

YEAR OF GLORY TO GOD:

“HOW WILL MY TESTIMONY MAKE THE "GLORY LIST OF 2021"?”

“BE PLANTED BY THE RIVERS OF WATER”

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BE PLANTED BY THE RIVERS OF WATER

Jeremiah 17:5-8 presents us with two alternatives:

“⁵ This is what the LORD says:

Option 1

“Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who draws strength from mere flesh and whose heart turns away (blows hot and cold) from the LORD.

⁶ That person will be like a bush in the wastelands; they will not see prosperity when it comes.

Option 2

“But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in Him (steady). ⁸ They will be like a tree planted by the rivers of water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.”

Psalm 1:

1 Blessed is the one who does not **walk in step with the wicked** or stand in the path that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers,

2 but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and

night. **3** 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.

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

To be planted by the water, therefore, means:

1. Trust in the Lord alone; draw strength from God; be hot (full commitment) for God.
2. Have confidence in the Lord and what He can do
3. Do not copy the steps/ways of “the wicked”/unrighteous
4. Delight in the law of the Lord ---- delight = have joy/smiling appearance
5. Meditate on the Law of God. At point of decision, ask yourself “what will Jesus do?”

Trust in the Lord alone

Trust in the Lord alone; draw strength from God; be hot (full commitment) for God.

Psalm 62:5, David said:

“For God alone my soul waits in silence and quietly submits to Him, For my hope is from Him.” ⁶ He only is my rock and my salvation; My fortress *and* my defense, I will not be shaken *or* discouraged. ⁷ On God my salvation and my glory rest; He is my rock of [unyielding] strength, my refuge is in God. ⁸ Trust [confidently] in Him at all times, O people; Pour out your heart before Him. God is a refuge for us.

By this humble and trusting nature, David put a lot of testimonies on the glory list:

- He killed the lion and the bear that came to attack the flocks in his care
- God anointed him with power and he became the leader of the children of Israel
1 Samuel 16:17 “Samuel took the flask of olive oil and anointed David. And from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon David.”
- He killed Goliath with only a string and pebble
- He became very wealthy (2 Chronicles 29:28) - ²⁸ David was rich and respected

Have confidence in the Lord and what He can do

Philippians 1:6; “being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

Jeremiah 17: “⁸ They will be like a tree planted by the rivers of water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green.”

God will continue to enable us send our roots by the stream and keep our leaves always green.

In 2 King 17, Elijah asked the widow of Zarephath to bring him water and bread.

¹² “As surely as the LORD your God lives (in all honesty and truth),” she replied, “I don’t have any bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it—and die.” Elijah said to her, ¹⁴ ... , the God of Israel, says: ‘The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD sends rain on the land.’”

¹⁵ She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. ¹⁶ For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the LORD spoken by Elijah.

Brethren, this woman began to enjoy life like a tree planted by the rivers of water. It did not then matter that there was famine in Israel, God supplied her need - **jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry.** The river continued to flow for her.

Do not copy the steps/ways of “the wicked”/unrighteous

Human can make irrational decision if put under pressure.

In Acts 4: ³² All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. ³³ With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God’s grace was so powerfully at work in them all ³⁴ that there were no needy

persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales ³⁵ and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

³⁶ Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"), ³⁷ sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.

Acts 5 Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. ² With his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet.

³ Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? ⁴ Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied just to human beings but to God."

Ananias, his wife Sapphira momentarily shifted from path of the righteous to path of the wicked. That is dangerous. If you want to follow God follow God but don't blow both sides.

In Luke 22, we saw that Judas agreed to betray Jesus:

Jesus said “²¹ But the hand of him who is going to betray me is with mine on the table.”

Suddenly, a righteous decides to go on the path and steps of sinners.

Brethren, we need to be very careful, especially the directions we go at the point of decisions.

Judas had an option to say “NO” but he did not. He was not forgiven. He died.

Matthew 24: ¹² Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, ¹³ but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.

Brethren, devil is keen to pull us into the sins of the wicked, please let's resist him.

Luke 22, Jesus said to Peter: ³¹ “Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. ³² But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.”

Though Peter denied Jesus, he turned back and his shadow began to raise the dead.

Delight in the law of the Lord; Meditate on the Law of God and at point of decision, ask yourself “what will Jesus do?”

Joshua 1: “8This Book of the Law must not depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it.

For then you will prosper and succeed in all you do.

Brethren, to get our testimonies on the glory list, we need to “BE PLANTED BY THE RIVER OF WATER”

Trust in the Lord alone; draw strength from God; Have confidence in the Lord and what He can do – be strong in the power of His might. Do not copy the steps/ways of “the wicked”/unrighteous. Delight in the law of the Lord, Meditate on the Law of God. And at point of decision, let “**what will Jesus do?**” guide you.