**`First, A Picture of Blessed Life**

1. Have ***Picture*** of Tree ***In Minds*** Eye = ***Flowing*** Stream = ***Green***—Lush—Strong—Fruit = ***Picture*** of You & Me
2. **(1)** ***Finally*** = Rom 12 = ***After*** 11 Chaps ***of Doctrine*** =Only ***Reasonable***—***Spiritual*** Response=Give ***Self*** To God
   1. Offer ***Selves*** As Living ***Sacrifices*** = Fully ***Yield*** Selves ***To Live*** For God = ***Lives*** of Holiness & Obedience
3. **(2)** Describes ***What*** *Looks* Like = ***Not-Conform*** To World = ***Stop*** Thinking—Looking—Living ***Like*** World
   1. Goes On To Describe ***Sanctification*** =Renewal ***of Mind*** =Ongoing ***Inner*** Transformation =***In Image*** of Xp
   2. $10 Million ***Question*** = How ***Inner*** Transformation & Renewal ***of Mind*** Take Place? = ***Brings Us*** Psalm 1
4. Point This AM = ***Central*** Way ***Inner*** ***Transformation*** of Mind & Heart ***Takes*** ***Place*** = By Being ***Habitually*** Rooted—***Like*** Tree—***In God’s Word*** =Bec/ That ***Central*** Means ***By Which*** Rooted ***In Xp*** = Filled ***W/ HSpirit***
5. ***Picture*** This Tree =***Rooted*** = Stream =***Endless*** Water Source =***From*** Which ***Draws*** Life—Health—Fruitfulness
   1. ***Meant*** To Ignite ***In Us*** Desire🡪 ***For*** Our Lives ***To Be*** Like***This Tree =*** Strong—Healthy—Fruitful = ***Blessed***
6. **(1 & 4-5)** Starts ***Negative*** Picture = **(1)** ***What*** Blessed—***Happy*** ***Person*** Is Not = Not ***Conformed*** To World
   1. Not ***Walk*** In Counsel ***of Wicked***—Not ***Stands*** in Way ***of Sinners***—Not ***Sits*** in Seat ***of Scoffers***
   2. Not ***Conformed*** To Thinking ***Of World =*** Not ***Follow*** Worlds ***Ways =*** Not ***Adopt*** World’s ***Attitudes***
   3. ***Appears*** To Be ***Progression*** = ***1st*** Walk & Follow ***World’s*** Thinking—Counsel = ***Then*** Stand—Remain ***In It***
   4. ***Finally*** Sit ***In It*** = Rooted ***In World’s*** Thinking & Ways = ***Find*** Self ***At Odds*** = W/ ***God’s*** Word & Ways
7. **(4 & 5)** Given = ***Picture*** of Wicked = ***Who*** By Definition ***= Conformed*** To World = ***Like*** Chaff ***In Wind***
   1. Winnow **= Chaff** = Weightless—Useless ***Husk*** Left Behind 🡪 ***When*** Solid—Weightier ***Grain*** Sifted
   2. No ***Weight***—No ***Roots***—No ***Stability*** = Wind ***Drives*** Away = **(5)** Not ***Stand*** In Judgment = ***Blown*** Away
8. **(2-3)** ***Positive*** Picture = ***Opposite*** of Person ***Described In*** **(1)** = ***Who*** Thinking ***Like*** World = ***Living*** Like ***World***
   1. **(2)** Person ***Who*** Delighting & Meditating ***In WOG*** = Person ***Who*** Listens ***To God*** = Not ***Tossed*** To & Fro
   2. **(3)** Like ***Tree*** = Deep ***Roots*** =Endless ***Source*** of Life = ***Surroundings*** of Israel = Desert & Wilderness
   3. ***Counsel*** of World = ***Spiritual*** Desert = ***Word*** of God = ***Spiritual*** Oasis = ***Source of*** Life & Health
9. So ***Text*** Asking Us = ***Which*** Life ***Do You*** Want? = ***Weightless*** Wind ***Blown*** Chaff = ***Or Tree*** Full of Life

