city are the dogs—the sorcerers, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idol worshippers, and all who love to live a lie. (Revelation 22:14-15).* Cool he! Once you wash your robes (born again) you have access again to the tree of life again!! Welcome back in Eden! This is about Jesus first coming, for after His second coming (on the new heaven and earth) there will be no sinners outside the city. By the way the city is the new Jerusalem, which is the Church, the bride (Revelation 21:9).

Your life giving water is directly flowing from the throne (Temple or Tabernacle) of God and of the Lamb. So, now you became His holy temple, your water should flow from you to the nations, to the Republic of South Africa as written: *Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, 'Rivers of living water will flow from his heart' (John 7:38).* This is all about the work of the Holy Spirit within you and through you. You became a water transfer station. And there is more! You are a tree, you have access to the tree of life again, and your leaves are used for medicine to heal the nations, the Republic of South Africa. Connected to the wrong source? No leaves, no healing of South Africa! **To which source are you connected?**

5. They prosper in all they do! Where is your focus?

....., bearing fruit each season without fail. Their leaves never wither, and in all they do, they prosper (Psalm 1:3).

"They prosper" - surely here is a word to bring us to our feet at eager attention. This psalmist is undertaking to point us to the path of prosperity. He is offering us a recipe for success. His message is, therefore, of vital interest. Everybody desires to succeed; nobody wishes to fail. In fact, we have very little time or patience for failures. But we are ever ready to honour those who have made good. Ours is, in a peculiar sense, a generation of success worshipers. Nor are our ideas of success always the highest. We do not always give first place to those whose prosperity is in the realm of the spiritual. We rather give it to those whose success is purely of the earth, earthly. Worse still, we often do this regardless of the price that these may have paid for their success. It may have been won at the price of their own honour. But caught under the spell of their winnings, we pass over these ugly facts as matters of minor importance. The big thing for us is success. But in spite of all circumstances, whether good or bad, whether fraught with laughter or with tears, every one who meets the conditions of this Psalm will be in the truest sense successful (*Clovis G. Chappell*).

I challenge you from now on not to focus on your own desires but on bearing fruit. You will be amazed what the Lord has in stock for your own prosperity! This is the secret of the Kingdom first: ³¹ *So don't worry about having enough food or drink or clothing* ³²

*These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. ³³ and he will give you all you need from day to day **if** you live for him and make the Kingdom of God your primary concern (Matthew 6:32-33).*

Do you really want to make a powerful impact for Christ on South Africa? Well, this is the secret:

- Your price to pay: *So don't worry about having enough food or drink or clothing*
- Your focus: *live for Him and make the Kingdom of God your primary concern*
- Result for South Africa: a powerful impact for your nation by building His Kingdom
- Your benefit: *He will give you all you need from day to day*

This is so difficult for us and one of the biggest challenges of believers. Look at the word *if*. You will also receive your own benefit (prosperity) *If* your focus is right. And have a look at "*from day to day*". That is even more difficult. Some people worry so much about tomorrow that they forget about today. Do you have the courage to say our God is a liar and not able to supply your daily needs? No? Than, just trust Him, obey and walk in faith. God wants us to prepare for the future but to live for the moment. Don't make the same mistake as the first generation of Israelites who left Egypt. They didn't trust the Lord and missed the place of rest in this very life: *The people refused to enter the pleasant land, for they wouldn't believe His promise to care for them (Psalm 106:24).*

Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is a gift...that's why we call it the "present".

I learned to train myself by starting with small things. Arrange a (holy) deal with the Lord for the Lord wants you to encourage in this process. For instance: Lord, tonight I won't watch my favourite soap (your price to pay), but use these time to pray for my neighbour (your focus). Bless him with a job Lord for he is already waiting for so long. I trust you Lord and promise you I will inform him about my prayer, so that **Your name will be glorified**. Honestly I do this almost every day and can't count the blessings and wonders anymore. Be creative, have a deal with the Lord and you will be amazed, encouraged and ready for the next one. You will see the fruit, no doubt and it will give you (and your neighbour) great joy (and a job!). **Our God is an awesome God! He reigns from heaven above!**

And again: *....and in all they do, they prosper (Psalm1:3)*. Have you noticed that these part is coming at the end and that we first have to fulfil some conditions. Who prosper in all they do?

