
Introduction to Scripture Meditation

Jack Hartman

Anyone who studies Joshua 1:8 and Psalm 1:1-3 will see the importance our Father places upon meditating on His Word. He promises wonderful rewards to His children who meditate day and night on the holy Scriptures. We recommend that you begin your meditation on these Scripture cards by reading all 52 cards (*last article in Finance section*) through completely. This first reading will give you an overview of the entire content of these Scripture cards. Then, you can meditate on one card at a time. Every word has been prayerfully written to help you operate in God's power to carry out His financial instructions.

What is Scripture meditation?

When we meditate on a passage of Scripture, we reflect quietly, deeply and thoroughly over a period of time on specific instructions and promises from God. We should always pray before we meditate, asking the Holy Spirit to teach us the meaning of each passage of Scripture as a personal message from God. We recommend that you insert your name into every possible Scripture reference to further personalize this message from God to you. Obey God's instructions to reflect on each passage of Scripture throughout the day and night. Turn it over and over in your mind. Look at it from every possible angle. The Word of God will come alive in your heart if you will meditate continually on these passages of Scripture.

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. *Joshua 1:8*

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 on His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper. *Psalms 1:1-3*

Renewing Your Mind

"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord" (2 Cor. 3:18).

Christianity is not just another religion. It is the life of God abiding within and flowing out of the believer. Other religions leave you the same person you were before. But the wonderful thing about the Christian life is that it will completely transform you.

When you are born again, your spirit is instantly transformed into the image of God. The spirit is the part of you that takes on the nature of God. According to the Word, once that happens you should immediately start the process of changing your soul. The Bible calls it "renewing the mind."

Your soul is your mind, will and emotions. **Spiritual growth is determined by how much your soul is changed by the Word of God.** The more you know the Word, the more you conform to the image of Jesus. When you are born again, nothing is wrong with your spirit - the life of God is in there - but you are hindered from living a spiritual life by a soul (mind) that thinks like the world instead of like God.

After becoming a Christian, the Bible instructs you to "put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness" (Eph. 4:24). This means that your soul and body are to take on the same image that is in your spirit. This happens through the process of changing your mind, your will and your emotions to understand and walk in the ways of God. We are to conform to the image of God's Son (Rom. 8:29). You and I ought to act just like Jesus. The only thing that stands in the way is our soul. Without a renewed mind, we could not dare to walk and act like Jesus.

That's why Romans 12:2 tells us "be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind." The word transformed is translated from the Greek word from which we get the term metamorphosis. This Greek word is used in the Scripture in two other places.

One such account is when Jesus was transfigured on the Mount. The other is in 2 Corinthians 3:18: "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." Changed is the same word in the Greek as transformed and transfigured. Our souls are changed when we spend time beholding the Lord in the Word and in prayer. It is a natural process like metamorphosis.

Renewing our minds causes our outer being to be transformed in much the same way as a caterpillar is changed into a butterfly. As we behold Him, our outer man changes to match the inner man which is created in righteousness and true holiness.

The world would have you think that God is a liar. Yet God tells you that Satan is the liar, and in between these two adversaries is your soul. Here is where the spiritual battle is fought. Therefore, **your soul must be anchored. Anchored to what? To the Word.** To eternal things. If it is moored to this world, you will never walk in victory or in the power of God. If your soul is not fixed on eternal things, it will not hold steady in the time of crisis.

When you become a Christian, you are sustained from the inside. Your spirit is steady in adversity. You are upheld and maintained by your spirit man and not by your intellect or reasoning. "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12).

God's Word divides (distinguishes between) the soul and the spirit. Nothing else can cause you to recognize whether you are being led by your soul and natural thinking or whether you are following your spirit which is led by the Holy Spirit.

Every problem, weakness or difficulty you have could be solved immediately if you could know the mind of God. But it takes effort, dedication and faithfulness to renew your mind. Mind renewal is not like the new birth. It is a process and doesn't come overnight. Though your spirit is renewed and transformed, your soul must be saved. Saved from what? From the world's influence and thinking.

James 1:21 is quite clear concerning this: "Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls." You can't just read the Word. It must be implanted in your soul (your mind) and be received with meekness.

Meekness is often misunderstood. It is a thing of power, not weakness. It is an attitude in which we accept God's dealing with us as good. Therefore, we do not resist His correction or guidance. Meekness is giving your will to God and letting Him change it. So, your soul is saved as you yield your will to God's will.

