

Meditating On God's Word

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C. Elijah Bronner: The more value that is added to yourself, the more value you'll be able to add to others.

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(Crosstalk: 00:00:23 - 00:00:51)

And now for 7789, Meditating on God's Word Part 3.

C. Elijah Bronner: Thank you for joining Brothers of the Word because brother, you need the word.

We welcome all of you joining us by television and those of you joining us online at brothersoftheword.com, Facebook Live, welcome to today's service, always a wonderful delight and joy to have you to join us.

I would like to share just a little humor. A kindergarten teacher, she went around observing her students drawing, and one little girl was drawing very intently and the teacher stopped and asked her, she said, "What are you drawing, little girl?" She said, "I'm drawing God." And the teacher said, "Well, no one knows what God looks like." The little girl without skipping a bit or missing anything, she didn't even look at from her paper. She said, "They will in a minute."

Well, we are doing Part 3 of something we've been sharing in the last few weeks entitled, "Meditating on God's Word." And we've been using as a text, Psalms 1:1-3, "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful."

Notice the progression there. The man goes from walking to standing to sitting. So, sin brings you to a complete stop. It stops you in your tracks and it eventually brings you to a place where you're no longer productive at all. So, he was walking, standing and then sitting. So, sin slows you down and brings you to a screeching halt.

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat

of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper." So, that's the man that's meditating. He made God's word his delight.

Then, Joshua 1:8. "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."

So, in Joshua, we see prosperity and good success and then in Psalms 1, we see a flourishing tree, the imagery of a flourishing tree by the rivers of water and this tree is nourished because its grow down into the rivers and so it's flourishing, it's fruitful, it's green, the leaves never wither. And so, that's a picture of our lives when our lives are planted in God's word when our lives are planted in godliness in relationship with God. It's a flourishing life. It's joy-filled life. It's a prosperous life and I believe that this is a result of having a love for God's word. A love for God's word and we are talking specifically about meditating on God's word. And this is Part 3.

I shared some other scriptures about meditating on the word and Psalms 119, you don't have to turn there, but Psalms 119 has several verses on meditating. The Psalm just talks about how much he loves God's word. How he meditated on a day and night. So, Psalms 119, you could find it in Verse 15, 16, 23, 24, 48, 148, Psalm 63:6. But I want to look particularly at a couple verses, Psalms 119 Verse 97-99 and it reads, it says, "O how love I thy law! It is my meditation all the day. Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation."

And so, the Psalm here, He refers to how meditating in the word was actually making him smarter.

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It was making him better. It was making him brighter. It was filling his life with wisdom and so He noticed that revelation was

coming into his life as a result of him meditating in the word. And I want to share with you that meditating on God's word will yield in size that are deeply practical. So, meditating in God's word will give you practical insights into your everyday life because God is wisdom. And Proverbs 2:6 says, "For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding."

And so, God gives wisdom and this wisdom sits on top of His word. And so, when your heart and mind is full of His word, it's easier for God now to speak wisdom into your life because that wisdom sits right on top of His word and it comes out of His mouth. And also Proverbs 6:22, I found this verse years ago and just loved it. It talks about God's word and it says that, "While you sleep, God's word will keep you. When you go, God's word will lead you. And when you wake up, God's word will talk with you."

And so, that's the wisdom of God. So, meditating on God's word, it yields practical insight into everyday life. You gain practical insight in the everyday life from meditating on God's word. And so, God speaks specifically about things going on in your life, events going on in your life, problems going on in your life. You get greater insight, greater clarity, greater revelation, you know exactly what to do. God have dropped solutions because you've been meditating in His word and that wisdom will come out of His mouth concerning any area that you need help in. That's one of the benefits of meditating in God's word.

I remember once I was meditating in the word and all of a sudden, I had a revelation concerning one of my daughters and her college path, and it just came to me out of the blue. I wouldn't even think about it. I was meditating on the word and all of a sudden, I know exactly what to do about her college. Well, that's practically insight that comes from meditating in God's word.

There have been times where I've just have practical insight come to me from meditating on God's word where God might tell me, "You need to go to bed. You don't need to stay up late. Go to bed." How many remember(ph) God will tell you to go to bed? God would tell you to go to bed. God would tell you to drink more water. God would tell you to work out and God would tell you not to eat that. God would tell you not to say that. And so, this insight comes to you in various areas of life. It'll speak to you in your marriage relationships. God would tell you don't say that. Or, he will say, "Do this."

