



Planted By God

"Knowing your environment"

Psalms 1:1-3 Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the [a]ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; 2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he [b]meditates day and night. 3 **He shall be like a tree Planted by the [c]rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.**¹

Purpose flourishes when we are planted in the right spiritual soil. Fruitfulness is not something we force. It is what happens when we are planted where God placed us and rooted in Him. Remember that "You are planted by God".

The Pressure to Produce

We live in a culture that says to hustle harder, build your brand, and chase your success.

Many believers carry that pressure into the church. We strain to make things happen, then wonder why we feel dry, tired, and unfruitful. Here is a different way to see it: **when you operate in your purpose, success becomes a byproduct.** It comes not because you forced it, but because you found the environment God created you to live in. Notice the word is *environment*, not just *calling* or *career*. **Before God asks anything of us, He places us somewhere.** Today we will look at what it means to be planted in the right spiritual environment.

Question: Are you trying to produce fruit, or are you positioned to bear it?



God Prepares the Environment Before He Assigns the Work

Genesis 2:8, 15 NKJV The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. 15 - Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.

- God planted a garden first, *then* put the man there, *then* gave him work to do.
- The order matters. **Presence comes before production.** Adam's assignment flowed out of his location with God.

- Many of us reverse it. We ask "What should I do?" before asking "Where does God want me, and with whom?"

Purpose is not only about what you do. It is also about where you are positioned spiritually. Ask God for His place for you, not just His plan for you. This is what we call position before purpose.

The purpose has two parts: assignment and position

- **Assignment** is what God calls you to do (your work, gifts, ministry).
- **Position** is where God places you spiritually (your relationship with Him, your church family, your season).
- We spend most of our energy on the first and neglect the second. **A right assignment in the wrong position becomes frustration.** A right assignment in the right position becomes fruitfulness.

The Biblical Pattern: Place Comes First

- **Adam** (Genesis 2:8, 15): God prepared the garden, placed the man in it, and only then gave him work.
- **Abraham** (Genesis 12:1): "Go to the land I will show you." The place came before the promise unfolded.
- **Isaac** (Genesis 26:2-3): "Stay in this land." Blessing followed his position.
- **Pattern: In each case, God's where came before God's what.**

Two Different Prayers

Ask in prayer. "Lord, show me where You want me planted in this season."

Search the Word. Let Scripture shape your direction (Psalm 119:105).

Seek godly counsel. Pastors and mature believers help you see what you can't (Proverbs 11:14).

Fruit Is a Byproduct, Not a Performance

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- The blessed person is "like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season."
- A tree does not strain to produce fruit. It stays rooted, stays near the water, and fruit comes in its season.
- Psalms 1: 1-3 speaks about three things: **planted** (positioned by God), **watered** (sustained by His Word, v. 2), and **in season** (God controls the timing). Isaac in Gerar. Genesis 26:1-12 - There was a famine, and the logical move was to go to Egypt where there was food. **But God said, "Stay in the land I show you." Isaac obeyed and sowed in a famine. In the same year he reaped a hundredfold, "because the Lord blessed him."** The harvest did not come from the soil alone. It came from obedience to God's direction. **Application: You can be in a place of famine and still be in the right place. Being where God wants you matters more than what's happening around you.**
- **Circumstances Don't Define Your Place**
 - We often read hard conditions as a sign we are in the wrong place.
 - Scripture shows the opposite: God can place His people in famine, wilderness, or exile, and still be with them there.
 - **The question is not "Is it easy here?" but "Is God here, and did He send me here?"** The harvest did not come from the soil, the weather, or the economy. It came from God's blessing on an obedient man in the right place.
 - **Joseph** in prison (Genesis 39:20-23): "The Lord was with Joseph" even there.
 - **Daniel** in Babylon (Daniel 6:3-4): Excellent and faithful in a foreign, hostile land.
 - **Paul** in chains (Philippians 1:12-14): His imprisonment advanced the gospel.
 - **Pattern:** Hard environment, secure *spiritual* position, lasting fruit.

John 15:4-5 NKJV - Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. [5] "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.



our Spiritual Environment Shapes Your Growth

Jeremiah 17: 7 - 8 "Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, And whose hope is the LORD. [8] For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, Which spreads out its roots by the river, And will not fear when heat comes; But its leaf will be green, And will not be anxious in the year of drought, Nor will cease from yielding fruit.

Jeremiah contrasts two plants. One is a shrub in the desert, dependent on itself and others, that "does not see prosperity when it comes." The other is a tree by the water that does not fear when heat comes and "never fails to bear fruit."

A plant does not decide its own health by willpower. Light, water, soil, and climate shape it. Spiritual life works the same way. **What surrounds you either feeds you or drains you, often without you noticing.**

- Growth is not just what is *in* you. It is also what is *around* you.
- Growth Begins With Environment

Build new rhythms: daily Word, prayer, weekly worship.

- **Voices:** Whose counsel is shaping me? - Proverbs 13:20, "Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm."
- **Habits:** Am I regularly in the Word and in prayer, or only visiting? - Colossians 2:6-7, "Rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith."
- **Community:** Am I rooted in a church family, or floating on the edge? - Hebrews 10:24-25, do not give up meeting together; Psalm 92:13, those planted in God's house flourish.
- **Atmosphere:** Does my home, my friendships, and my media feed my spirit or drain it? - Romans 12:2, do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by renewing your mind.

Application: You may not need to work harder. You may need to be replanted. Some seasons of dryness are not a lack of effort but the wrong soil.

Replanting is not about cutting off people who are hurting or running from every difficulty. It is about being intentional about what shapes you, while still showing love to others.



he Right Environment Is Not Always Comfortable

Daniel 6:3-4 NKJV - Then this Daniel distinguished himself above the governors and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king gave thought to setting him over the whole realm. [4] So the governors and satraps sought to find some charge against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find no charge or fault, because he was faithful; nor was there any error or fault found in him.

Being in the right place does not mean an easy place. Daniel was fruitful in Babylon, and Paul was fruitful in chains.

Their environment was hostile, but their *spiritual* environment was secure. They were rooted in God.

Jesus also says the Father **prunes** the branches that bear fruit, "so that they will be even more fruitful" (John 15:2). Pruning feels like loss, but it is preparation.

Application: Don't confuse comfort with confirmation, or difficulty with disqualification. The question is not "Is this easy?" but "Am I rooted and following God here?"

Philippians 1:12-14 NKJV - But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, [13] so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ; [14] and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

Christ Himself Is the Environment

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