

NETCAST SERMON NOTES

Series: Summer in the Psalms

Date: July 26th, 2026

Title: Planted in the Word | Psalm 1

Speaker: Scott Kearney

Key Scripture: Psalm 1:1–6 (with Hebrews 4:12, Romans 12:2, Matthew 7:17–20, John 15:5, 7–8)

The Big Idea: True spiritual flourishing is not accidental; it is formed. By evaluating what shapes our minds, engaging in spiritual meditation, and anchoring ourselves in God's Word, we become rooted, fruitful trees that withstand the changing winds of culture.

1. Evaluate What Forms You Spiritual regression is rarely a sudden cliff; it is usually a slow, downward drift. Psalm 1:1 reveals a dangerous progression of posture from walking in step, to standing in the way, to sitting in the company of mockers.

The Progression of Posture: We start by gently adopting the world's counsel, move to settling into its habits, and end up comfortable in its cynicism. What shapes your mind will eventually shape your trajectory. The Active Word: The Word of God is "alive and active" (Hebrews 4:12), penetrating beneath the surface to judge our true thoughts and attitudes before the world quietly conforms us to its pattern.

1. Engage the Process of Formation Through Meditation The biblical alternative to worldly influence isn't passive isolation or emptying your mind—it is intentional delight and filling your mind with God's truth.

Delight vs. Duty: God's truth is not a restrictive list of rules; it is the life-giving wisdom of the Creator. Day and Night Meditation: Meditation is internalizing, rehearsing, and continually processing Scripture throughout your day. Renewing the Mind: As Romans 12:2 warns, we must actively resist conforming to worldly patterns. Transformation only happens through a daily mind reset centered on God's Word.

1. Become a Rooted Person Psalm 1 paints a vivid contrast between two vastly different spiritual outcomes: the planted tree and the driven chaff.

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The Tree vs. The Chaff: The tree has deep roots, remains sustained during drought, and yields fruit in season. The chaff is rootless, empty, unstable, and easily carried off by every passing breeze. Fruit Requires Remaining: In Matthew 7, Jesus reminds us that a tree is known by its fruit. In John 15:5, He gives the secret: "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit." Rootedness is about abiding, not striving—fruit is produced naturally as long as the branch stays connected to the Vine.

Call to Action / Reflection Question: Are you trying to produce spiritual fruit through your own self-reliance, or are you actively evaluating your inputs and remaining rooted in the Vine?