Well, it happens more readily and it happens more often when you've been meditating in the word because now your spirit is just more tuned to the voice of the Holy Spirit and God has material to work with to speak to you. Your spirit is just more tuned and more receptive to hear His voice. I mean, He is the word. God is the word. So, you've been meditating -- or you've been meditating in Him. He is the word. In the beginning He was the word and the word was with God, and the word was God. So, you're meditating in the word, you're meditating on Jesus. You're meditating on God because He is the word. He is the word.

And so, the Holy Spirit is more king to speak to us in various areas of life when we've been meditating in His word. So, meditating on God's word yields insights that are very practical, deeply practical in our lives.

I wrote this down when I heard Bishop Dale say this. He said, "The Bible is good --." And all of these start with a letter C. He said, "The Bible is good to change to you, convict you, correct you and coach you." Praise God. So, the Bible will speak to you. It will speak to you. So, it changes us, corrects us, convicts us and it coaches us.

And then, I also like something else Bishop Dale said. I wrote this down too. I'm a good student. Anytime somebody says something good, I write it down. I'm a good student. You can't be a good teacher if you're not a good student. You have to be a student first. And so, I'm a good student so I collect things. Wherever I am, I try to learn something. I try to learn something new everyday. You have to ask yourself before you go to bed, "What did I learn new today?" Because if you don't learn anything new, you're not growing. You're not growing, you're not getting information that can change your life and revolution that in your life if you're not something each day. Try to learn, at least, one thing. Before you go to sleep, "What did I learn new today?" And if you say, "Nothing", get up and pull the dictionary out and learn a new word.

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So, you can always say you learned something new. But anyway, I've started learning notebook. And so, I have a notebook and I have one in my phone and I have a physical notebook. And so, I started writing down. I called it, "A Learning Notebook." And

every day, I endeavor to put something in my learning notebook that I learn this today. This is something good I learned today.

You'll be surprised how you will begin to grow and you will begin to increase your knowledge base and that helps you because the more value that is added to yourself, the more value you'll be able to add to others because your own knowledge base is growing and it causes you to be able to change your own life and you'll be able to help others. And so, it always helps. It always helps to learn something new.

Turn to your neighbors, "What did you learn new today?" Turn back and say, "I'll let you know right after service. I'm learning something --. But there is something else. But anyway, I put this in my learning notebook. I learn this from Bishop Dale. He said, "Whenever you approach the word of God, put on your SPECS." Like your spectacles, but he call them. Put on your SPECS. And he use SPECS as an acronym. S-P-E-C-S, SPECS. Everybody say, "SPECS."

Respondent: SPECS.

C. Elijah Bronner: So, when you approach God's word, put your SPECS on. The S stands for sin to confess. So, whenever you read God's word, always ask yourself the question, "In this passage that I'm reading, is there a sin that I need to confess?" The P stands for promise. So, whenever you read God's word, ask yourself, "Is there a promise for me to claim?" The E stands for example. When you read God's word, ask yourself, "Is there an example for me to follow?" The C is command. Ask yourself when you read God's word, "Is there a command for me to obey? Is there a command for me to obey as a stumbling block? Is there a stumbling block for me to avoid?" So, put your specs on. Put your specs on whenever you approach God's word.

When we left off last time talking about a part of meditating in God's word is keeping it before your eyes. And that comes out of Proverbs Chapter 4 Verse 20-22. "My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from before thine eyes."

And so, we talked a little bit about how -- you remember we define meditation means to mother, means to think about, means to ponder, means to speak God's word softly, means to repeat God's

word softly, means to contemplate something while repeating it. So, it's to think, to ponder, to reflect, to mother. You're thinking about it. You're going over and over it in your mind, but all those things are parts of meditating. So, whatever you think about, you end up bringing about. Whatever you think about, you bring about. Your life moves in the direction of your most dominant thought. And so, when you're meditating on God's word, you're thinking on God's word and your life begins to move in that direction.