**Second, The Streams of Water**

1. ***What*** = Stream? = ***Clearly*** = God’s Word 🡪 Tree = ***Person*** Delights & Meditates ***On WOG*** = Get ***the Picture***
   1. Important = ***Say*** Up Front = ***Bible*** Not ***Magic*** = ***Just*** Reading It = Not ***Necessarily*** ***Bring*** Life & Health
   2. ***Even*** Believing ***Every*** Word In Bible = ***True*** = Not ***Automatically*** = Change People
   3. John 5:39-40—***Jesus Said***="*You search the Scriptures because* ***you think*** *that in them you have* ***eternal life****; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may* ***have life***
   4. Pharisees ***Believed*** Ps 1 = ***Thought*** If ***Just*** Read & Studied ***Bible*** = Eternal ***Life!*** = ***But*** Not ***Work***
2. Point = ***Central*** Way ***Inner*** ***Transformation*** of Mind & Heart ***Takes*** ***Place*** = By Being ***Habitually*** Rooted ***Like*** Tree—***In God’s*** Word = ***Becomes*** For Us ***Central*** Means ***By Which*** Rooted ***In Xp*** = Filled ***W/ Holy Spirit***
   1. ***Jesus*** Says = ***Point*** of Bible = ***To Come*** To Him = ***That*** We May ***Have Life*** = Not ***Once*** = **(2)** Day & Night
   2. Key ***To Drawing*** Life—Health—Fruitfulness ***From*** WOG =***By*** Finding & Fellowshipping ***W/ God*** Revealed
3. **(2) *Meditate*** Day & Night = ***Biblical*** Meditation = ***One*** Simple ***Def*** = Spending ***Time*** W/ God ***In His Word***
   1. To Read & Think ***@ God’s*** Word = ***In God’s*** Presence = ***Prayerfully*** Interacting ***W/ God*** About ***His Word***
   2. Jesus Says = Bible ***@ Me*** = Come ***To Me*** = Have ***Life*** = Abundant Life ***Described*** In Ps 1
   3. John 8:31-32—"*If you* ***abide*** *in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free*.” = To Abide—***Remain***—***Stay In***—Dwell = “*If You Are Rooted = In My Word*
   4. John 15:5*—"Whoever* ***abides*** *in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing”* = Jesus ***Told*** Pharisees = Not ***Just*** Read ***Word*** = Come ***Thru*** Word ***To Xp*** = Find ***Jesus***
   5. His Disciples Rooted = ***In*** Him ***Thru*** Word = ***Listen*** To Him—***Spend*** Time ***W/ Him***—Interact ***W/***--Worship
4. When ***Rooted*** In Jesus & Word = ***Like*** Tree =***Tapped*** ***Into*** Endless ***Source*** Of Life—Strength—Health
5. Being Rooted In God’s Word = In Central Means By Which Rooted In Christ = AND ***Filled*** W/ Holy Spirit
   1. Eph. 5:18*—“Be filled with the Spirit” =*Comes ***To Us*** As Command = ***But*** = No ***Control*** Over 🡪HS ***= Lord***
   2. John 14:23*—“If anyone* ***loves me****,” Jesus told his disciples, “he will keep my word, & my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him” =* Love ***Jesus*** =Filled ***W/ Fullness*** of God
   3. John 6:63—"*The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life*” = In WOC
   4. John 7:38-39*—"Whoever* ***believes*** *in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow* ***rivers*** *of* ***living water****.’ Now this he said about* ***the Spirit****”* = Believes ***In Xp*** of Bible = ***Not*** Cultural ***Jesus***
6. ***Filled*** W/ Spirit = ***When*** W/ Jesus ***In His Word*** = Knowing—Loving—Listening—Repenting—***Worshipping***
   1. Piper—"*The way to be filled with the Spirit is to be filled with his word. The way to have the power of the Spirit is to believe the promises of his word* =Filled ***W/ Spirit*** of Xp ***= When*** Spend ***Time*** In Presence
   2. Acts 4:13*—“Saw the* ***boldness*** *of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.”* = ***Made*** Connection
   3. Have You? ***Made*** Connection = ***Betw***/ Strength—Boldness—Fruitfulness = ***Being*** W/ Jesus ***In His Word***
7. Do ***Believe*** Jesus ***When*** Says = ***Apart*** From ***Me*** = Nothing = ***Apart From*** = Rooted ***In Me***—***In Word*** =No ***Fruit***
   1. When ***Spend*** Time ***W/*** Jesus ***=*** Mind & Heart ***Renewed—Filled*** ***=***Joy***—***Peace***—***Passion***—***Spirit—Strength