- Those who would make a real success must refuse to walk in the counsel of the ungodly;
- Those who would hope for success must refuse to stand in the way of sinners;
- Those who would find prosperity must refuse to sit in the seat or assembly of the scornful;
- There are great positives as well as refusals necessary for those who would find real prosperity. They must not only say *no* to the wrong, they must say *yes* to the right. They must not only avoid the seat of the scornful, but their delight must be in the law of the Lord;
- Prosperous people read their Bible. In no other way could they have an intelligent delight in it;
- They not only read their Bible, they delight in it.
- Prosperous people are bearing fruit!

What is the nature of prosperity? It is not necessarily success in the winning of things. The psalmist does not say, "Whatsoever they do shall prosper." That is not always the case. But what he does say is, "In whatsoever they do, they shall prosper." That is, those who delight in God and in God's Word shall prosper, regardless of whether the enterprises in which they invest succeed or not. **They are rich in their usefulness.** They are bearing fruit each season!

6. Bearing fruit.

...., bearing fruit each season without fail. Their leaves never wither, and in all they do, they prosper (Psalm 1:3). Don't forget:

- It's an ongoing process: (*bearing*)
- It's a command: *I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit* (John 15:16)
- You will receive the tools and authority: *I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name* (John 15:16).
- Work on your roots, stay connected: *Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing* (John 15:5). **The key issue of bearing fruit:** *Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned* (John 15:6). Jesus didn't say "Anyone who does not produce fruit is thrown away", but those "who does not remain in me". **Bearing fruit depends on staying connected!** Where is your focus?
- Its all about His mighty name, **THE NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES**, the great **I AM**: *My true disciples produce much fruit. This brings great glory to my Father* (John 15:8).
- Your attitude: **Love!** *But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love,....* (Galatians 5:22). *Let love be your highest goal!* (1 Corinthians 14:1).

...., bearing fruit each season without fail (Psalm 1:3). That is probably a reference to the fruit of the Spirit, which is described for us in the New Testament. It is the character of God, and that is always the same in either the Old or the New Testament: *But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control* (Galatians 5:22). This fruit in our lives is a mighty blessing to transfer to our community and beautiful rainbow nation. **Make a difference in your world today!**

...Their leaves never wither (Psalm 1:3). Compare again with "the leaves were used for medicine to heal the nations. (Revelation 22-2). **Your leaves as a medicine for South Africa!** And they never wither, a constant flow. Don't wait, go for it.

7. What about the wicked?

⁴ *But this is not true of the wicked! They are like worthless chaff, scattered by the wind.*

⁵ *They will be condemned at the time of judgment. Sinners will have no place among the godly* (Psalm 1:4-5). You know, they are having the wrong focus and producing evil results in our country. ¹⁹ *When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, your lives will produce these evil results: sexual immorality, impure thoughts, eagerness for lustful pleasures,* ²⁰ *idolatry, participation in demonic activities, hostility, quarrelling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, division, the feeling that everyone is wrong except those in your own little group,* ²¹ *envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other kind of sin.* (Galatians 5:19-21a).

Well, do you see some of this fruit in your neighbourhood? **Stand up, rise and shine and don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good** (Romans 12:21).

8. He will keep an eye on you!

For the Lord watches over the path of the godly (Psalm 1:6). Imagine the creator of the universe, the great I AM, the NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES, the One Who reigns will watch over you. Cool he! You are His beloved child. He calls you "my friend" in John 15:14 (well, by the way "if you obey Him").