And so, we talked about keeping the word before our eyes and I gave you several examples of how to keep the word in your mind's eye. Keep it physically before your eyes but -- I showed you how my daughter put it on index cards and she has her whole door covered in God's word in her wall. It's covered in God's word. You can put it on the refrigerator because that's definitely one place you will see it. Well, you can put it on the mirror, put it on the refrigerator and you became creative, put it on your cellphone, make it a screensaver. And so, you want to keep it before your eyes.

Dodie Osteen, this is Joel Osteen's mother. She was at one point in her life -- this is probably about 30 years ago. But at one point in her life, she was diagnosed. I believe it was liver cancer. The doctor gave her maybe just a month or two to live. She had dwindle down to less than 100 pounds and her husband John as they were in the hospital, the doctor said, "There's no hope and you have just a short time left." And John told the doctor, he said, "Well, we believe in miracles." And the doctor said, "Well, you're going to need one." And he picked up his wife. She was probably about 90 or 95 pounds. He took her to the car and carried her home and Dodie said that when she got home, she put up scriptures all around the house. She put God's healing word everywhere she could think of. She took all the healing scriptures and she begin to paste them on the wall, on the refrigerator, on the cabinet, on the mirror, she put them all over the house and she says she also called everybody she knew and she asked for forgiveness.

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She told everybody she love them. And so, she made sure she had all forgiveness out of her life and nothing but love in her life. Nancy just meditated on God's word as she walked around the

house because it's all over the house. Well, I want you to know, 30 years later, Dodie Osteen is still alive and doing well. Praise God. That's the power of keeping God's word before your eyes. It's powerful.

Also, I remember her husband John, he have had open-heart surgery and he was in the hospital and he told his son, Joel, he said, "Joel, I want you to go home and get my running suit and bring it here and put in the hospital room, put it right down on the floor so I can look at it because I want to keep that picture in my mind of running." And so, you have to keep God's word before your eyes.

Always allow the Holy Spirit to use your imagination to paint a picture of God's promise of being fulfilled in your life. Allow the Holy Spirit to use your imagination to paint a picture. He will give you a picture. He will give you a picture on the inside. So, imagination is powerful. You mix imagination with God's word and you paint a picture of the fulfilled promise in your life and you keep that. That's what you think about and that's what you see. You see yourself that way. You see yourself with what God says you have. You see yourself doing what God says you can do. You see yourself in the light of the law, the spirit of life that's in Christ Jesus. You see yourself in the fulfillment of the promise and you see the promise fulfilled in your life no matter what it is.

If you're struggling with sickness and disease, see yourself will. If you've been defeated and if you failed in life, see yourself accomplishing your dream, see yourself victorious, see yourself carrying out your life's purpose. And so, that's keeping the word in front of your eyes, keeping it in front of your eyes. So, (00:16:48) like keep the word in front of your eyes. Keep it in front of your eyes. Put it before your eyes. Keep it before your eyes. That's powerful. What you continue to look at eventually gets down into your heart.

I also want to tell you this about meditating in the word. Use your senses. Use your senses and I mean your physical senses. I guess what I'm trying to say -- let's say for instance, if you're meditating in the four gospels and you're meditating on the life of Jesus, use your senses. When Jesus stepped into Peter's boat, he told Peter to push out a little bit from the shore and Jesus stood or actually sat and he taught the people out of Peter's boat.

Now, if you're reading that, you want to meditate on that. Put yourself back in the scene. Act like you're there. Use your senses. Hear the sound of the water on the shore. Feel the sunlight glistening down on the crowd. Use your senses. You have to be able to hear the seagulls that are flying overhead as Jesus is teaching in the boat. That's using your senses. So, actually use your senses to see it, to touch it, to hear it, to feel it. Put yourself actually in the story. Put yourself in the story. You don't know how many times I have been in the house where Jesus was teaching in the house and they let the man down through the ceiling. You don't know how many times I've sat in that house and I have seen particles falling as they broke off on the roof. I was sitting there in the living room looking at it. You use your imagination to put yourself in the story.

And then, sometimes, you feel the characters, feel the characters, touch His hand, you touch His hand. You touch His hand. Feel the characters. When you have straight away and when you have sinned, see yourself as a prodigal son and the father in and out falling on your neck, kissing you, welcoming you home and forgiving you. You have to feel the character. Everybody say, "Feel the characters." Use your senses. See it, hear it, touch it, taste it, hear it, put yourself in the story. That's meditating on God's word.

