

**Speaker:** Pastor Buster Brown

**Today's Message:** Strength Renewed: The Centrality of Scripture

**Today's Text:** Isaiah 40:31; Psalm 1:1-4

“But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.” **Isaiah 40:31**

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; 2 but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. 3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. 4 The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. **Psalm 1:1-4**

1. The pursuit of the sustaining knowledge of the Lord, is a j\_\_\_\_\_, a \_\_\_\_\_, i\_\_\_\_\_, e\_\_\_\_\_ effort; which requires refusal and embrace. (Psalm 1:1-2)
2. We work toward a posture and an attitude of d\_\_\_\_\_, as we embrace the word of God. (delight=to treasure as precious)
3. Meditation (murmuring, pondering, singing) versus mere mental assent.

“Oh, how abundant is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you and worked for those who take refuge in you, in the sight of the children of mankind!”

**Psalm 31:19**

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight. 11 For by me your days will be multiplied, and years will be added to your life.

**Proverbs 9:10-11**

“The habits we adopt form our desires, which drive our beliefs. When those habits form desires for immediacy, superficiality, continual engagement, and instant gratification, we should expect our beliefs to reflect these desires. The Content of our beliefs will be formed by our habits, but so will the nature of our beliefs. Specifically, a distracted age presents beliefs as fragile, fragmented, internal, changing, individual preferences. This conception of belief is supported by the effects of our secular age, and together these trends create a barrier to belief in the transcendent, exclusive gospel of Jesus Christ.” **Disruptive**

**Witness**, Alan Noble, p. 30

Two of the Daily Habits from **The Common Rule** by Justin Whitmel Earley.

- One hour with the phone off.
  - Scripture before phone.
4. Fruit-bearing: the promise. (v.3-4)
- Planted by streams of water.

“On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, ‘If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’ 39 Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.”

**John 7:37-39**

- Yields fruit in season.
- Strong and vital, i.e. “its leaf does not wither.”

“The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

13 They are planted in the house of the Lord; they flourish in the courts of our God. 14 They still bear fruit in old age; they are ever full of sap and green, 15 to declare that the Lord is upright; he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.”

**Psalm 92:12-15**

- Prospers.

“Jesus said, ‘Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel’”

**Mark 10:29**

“But godliness with contentment is great gain...18 They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, 19 thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.” **1 Timothy 6:6, 18-19**

The comparison and contrast between a tree firmly planted, and chaff which is easily blown away. (v.3-4)

ANSWER KEY: joyful, arduous, intentional, enthusiastic, delight

### QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- 1) What is the refusal and embrace paradigm in receiving Scripture from Psalm 1:1-2?
- 2) How do you differentiate from meditation and knowledge-gathering?
- 3) Why does the ploy of “Noise! Noise! Noise!” (Screwtape Letters, CS Lewis) and the never-ending stream of information disrupt the “planted by streams of water” experience?

“Humans are tremendously gifted at hypocrisy and inconsistency, but a ubiquitous, powerful stream of information and interaction driven by technology enable these gifts to flourish.”

**Disruptive Witness**, p. 26

- 4) What are the promises of March 10:29 and 1 Timothy 6:19?
- 5) Compare and contrast someone who is “planted” and someone who is like the “chaff that is driven by the wind”?

“What we suffer from today is humility in the wrong place. Modesty has moved from the organ of ambition and settled upon the organ of conviction, where it was never meant to be. A man was meant to be doubtful about himself, but undoubting about the truth; this has been exactly reversed. We are on the road to producing a race of men too mentally modest to believe in the multiplication table.”

**G.K. Chesterton, Orthodoxy**