

***Fanning it into Flame***  
**Sunday, April 18, 2010**  
**The Well Watered Tree**

I love trees. I think they are majestic. Joyce Kilmer thought the same way and equated one as the most beautiful poem that could be written. The Psalmist likened the man of God with a tree planted by streams of water in Psalm 1. I would imagine that if we were trees and given the choice of location we would want to be by a stream. Nice to know there's always a fresh supply of water! The outcome is the ability to yield fruit in season and not have withered leaves. The nature of this blessed man is elaborated on as one who does not go the way of the world with their negativity and mockery, nor does he seek the counsel of the wicked. Rather, he delights in the nature of God and the things that are closest to his heart. His life is prosperous in whatever he does. Why is that? It's because God lives in him and nothing is impossible for him. He desires to give good gifts to his children.

When Jesus was baptized he was immediately driven into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil for 40 days by the Holy Spirit who came upon him. Sounds a little strange, but Jesus had to be tempted in every way just like us to be our Savior. The book of Hebrews tells us that Jesus was perfected through what he suffered in chapter 5 and verse 8. Yet he willingly did this for us. Not only that it was his joy as prophesied in Psalm 40 and quoted in Hebrews 10:7. The Holy Spirit in Scripture is often given typified as water. Jesus said in John 7:38,39 that when would put our faith in him we would have streams of living water flowing from within us and that would be the Holy Spirit. Jesus had that water in him and is the best example of the Psalm 1 person we can find. He no sooner gets out of the wilderness and preaches his first sermon from Isaiah 61. The result is that he becomes the Savior making the way for all of us to become trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor, rebuilding what has been devastated for generations.

God wants us to prosper and bear fruit that will remain making a difference in the world we live in. Are you that kind of tree? Are you allowing the Holy Spirit to be that living water to give you the ability to bear fruit prospering in whatever you do? Let's take God at his word and expect that kind of fruit in our lives. We are called to advance his Kingdom with the authority he has given us by the power of the Holy Spirit through our relationship with Christ. Expect God to move in your life this week.