And then, there are times where you put yourself in different characters. You can be the woman that broke the bottle that anointed Him with oil because this woman was forgiven of her sins. She was forgiven of her sins. And so, she was overjoyed because she had been forgiven of her sins and she loved them so much, and she just poured profusely and washed His feet. Put yourself in the character. So, you have to feel the characters. Use your senses. And then, take the gift. Everybody say, "Take the gift."

Here's a part of meditation where for instance when Jesus says, "My peace I give to you and I'll leave my peace with you." Take the gift. Actually, at that moment as you're reading that, you got to just stretch your arms out and say, "I receive your peace right now." And that's receiving the gift. This is moving now more from just reading it in the book. I'm actually receiving the piece of Jesus right now. And so, you close your eyes and open your arms and say, "Jesus, I receive that peace. I receive it not just let it feel my life right now." That's meditating on the word. That's

meditating. You're actually seeing it, you're experiencing it, you're feeling it, you're hearing it, you're tasting it. So, you use your senses. You use your senses to feel it, hear it, taste it, grab and take the gift and receive the gift. Everybody say, "Take the gift." Praise God. Amen.

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Well, those are all some very vital parts of meditating in God's word and I'm pretty much done as far as principles about Meditating in God's Word. But what I wanted to share in my closing minutes -- I'm actually done. What I wanted to share in my closing minutes, I've been outlining -- I told you the last couple of weeks, I've been outlining all the epistles of the New Testament. I'm in the process of reading through the Bible and I got into the epistles. And so, when I got over into the epistles, for some reason, the Holy Spirit just sort of nudged me and said, "Why don't you take the time to really find out what belongs to you in each epistle. I want to take the time to really find out what's yours, what Jesus is about for you. Also, to glean everything you can about what each epistle is presenting you." And so, I said, "Okay, Holy Spirit. That's a good idea." So, I went back and started at the Book of Romans the first epistle. And so, I've outlined Romans, First and Second Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, I haven't done Colossians. So, my next could be Colossians.

But anyway, this week, I did Philippians. And so, I just want to share my outline with the Philippians and this will help you to meditate. So, this is an example of how to meditate on the Book of Philippians. So, I went through, I read the Book of Philippians and I poured out sort of the key points. I put it in first person. And so, I want you to repeat after me. So, you repeat after me and this will be the outline of Philippians and this will show you how you can meditate on different books of the Bible. So, repeat after me. Everything I tell you, these principles have come out of the Book of Philippians, so I simply put it in my own words. I extracted the principle and put it in my own words and put it first person. So, repeat after me.

I delight to do God's will. God is working in me. God is continually working something good in me. My love is growing and abounding. I am free from strife and offense. I walk in humility. I am filled with the fruits of righteousness. I conduct

myself according to the character of Christ and God's word. I am righteous by faith in Christ Jesus. I focus on things that are positive, good and uplifting. I am unselfish and seek to help and assist others. I am interested in helping others win. I don't argue and I don't complain. I'm working towards fresh goals and dreams and I'm excited about my future. I don't worry about anything. Instead, I pray about everything. I love a balanced godly life and I am kind to everyone. I am able to keep my piece and joy in all circumstances because of Christ Jesus. God supplies all my need. The grace of Jesus is with me. Praise God.

Give yourselves a hand. Amen. Give God a hand for His word. Amen. Amen. You all just recited the whole book of Philippians. I just extracted all the -- put it in first person and put them on my own words, pull the truth out. But everything you just said, that's the Book of First Philippians. So, I'm going through every piece of doing the same thing. I'm finding out everything that belongs to me because of Christ Jesus. I'm finding out the conduct and the character I should have and finding out what I shouldn't be doing out of every epistle. Now, that's meditating on the word. Man, that's what you call milking the word for everything is worth. That takes the Bible from just a history book to a book that's alive, into a book that's filled with purpose, into a book that has power, and then to affect our lives, and to change our lives. That's the power of the Gospel. That's the power of the Gospel.

So, thank you all for joining me on this journey. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Stand on your feet. I'm out of time. Those of you watching us on television, I want you to go to brothersoftheword.com. You can listen to this into our series absolutely free of charge, Meditating on God's Word. You can also email it to a friend. Thank you so much for joining us today at Brothers of the Word because brother, you need the word.

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