

# Bountiful Blessings - Psalm 1 and the Beatitudes

## What Does "Blessed" Mean?

- **Core Idea:** Divine favor, spiritual happiness, and well-being.
- **Old Testament Focus (e.g., Psalms):** Tied to faithfulness and obedience to God's commands *in the present*—living out what we know now.
- **New Testament Focus (e.g., "Makarios" in Beatitudes, Matt. 5):** Emphasizes the *end goal*—blessedness because of future hope and fulfillment.
- **Overlap:** Both highlight a deep, abiding joy rooted in relationship with God.

## Images of Blessing from Psalm 1:3-6

Psalm 1 portrays the righteous as a tree planted by streams of water, illustrating key aspects of blessed living:

- **Flourishing**  
Like a tree sending out roots and drinking deeply from the water source (v. 3).  
*Symbol:* Sustained growth and vitality through connection to God's provision.
- **Stable**  
Deep roots provide stability—unshaken by wind or trials (vv. 3, 6).  
*Symbol:* Endurance and security in the face of life's storms.
- **Fruitful**  
Bears fruit in its season; leaves remain green and healthy, gaining increasing strength (vv. 3-4).  
*Symbol:* Productive life that yields results at the right time, with ongoing health and renewal.

## Present vs. Future Blessing

Aspect	Present Blessing (Psalm 1)	Future Blessing (Beatitudes, Matt. 5)
<b>Focus</b>	Immediate well-being through faithful obedience now.	Hopeful anticipation of ultimate fulfillment.
<b>Reality Check</b>	You can be "well-watered" and fruitful without <i>feeling</i> great—blessedness brings health even amid weakness or trials (we're still flesh).	Mourning, meekness, and persecution lead to comfort and reward <i>later</i> .
<b>Key Takeaway</b>	Blessedness is a present reality from walking rightly with God.	Blessedness is assured <i>because</i> of what God will do.

# Why Different Terms for the Ungodly? (Psalm 1 Contrasts)

Psalm 1 uses escalating terms to describe those who reject God's way, highlighting active opposition:

- **Ungodly ("Wicked")**  
Someone wicked, guilty, or morally wrong—often in a legal/ethical sense. Actively opposes God's will and lives in rebellion against His moral order.  
*Common in Psalms:* Sharp contrast to the righteous.
- **Sinners**  
"To miss the mark"—habitually fails God's standard of righteousness. Lives in active opposition as a *way of life*.  
*Example:* Gen. 13:13 ("sinners of Sodom").
- **Scornful ("Mockers" or "Scoffers")**  
Arrogantly ridicules or despises God, His laws, or the righteous. Involves contempt, cynicism, and verbal mockery.  
*Examples:* Prov. 1:22; 9:7 (those who mock wisdom or righteousness).

**Reflection:** These terms show a progression from moral failure to outright defiance. Choose the path of the tree—rooted in God—for true blessedness!