

**July 5, 2022**

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

**Joshua 1:8** *Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.* (NIV)

This is the progression of obedience. First, we must ‘keep this Book of the Law always on our lips.’ Part of the initial law that the LORD gave to His people, this is a reiteration to Joshua and the Israelites as they consecrated themselves before the LORD and prepared to enter into the ‘promised land.’ **Dt. 6:7** *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.* (NIV)

We must then ‘meditate on it day and night.’ In doing so, it will remain on the forefront of our hearts and minds. **Ps. 119:11** *I have hidden Your Word in my heart that I might not sin against you.* (NIV) And again in **Ps. 1:1-3** *Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on His law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither-- whatever they do prospers.* (NIV) You will see a pattern or progression towards sin: walking with them, standing with them and then sitting with them. Not so for God’s faithful and obedient children.

Doing these things then brings forth the reward of obedience. You will be prosperous and successful. Now this is a spiritual statement, not a temporal one. Many think that this is a sure-fire way to get rich. It is not. The LORD does not give temporal things that will fade away. He is faithful to bless those who abide in Him and walk in obedience. There is no sweeter place to live from than in the comfort of the loving arms of our Father. This is where the abundant life is.

**Dear LORD, help us to hide Your Word in our hearts and then to obey You in all of our ways. You will bless us abundantly as we walk in obedience. In Jesus Name, Amen**