

THE PATH TO PROSPERITY

Week 1 – The Blessed Life

Psalm 1:1–6 (NIV)

*Blessed is the one
who does not walk in step with the wicked
or stand in the way that sinners take
or sit in the company of mockers,
but whose delight is in the law of the Lord,
and who meditates on his law day and night.*

*That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither—
whatever they do prospers.*

*Not so the wicked!
They are like chaff
that the wind blows away.*

*Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.*

*For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.*

BIG IDEA

God's definition of prosperity is not rooted in wealth, comfort, or status, but in a life **planted near His presence, producing lasting fruit, and persevering through every season.**

SUMMARY

As we begin a new year, it is natural to think about growth, improvement, and success. Psalm 1 invites us to pause and redefine what it truly means to live a *prosperous* or *blessed* life. Scripture presents prosperity not as what we accumulate, but as who we are becoming as we walk the path God has set before us.

The psalm contrasts two ways of life: the way of the righteous and the way of the wicked. One path leads to stability, fruitfulness, and endurance; the other leads to

emptiness and loss. A blessed life flows from intentional choices—where we position ourselves, what we produce, and how we persevere over time.

KEY TRUTHS FROM PSALM 1

1. A Blessed Life Is Defined by Position

“That person is like a tree planted by streams of water...” (Psalm 1:3)

True prosperity begins with where we are planted. Scripture repeatedly uses water as a picture of God’s presence and provision (John 4:10–14; James 4:8). A blessed life is rooted near God—through His Word, prayer, worship, and daily dependence on Him.

James 4:8 (NIV):

Come near to God and he will come near to you.

2. A Blessed Life Is Marked by Fruitfulness

“...which yields its fruit in season...” (Psalm 1:3)

God calls His people to be productive—not merely busy, but fruitful. This includes excellence in everyday responsibilities and spiritual fruit that glorifies God and blesses others.

John 15:16 (NIV):

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last.

Our lives are meant to visibly reflect God’s work within us.

3. A Blessed Life Perseveres Through Every Season

“...whose leaf does not wither...” (Psalm 1:3)

Droughts, hardships, and resistance are inevitable. Prosperity in God’s eyes includes endurance—continuing to trust, obey, and follow Christ even when circumstances are difficult.

Hebrews 12:1–2 (NIV):

Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus...

A life rooted in Christ remains spiritually alive even in challenging seasons.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Take time to reflect personally before discussing as a group.

1. When you think about “the good life,” how does Psalm 1 challenge or reshape your definition?
2. In what ways does our culture define prosperity differently than Scripture?
3. Why do you think Psalm 1 emphasizes *where* we are planted rather than *what* we achieve?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Position

- What does it practically look like to “plant yourself near the presence of God” in daily life?
- Which spiritual practices help you draw near to God most consistently?
- Are there habits or distractions pulling you away from that position?

Productivity

- Where has God placed you right now (home, work, school, community)?
- What kind of fruit might God be calling you to produce in this season?
- How can productivity for God’s kingdom look different from worldly success?

Perseverance

- What seasons of spiritual drought or difficulty have tested your faith?
- What helps you stay faithful when progress feels slow or unseen?
- What does “fixing your eyes on Jesus” look like in real life?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

This week, prayerfully consider:

- **Position:** One intentional step you can take to draw nearer to God.
- **Productivity:** One way you can bear fruit that blesses others.
- **Perseverance:** One obstacle or distraction you may need to lay aside to keep running the race faithfully.

Write these down and revisit them throughout the week.

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, thank You for showing us what a truly blessed life looks like. Help us to plant ourselves near Your presence, to bear fruit that brings You glory, and to persevere through every season. Shape our definition of success according to Your Word, and lead us down the path of righteousness. May our lives be a source of nourishment and healing for others as we walk with You. In Jesus' name, Amen.