9. Don't be selfish.

¹¹ *For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.* ¹² *Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,* ¹³ *each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.* ¹⁴ *If anyone's*

work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵ *If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire (1 Corinthians 3:11-15).* My dear friend, if you accepted Jesus Christ into your life as your saviour, who died for your sins, you are saved. Your salvation is secure as written: *"For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ"*. But Jesus is not only your Saviour He is also your Deliverer and your King and wants you to bear fruit and built His Kingdom here on earth. It is my strong desire that the Church understands following words. Never ever let it happen that following will be applicable to you: *If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire (1 Corinthians 3:15).* If this is your case than you will only first taste the maturity of the Kingdom after your death, you will miss the Kingdom benefits here in your walk on this earth and you are not bringing other fellow South Africans into His Kingdom. Don't you love your fellow South African brothers and sisters? **No, instead bear fruit that remains, works that can stand the fire, and take it as a reward with you into heaven, your works will follow you! We love you Lord, we love you beautiful Rainbow Nation!**

10. Stable as a palm / come drink of my waters.

These words are from the hand of apostle Ies D.Grause "Your prophetic word for today":

As the tall palm tree stands stable in the midst of heat and cold, rain and drought, so should you be says the Lord. For I have called you to be as the palm tree; rooted and grounded in me, and ready to face the elements at all times. But you have wilted in the heat, because your roots were not deep in My anointing. And when the enemy came against you, the pressures were too great for you to bear. You did not maintain, but gave up in despair. Know that I have made you to withstand all the storms of life, but only as you remain firmly grounded in me. Your spiritual nourishment does not come from without, but it comes from deep down inside. And when you have a spiritual need, I am always there to provide it and lift you up. So look deep inside you for the answer, and stop looking outside of yourself. Stop looking to man and to other ministries who are flowing in My anointing. For though they may nourish you for a season, they will not be there when the drought comes. They will not be there when the storm comes, and when the heat comes. In those times of pressure and difficulty you need not despair, for I have promised that I will never leave you nor forsake you. The anointing that I have given you remains in you, and you need simply to tap into that anointing afresh to experience My power in your life once again. As you learn to do this regularly, you will not only become stable as the palm tree, but you will also become a shelter and shade for others. And many will come to rest under the shelter of your branches. For they will know that there they can find peace and rest. And the picture that you will present to the world will be one of blessing and security, so that even when you feel inadequate in yourself, others will still come to you to receive. And instead of this being a drain on you, you will see it as a chance to flow out from within. As you have learned to tap into the inner power of My Spirit, so you will become a blessing to others, and like the tall palm tree you will stand out as a beacon of assurance and hope. Wait no longer says the Lord. Dig deep within and tap into My Spirit that lives inside of you. And you will rise up quickly and find that place of stability and security in Me.

As grass grows dry and begins to die when it is planted in dry soil, so you too must be planted in rich well watered soil. Yet you have thought that you could survive for long periods without My presence. When the strands of grass begin to turn yellow and dry out, it is time to see that the ground needs watering. And even though there may still be green leaves, the signs are there that something is wrong. The plant is still living, but it is slowly decaying. Even so your heart has begun to grow dry without My presence. But because you still see some life, you have assumed that all is well. You are waiting for the new life to come, but you have failed to come to Me, the river of living waters says the Lord. My child I invite you to come freely, to drink and be satisfied. But you have been too busy with your own activities to come and spend time with Me. I make no demands

on you, and the death that is at work in you is not my doing. But because you have refused to come and receive My living water, death is at work in you. Do not be deceived by the life that still remains. For My Spirit will always remain and I will never leave you. But without a continual supply of My anointing, you will fail to rise up and live fully the way you could. So come now My child. Turn your back on the world and come to where I am waiting with open arms. Come to where I patiently wait to bless you and fill you anew. Come so that I can embrace you in My loving arms and satisfy your soul. Then you will leave refreshed again, with a new life bursting forth from within you. And suddenly you will realize what you have been missing. You will see how wonderful it is to experience My presence more fully in your life. And you will be fruitful once more, and you will glow with My glory, so that many will be attracted to you, and they will want to know what makes you so full of life. Yet all it costs you My child, is a short time in My presence each day. Come drink of My waters and be satisfied, and find the life you desire.

11. Final word.

Do you love this beautiful rainbow nation? Do you want to produce **lasting fruit**? Are you really focused? Are your roots firmly planted in Him? *And now you are united with the one who was raised from the dead. As a result, you can produce good fruit, that is, good deeds for God (Romans 7:4).*

O dear lord, let Your living water flow from Your throne, through us, into this beloved rainbow nation. Water our land, have mercy and heal us.

Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, 'Rivers of living water will flow from his heart' (John 7:38). For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago (Ephesians 2:10).

Yours in His service,
Kees
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