

How to become prosperous and successful
From God's perspective
“Meditation”
(Review)
Part 2

1. Since we are made in God's likeness, we will desire to be prosperous and successful in all that we do.
2. God gives us His perspective (or frame of reference) of how to become prosperous and successful in the following portion of His word.

Joshua 1:8

8 This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth, but you shall **meditate on it day and night**, that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall have good success. RSV

Definition of the word “meditation”: (From The New Unger's Bible Dictionary.)

"A **private** devotional act, consisting in **deliberate** reflection upon some spiritual truth or mystery, accompanied by mental prayer and by acts of the affection and of the will, especially formation of resolutions as to future conduct" (Cent. Dict., s.v.). Meditation is a duty that ought to be attended to by all who wish well to their spiritual interests. It should be deliberate, close, and continuous (Psalms 1:2; 119:97).

3. We learned that meditation led us to understanding.
4. **Meditation is:**
 - Private
 - Not public
 - Our will
 - Our choice
 - Our results
 - God's glory
5. We learned that meditating was like chewing physical food. (Brief example)
(Understanding = swallowing)
6. Understanding prevents the word that we hear from being stolen. (Mark 4:14-15)
7. We then moved forward to the meaning of being prosperous.
8. Prosperous meant: “Advance”.
9. Successful meant: “Prudent”.

How can we meditate day and night?

10. Answer. Memorization. (Chapter and verse coming up)
11. Why? Because if we have a verse committed to memory, we can bring it up at any time and meditate on it day and night.
12. We might not have access to our Bible (Paper and devices) during the day or night. (Electricity can go out, Internet down, servers down, data centers down, firewall overloads..., wildfires, earthquake or whatever)
13. But our memory is with us wherever we go in any situation.
14. If we end a night (Before we sleep) with a verse, it will be with us when we awake.

Proverbs 6:21-22

21 Bind them upon your heart (Mind, will emotions) always;
tie them about your neck. (Neck is used figuratively)

22 When you walk, they will lead you; when you lie down, they will watch over you;
and when you awake, they will talk with you. RSV

Psalms 132:4-5

4 I will not give sleep to my eyes or slumber to my eyelids, 5 until I find a place for the LORD, a dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob." RSV

15. Let us continually have new treasure and not be satisfied only with the old.
16. In other words, seek out new verses we need to help us or someone else in a time of need. (Stay fresh and sharp)

Matthew 13:52 (This is a verse from 1/27/98 = old treasure)

52 "Therefore every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure things new and old." NKJV

Proverbs 2:1 (2/3/98 = old treasure)

1 My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, RSV

17. Once a verse of scripture is memorized, we can meditate on it anytime anywhere.

18. **Testimony** of the grocery industry. (Relate this to your life. (Workplace or home)

- When I was first born-again, I began to memorize verses of scripture.
- It all began at Big Bear Markets. (Vested for ten years)
- Six years not saved four years saved at Big Bear Markets.
- One of the first things I did was memorize God's word.
- My goal was not just stock shelves and work in the check stand...
- My goal was to come away from the store with God's word committed to memory. (Once our day is complete what have we produced?)
- My goal was to have something in me that would last forever.
- I was *not* looking for the wristwatch or retirement. (20 or 30 years)
- When I was born-again, I fell in love with God and His word.
- I was like a sponge sucking up everything of God I could.
- Once I memorized a verse of scripture, I was able to meditate on it anywhere in the store even in the check stand.
- Over the years I learned not to pose a danger to myself by memorizing and meditating while doing a dangerous job.
- Example: I have changed directions and no longer working in the grocery industry. However, my goal remains the same as far as walking away with something eternal.
- But I needed to be careful when I memorized and meditated on God's word using the forklift. (Maybe for you a table saw, surgery...)
- As I memorize God's word along with meditation and application, I am prosperous and successful in all that I do. (However, I am not perfect)
- Memorization is the preparation for continual meditation.

19. How could the Psalmist meditate day and night?

20. Answer. Memorize the word so it can go wherever he goes.

Psalms 119:97

97 Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day. NKJV

Psalms 119:9-11

9 How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to thy word. 10 With my whole heart I seek thee; let me not wander from thy commandments! 11 I have laid up thy word in my heart, that I might not sin against thee. RSV

21. The Psalmist had something to meditate on (Psalms 119:97) because he memorized something earlier. (Psalms 119:9-11)

22. Meditation is our choice; it is private, and the results will be seen outwardly.

23. When we memorize a verse of scripture God has something to bring up in our memory banks. (Like computers: What we put in comes out good or bad)

24. Once memorization takes place, we have something to meditate on. (Psalmist)

25. Through meditation comes understating and when we obey results are manifested. (Prosperous and successful)

26. Therefore, we have **memorization**, **meditation**, and **application**.

Memorization

- 27. Memorization should start at a young age.
- 28. When did Jesus begin memorizing? Answer. As a young Jewish child.
- 29. Question. Do you think that Jesus loved His Father and His word?
- 30. Question. Do you think that Jesus meditated on what he memorized?
- 31. Question. Do you think Jesus could say what Psalms 119:97-99 says?

