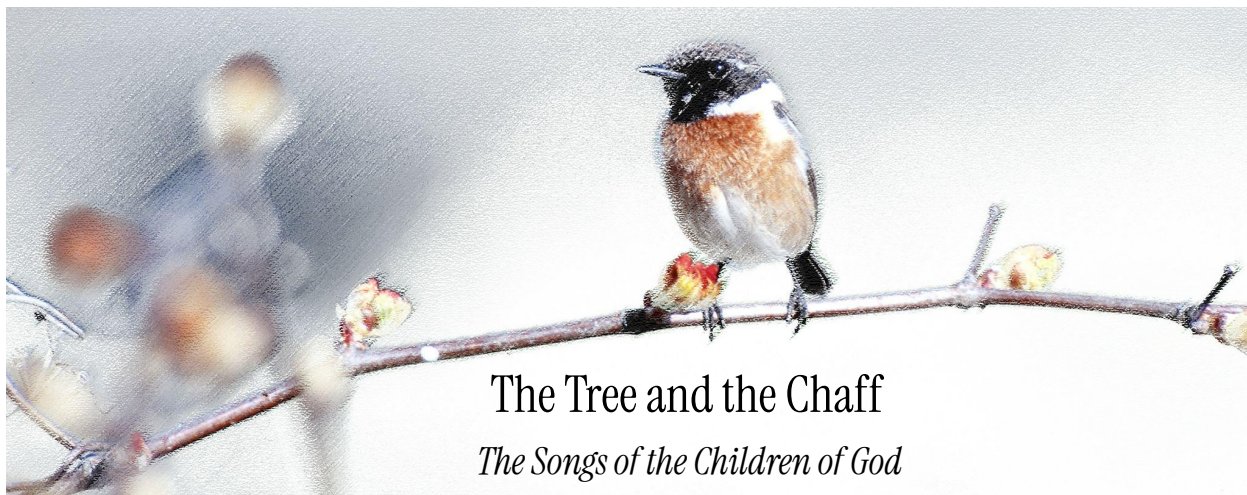




The Tree and the Chaff

The Songs of the Children of God

September 6, 2026

PSALM 1

Happy the man who has not walked in the wicked's counsel,
nor in the way of offenders has stood,
nor in the session of scoffers has sat.
But the LORD's teaching is his desire,
and His teaching he murmurs day and night.
And he shall be like a tree planted by streams of water,
that bears its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither—
and in all that he does he prospers.
Not so the wicked,
but like chaff that the wind drives away.
Therefore the wicked will not stand up in judgment,
nor offenders in the band of the righteous.
For the LORD embraces the way of the righteous,
and the way of the wicked is lost.

Metaphor One: Two Roads Diverged...

Verse 1b: Not <i>walked</i> in the wicked's counsel Nor <i>stood</i> in the way of offenders Nor <i>sat</i> in the session of scoffers	Verse 2: Desires the Lord's teaching Murmurs His teaching day & night
Verse 6a: Verdict: this way is destruction	Verse 1 a and 6b: Blessed! Verdict: this way is God-embraced

Metaphor Two: Contrast Between Tree and Chaff

Verse 3: Tree planted by a stream of water Bears fruit in season Leaf does not wither "Continually prospers"	Verse 4: Wind-driven chaff Not stand (!) in the judgment Not included in the righteous company
Roots that access water and nutrients NOT a prosperity gospel Blossoms as designed (in season) Heat resistant but heat nonetheless Inside out, unseen things: 2 Cor 4:18	Threshing and winnowing Extraneous, worthless, trivial, destined to be burned or thrown away Opposite of <i>kavod</i> : glory, honor Opposite of a fruit-bearing tree

Key Insights

God's being is the only true life source for human flourishing
 A flourishing life requires a healthy God-connected root system
 The nature of roots: always on the osmosis job
 Connecting our roots to God's life through unceasing prayer: **1 Thessalonians 5:17**
 Thomas Kelly's **A Testament of Devotion**: *alternation* and *simultaneity*
 The natural simultaneity of my own well-being
 Can that natural flow be switched over to Jesus (the vine)?
 The tantalizing text of Galatians 2:20
 How to access this completed operation?
 I shall desire it and murmur about it night and day until I am embraced by God

An even more forceful version: Joseph Prince

If you want rhetoric with a little more thunder in it, Joseph Prince provides an extraordinarily emphatic reading of Psalm 1:3. In a sermon titled **“The One Thing That Brings Success in Every Area,”** he says:

“Look at this verse. ‘Whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.’ Let’s all read it. ‘Whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.’ Or she doeth. This is the Old King James. **Whatever you do will prosper. Whatever means whatever. Nothing excepted.**”

He goes even further:

“Even your mistakes can prosper.”

Then he reiterates:

“So whatever he doeth shall prosper. **God does not waste words. God is a God of his word. If God says whatsoever, God is glorified when his people honor him and say, ‘I agree whatsoever.’**”