**Finally, Abiding Rhythms**

1. ***Let Me*** Just ***Say*** = 21st Cent ***American*** Culture & Lifestyle = Makes ***What*** Talking ***About*** Almost ***Impossible***
   1. Being ***Rooted*** In Xp & Word = ***Lifestyle*** For Lifetime = ***Way*** of Living—Habits = ***Over*** Years & Decades
2. So Many ***Crazy*** Busy = ***Like*** Martha = *distracted with much* = ***Rather*** Mary “*sat at the Lord's feet & listened”*
   1. Foster—“*Superficiality is the curse of our age*” = Superficial ***Spiritual*** Lives = ***Fruit*** of Not ***Being*** Rooted
3. If You Live Your Life ***At Speed*** Of Our Culture = ***Rather Than*** Rhythms ***of WOG*** = Like ***Wind-Driven*** Chaff
   1. Eph. 4:14—Paul ***Warns*** Us To “*no longer be* *Children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes*” =Not ***Think*** Like ***World***
   2. Is Your Soul = More Like Spiritual Desert = Or Spiritual Oases = Is Your Soul Parched Or Flowing River
4. As Xpians ***Must*** Create ***Margins*** = Time—Space 🡪 ***Create*** Quiet ***Rhythms*** = Focus = ***Be W/ God*** In His Word
   1. Not Overestimate = ***Importance*** of Habit =***Creating*** Rhythms = All of Us =Shower—Work & School—Eat
   2. Do You Have Spiritual Rhythms = Habitual—Regular—Consistent Space In Your Life = Quiet Connection
5. Cumulative Effect = Day By Day ***in Private*** = SS—Worship—SG =***Wk By Wk***—Month By Month—Yr By Yr
6. 20 Yrs ***SS*** = 20 Yrs ***Under Good Preaching*** = 40 Yrs ***SG***—35 Yrs ***1-1 W/Men*** = 40 Yrs ***Personal Worship—QT***
7. **(2)** “*His delight is in the law of the LORD, & on his law he meditates day and night*” =***Daily*** Rhythm ***Over*** Yrs
   1. Deut. 6:6-7—“*These commandments that I give you today are to be* ***upon your hearts****.* ***Impress*** *them on your children.* ***Talk*** *about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up*.” = ***Upon*** Your Heart—***On Lips***= At Home—On Road 🡪 Morning & Night
   2. Jos. 1:8—"*This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall* ***meditate*** *on it day and night, so that you may be careful 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***= Day & Night Habitually Rooted In WOG = Tree
8. Transformation = God’s Work 🡺 God Does His Work = ***When*** Plant ***Selves*** By His Stream = ***Drink*** **!!**
   1. ***Most*** Spiritual ***Growth*** = Happens In Margins = In Quiet Spaces Betw/ Busyness = In God’s Presence
   2. ***Draw*** Near ***In Word*** = Reading—Notecards—Memorizing—Journal—Praying—Repenting—Asking
   3. Meditate = ***Prayerfully*** Think @ ***What*** God ***Says*** 🡪 Read & Pray = Think & Apply = Understand & Obey
9. My Friends = ***We Are*** Living ***Too Fast*** = Entertained ***Too Much*** = Crowed ***Out*** Very Source ***of Our Life***
   1. Do You ***Feel*** More Like = ***Chaff*** In Wind = ***Do You*** Feel ***Rooted—***Rivers ***of Life =*** Flowing ***In Your Soul***?
   2. So ***Text*** Asking Us = ***Which*** Life ***Do You*** Want? = ***Which*** Life ***Are You*** Living***?***
   3. ***How*** Are You ***Going*** To Change = ***Way*** Do Life = ***Create*** Space = ***Rhythms*** For Seeking ***God*** In Word
10. Talking About = ***Way*** of Life ***Over*** Lifetime = Night By Day—Wk By Wk—Month By Month—Year By Year

**BOOK SLIDE**