The Scripture says that God energizes and creates in us the power and the desire to will and to work for His good pleasure (Phil. 2:13). He works from the inside out, not from the outside in. He takes the image of the Word that is in our spirit and grafts it into our soul as we behold Him. Only then can we outwardly express the image of Jesus that we inwardly possess.

But this takes conscious effort. If you are just going to give God a couple of hours a week, your mind will not be renewed. The Word won't be implanted in you. You might know it with your head, but it's the engrafted Word in your soul that changes you. **It's the Word of God that controls your thinking and transforms your life.**

So, take the time to get away from the world and study God's Word. Meditate on it, and let it change you from the inside out. "Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you" (James 4:8). Make a conscious effort to allow the Word of God to be engrafted into you. Only then will you begin to understand His Word and His will. Only then will you be on your way to renewing your mind.

God Wants Us to Renew Our Minds

Jack Hartman – “Trust God for Your Finances” Chapter 5

IF WE WANT TO PROSPER HERE ON EARTH, OUR MINDS MUST BE RENEWED OUR SOULS MUST BE BROUGHT INTO LINE WITH GOD'S LAWS OF PROSPERITY

One of the biggest obstacles to learning and applying God's laws of prosperity is the tremendous difference between them and the world's system of prosperity. Many of us have followed the world's system for many years and it's not easy to change from long-standing habit patterns.

However, that is exactly what we must do. In order to understand and apply God's laws of prosperity, we must stop conforming to the world's system and “renew” our minds with God's laws of prosperity. If we do this, we will be handling our finances exactly the way our Father wants us to and our lives will be transformed. “Be not conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.” (Romans 12:2)

What does the word “renew” mean? It means to make new. It means to completely change. For example, when we see urban renewal in one of our cities, that portion of the city is totally altered. It is made “brand new.” This is what we must do with our minds before we can understand and apply God's laws of prosperity.

Our minds are like computers and they must be “programmed.” With God's laws of prosperity, most of us need to feed a great deal of new data into our “computers.” Are you willing to “erase” the tapes which have governed your lifetime financial habits so that you will line up with God's laws of prosperity instead of the world's system of finances?

If you are, God says that this will “transform” your life. This means that your life will be “completely changed.” In fact, the Greek word “metamorfosi,” (which means metamorphosis – a complete change) that is used in Romans 12:2 is the very same word that is used in Matthew 17:2 and Mark 9:2 to describe the “transfiguration” – the complete change – of Jesus Christ. This gives us some indication as to how greatly our lives can be transformed by the proper renewal of our minds.

Our Father, like any worldly father, wants very much for his children to prosper and to be successful and healthy. In fact, his Word says that he wants this “above all things” – more than anything else. “Beloved, I wish above all things that you prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers.” (3 John 2)

Of course, our Father wants us to be successful, healthy and prosperous, but did you notice the five word “qualifier” at the end – “even as thy soul prospers?” Many people who quote this specific verse of scripture seem to stop with the word “health.” We must not leave out the final five words. These last five words are the cause of the prosperity and health that are Father wants so much for us.

We will experience this prosperity and health that he wants so much for us in exact proportion to the degree that our souls are “prospered” – to the exact degree that our souls are made brand-new.

What is the “soul?” The soul is the combination of our minds, our wills and our emotions. In order to prosper, our souls must prosper and in order for our souls to prosper they must be made “brand-new” – they must be reprogrammed with information from God's Word.

A prosperous soul is a soul that is filled with God's Word. God wants us to constantly engage in the process of converting our souls from the world's ways to his ways. If we follow God's laws, even the most simple child will receive our Fathers wisdom.

“The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul, the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.”
(Psalm 19:7)

God's laws will never change. We are the ones who have to change. In order to prosper, we have to change from the way that we have always handled our finances to the way that our Father tells us to handle our finances. The time to do this changing is now. Prosperity will be “automatic” for us when we get to heaven.

All of God's children will enjoy His prosperity and abundance in heaven. However, prosperity obviously isn't “automatic” here on earth. If it was, we wouldn't ever see Christians with financial problems. If we want to prosper here on earth, our minds must be renewed. Our souls must be brought into line with God's laws of prosperity.

What exactly must be done so that our souls will prosper? This question is clearly answered in verses 2-4 of 3rd John 2. Instead of stopping with verse 2 as many people do, let's look at all 3 of these verses together.

“Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers. For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth that is in you, just as you walk in the truth. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.” (3 John 2-4)

The key word is the word “truth.” God's Word tells us exactly where to find “truth.” “Thy word is truth.” (John 17:17) The only place to find truth is in the Word of God. Verse 3 tells us that our Father wants His truth inside of us (deep down in our hearts) and that he wants us to walk in truth (live our daily lives based upon the teachings of his Word.) Verse 4 tells us that nothing gives him greater joy than to see his children walking in truth.

This is so clear! We will prosper under God's laws of prosperity to the exact degree that we fill our hearts with these laws and obey them in our daily lives. This isn't as easy as it might seem. Most of us will have to change considerably from the way that we have handled our finances in the past. We often nullify the effectiveness of God's laws because of our “tradition” – because of the way that we have always done things. “Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition.” (Mark 7:13)

As we constantly line up our thoughts, feelings, and emotions with God's Word, we will think and talk and act more and more like our Father thinks and talks and acts. Our Father doesn't ever think about financial or other shortages. There is no place for such thinking in His mind and he doesn't want us to allow any of that kind of thinking into our minds.

If our minds are continually filled with thoughts of doubt and unbelief, how can we possibly enjoy prosperity in our lives? God wants us to renew our minds because he wants to restore our souls – to make them “brand-new.”

“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.” (Psalm 23:1 – 3)

When the Lord is our shepherd – when we are the sheep and He is leading us – completely in charge of every aspect of our lives, we will not want for anything. He will guide us to the still waters – away from the angry waves of the failing systems of the world. He will restore our souls so that we will always be aligned with His laws of

prosperity instead of frantically worrying about the constant erosion of the world's man-made system of prosperity.

Our souls must be restored. Our souls must be made new. We must get rid of our old ways and start out anew.

“Regarding your previous way of life, you put off your old self [completely discard your former nature], which is being corrupted through deceitful desires, and be continually renewed in the spirit of your mind [having a fresh, untarnished mental and spiritual attitude]” (Ephesians 4:22 – 23 AMP)

We must clean up our minds. We must renew them. We must make them fresh and new. Too many of us are trying to solve serious problems with our limited, carnal, unrenewed minds. Our minds may be fine for the normal, everyday situations that we face, but when a serious problem comes along, our unrenewed minds are insufficient.

Our Father doesn't want us trying to figure everything out with our limited, unrenewed minds. His Word tells us that we shouldn't rely upon our own understanding. Instead, he wants us to know what His Word says to do and then to do what His Word tells us to do, trusting completely in him.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.” (Proverbs 3:5 – 6)

Christians who haven't renewed their minds in God's Word don't have the “spiritual eyesight” to see their way out of seemingly unsolvable problems. In order to solve the really difficult problems of life, we have to put on our “spiritual eyeglasses.” We have to see these problems as God sees them.

There are no problems – financial or otherwise – that are impossible for God. “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.” (Matthew 19:26) There are no problems that we can't solve through Jesus Christ. “I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me.” (Philippians 4:13)

Our Father doesn't want us surrendering to the problems that overwhelm so many people. Jesus Christ paid the price at Calvary to give us victory over all problems.

“In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)
“Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all.” (Psalm 34:19)

Our Father gives us His Word which is full of instructions which tell us exactly what we need to do in order to overcome the problems of this world. He gave us His Holy Spirit to live inside of us and to guide us in the understanding of the truth that is contained in His Word.

“When he, the spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth.” (John 16:13)

Christians who have paid the price of diligently renewing their minds will focus in on the solution. Non-Christians and Christians who haven't paid the price of renewing their minds focus in on the problem. “The thoughts of the diligent tend only to plenty, but everyone that is hasty only to want.” (Proverbs 21:5)

Renewal is a law of God. We renew our bodies each day with breakfast, lunch and dinner. We renew ourselves each night through sleep. God wants us to do the same things in our spiritual lives. All of us are growing older physically and God's Word clearly tells us that we should offset this aging process by renewing ourselves spiritually each and every day of our lives.

“Though our outward man perishes, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.” (2 Corinthians 4:16)

In the physical world, when we eat our meals, this food is transformed into physical strength and energy. The same principles apply in the spiritual realm. We need to feed our spirits each and every day with spiritual food from God's Word. If we do this, that spiritual food is transformed into a spiritual strength and energy which is called faith.

