

Beatitudes of the Psalms

The Bible does not just tell us how to live a better life; it shows us how to live a truly blessed life. Passages that begin with the word “blessed” are sometimes referred to as “beatitudes” (from the Latin *beatus*: “Happy, joyful, fortunate”). Examining the beatitudes found in the book of Psalms, what kind of life is said to be blessed?

The life that shuns evil and thinks continually on God’s word (Ps. 1:1-2) – “Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful, but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night.”

The life that knows forgiveness (Ps. 32:1-2) – “Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.”

The life that chooses to do right even when others are doing wrong (Ps. 40:4) – “Blessed is that man who makes the Lord his trust, and does not respect the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies.”

The life that shows generosity (Ps. 41:1) – “Blessed is he who considers the poor; the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble.”

The life that seeks a home with God and strength in God (Ps. 84:4-5) – “Blessed are those who dwell in Your house; they will still be praising You. Blessed is the man whose strength is in You, whose heart is set on pilgrimage.”

The life that studies and applies God’s curriculum (Ps. 94:12) – “Blessed is the man whom You instruct, O Lord, and teach out of Your law.”

The life that tries to deal fairly with all (Ps. 106:3) – “Blessed are those who keep justice, and he who does righteousness at all times.”

The life that really enjoys God’s word (Ps. 112:1) – “Praise the Lord! Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who delights greatly in His commandments.”

The life that “walks the walk” (Ps. 119:1-2) – “Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord! Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, who seek Him with the whole heart!”

The life that obeys God at home (Ps. 128:1) – Blessed is every one who fears the Lord, who walks in His ways.” (Read the rest of Psalm 128 – the emphasis is on one’s relationships and blessings at home).

Why not let God take greater control of YOUR life by thoughtfully applying His word?
What a wonderful thing to be blessed by God!

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