Psalms 119:97-99

97 Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.

98 You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; For they are ever with me.

99 I have more understanding than all my teachers, For Your testimonies are my meditation. NKJV

- 32. Jesus utilized His memorization skills when He was older as seen in Matthew 4:1-11. (When He was tempted/a time of need)

Matthew 4:1-4

1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 And he fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was hungry. 3 **And the tempter came** and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." 4 **But he answered**, "**It is written**, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'" RSV

- 33. We can only speak what is written like He did if it is committed to memory.
 - Jesus was quoting from the book of Deuteronomy.
 - **(Mt. 4:4 = Deut. 8:3) (Mt. 4:7 = Deut. 6:16) (Mt. 4:10 = Deut. 6:13)**
- 34. Memorization is not just for the children but also for older people.
- 35. Quote. "Too often Scripture memorizing has been associated only with the junior department of the Sunday school. This, no doubt, is a trick of the enemy, who knows the power of the memorized Word of God in a life and seeks to keep God's people from becoming skilled in using it."

36. If someone has a hard time memorizing scripture, they can use what I call “meditation cards”. (But keep in mind these verses)

Matthew 7:13-14

13 "Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is **easy**, that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. 14 For the gate is **narrow** and the way is **hard**, that leads to life, and those who find it are few. RSV

Determination vs. Wishful thinking

“What we hope to do with ease we must first learn to do with diligence.” (Source unknown)

37. If a person can just memorize one verse at least it is one verse that can be brought up for meditation day and night.
38. One memorized verse of scripture for meditation is better than none.
39. Quote. **Andrew Murray** described meditation as “holding the Word in your heart until it has affected every phase of your life.”
40. Meditation is not a part of our busy lives; but should we be satisfied with this when God’s Word clearly tells us to “meditate...day and night” in the Holy Scriptures?
41. Meditation time should take place when we can think clearly with no major distractions. (Different for each person)

Examples of **when** and **where** to meditate

1. Waiting for a person to pick you up. (Getting a car repaired)
2. Cleaning the kitchen.
3. Cutting the lawn.
4. Watering the plants.
5. Using the restroom.
6. Taking a shower.
7. Bedtime.
8. During our devotion time.
9. Waiting in line at the grocery store.
10. Taking a walk.
11. On the treadmill.
12. Vacuuming the carpet.
13. There is more!

Meditation leads us to **do** the word

42. Meditation leads us to doing the word because we understand that we should do it.

43. If we are a doer of God's word, we will meditate on His word.

Ecclesiastes 11:4

4 He who observes the wind will not sow; and he who regards the clouds will not reap.
RSV

44. If we are observers only there will be no change.

45. Once again, we have **memorization, meditation, and application.**

Fun stuff with memorization, meditation, and application

- If we can hold God's word in our memory, we can meditate on it and share it with others without any written material. (Philippians 2:16 = Holding the word of life)

Philippians 2:14-16 (NKJV)

14 Do all things without complaining and disputing,

15 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

16 **holding fast the word of life**, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

- **Example:** People at work, co-worker, customers, truck drivers, might need help.
- In the workplace, I cannot go to my car and get my Bible. I am working.
- But in my conversation with a person, God will bring up chapter and verse to help the person in need. (This happens only through memorization)
- I did these many times in one store while in the check stand.
- I would write verses on the customers bag because through meditation it was and still is real to me. (I had understanding)
- A few weeks ago, I was having fun with Dan, a co-worker.
- This was a person I laid hands on believing God for the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

- I would come by and ask him to give me any subject of interest involving the Bible and I would give him chapter and verse(s) on the desired subject. (This happens only through memorization)
- What is fun for some is not fun for others. (But for me this was fun)

Let us **use** Joshua 1:8 and **practice** some meditation (Out Loud)

46. I learned this from one source *(IBLP) years ago about Meditation.

1. Turn each word into prayer
2. Put it into the first person.
3. Picture the concepts. (1 Timothy 4:15)
(See yourself advancing and prudent)

Joshua 1:8

8 This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall have good success. RSV

[Click here.](#) Meditation example Psalm 119:97-99

[Click here.](#) ...because you love Him! Humble testimony. There is hope for you!

*(IBLP) Institute in Basic Life Principles