We should “feast” on God's Word. We should “stuff” ourselves with it. Jesus told us that we should feed ourselves with every word from our Father so that we can live our lives as he wants us to live them. “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.” (Matthew 4:4)

If we do the spiritual feeding on a regular and continuing basis, regardless of what we might be going through on the outside, we will always be full of joy on the inside. “Your words were found, and I did eat them, and your word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of my heart.” (Jeremiah 15:16)

Our Father doesn't want our imaginations running rampant about the financial problems of the world and how bad they might become. He wants our minds renewed to the point where they can cast down these negative thoughts and focus totally on the promises in His Word.

“Casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:5)

If we don't continually renew our minds, we leave them wide open to doubts, fears and anxieties about the worldly situations that surround us. Our souls cannot prosper unless our minds are under control and our minds won't be under control unless we can cast out all negative imaginations and bring every one of our thoughts completely in line with the Word of God. If our minds are properly renewed, we will decide what we are going to think about. We will refuse to let any external situation control our thought process.

Too many Christians focus so much on the problems of the world that they ultimately become part of those problems because they are so identified with them. Instead of focusing so much on the problems that surround us, we need to redirect our attention to the solution.

Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. (Philippians 4:8)

Our Father has more than enough to meet every one of our needs. Too many of God's children are focusing on inflation, interest rates and unemployment instead of meditating constantly upon his promises. God's Word isn't dependent in any way upon the condition of a man-made economic system!

We can live peaceful, joyous, prosperous, healthy lives in this world. Jesus Christ has paid the price for our peace, our joy, our prosperity, and our health. However, once again, this peace, joy, prosperity and health are not “automatic” while we are on this earth. We will experience them only to the degree that we renew our minds on a daily, continuing basis.

In order for us to prosper as our Father wants us to prosper, our souls must prosper. In order for our souls to prosper, God's Word must dominate our lives. God's instructions to us must be the absolute center of our lives. Everything that we think and say and do must revolve around his instructions to us.

Delight in God's Word

Misc Nuggets – Jack Hartman

Do you want to be prosperous, wise and successful regardless of the conditions in the world?

Examine yourself. Are you speaking God's Word continually? Are you meditating day and night on the holy Scriptures? Are you constantly learning and obeying your Father's instructions? All Christians want to receive the blessings of prosperity, wisdom and success. God does not lie. You will be prosperous, wise and successful regardless of the conditions in the world if you obey the three specific instructions your Father has given to you.

Meditating day and night on God's Word is vitally important for every Christian during these difficult times. Your Father has given similar instructions in the following passage of Scripture.

“But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on His law [His precepts and teachings] he [habitually] meditates day and night. And he will be like a tree firmly planted [and fed] by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season; its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers [and comes to maturity].” (Psalm 1:2–3)

If you sincerely desire to be prosperous in every area of your life and to be spiritually mature, you must “delight” in God's Word. You must “desire” to learn and to do exactly what your Father has instructed you to learn and to do to receive blessings.

If you delight in the Word of God, you will have a consuming passion to continually learn everything you can from God's supernatural book of instructions. If you delight in the Word of God, the holy Scriptures will always be at the forefront of your consciousness. If you delight in the Word of God, you will meditate day and night on the Holy Scriptures.

Your Father gave the same instructions to receive prosperity in Psalm 1 that he did in Joshua 1 where he also instructs you to meditate day and night on His Word. Do not disregard the correlation between being prosperous and the instructions in both Joshua 1:8 and Psalm 1: –3 to meditate day and night on the Word of God.

If you delight in the Word of God, you will have a great hunger and thirst for God's Word. You will not be able to get enough of it. The more difficult the problems you face might seem, the more you should meditate on the Word of God. You should be like the psalmist who said:

“I will meditate in thy precepts and have respect unto thy ways. I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word.” (Psalm 119:15 16)

You will be blessed abundantly if you truly do delight in the Word of God. “Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who finds great delight in his commands. His children will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed. Wealth and riches are in his house, and his righteousness endures forever.” (Psalm 112:1–3)

You ignite the power of God when you consistently speak the Word of God. The Hebrew word “Hagah” that is translated as “meditate” in both Joshua 1:8 and Psalm 1:2 means “to murmur, mutter, speak, talk, utter.” Your ears should continually hear your mouth boldly speaking and personalizing the supernatural promises of God as you meditate day and night on his Word.

You release spiritual power with your mouth. Spiritual power is released in your life as you meditate on God's Word each day and night. The cumulative effect of repeatedly speaking God's promises will steadily increase your faith in God. You give substance to the promises of God as you boldly speak these promises with absolute faith in God. The more you speak God's promises, the more substance they will have in your life.

