

Thrive – 4

Psalm 92:13–14 (NKJV)

¹³ Those who are planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God. ¹⁴ They shall still bear fruit in old age; They shall be fresh and flourishing,

- No Slide: Psalm 1:3 (NLT)

³ bearing fruit each season.

Psalm 104:16 (NLT)

¹⁶ The trees of the LORD are well cared for— the cedars of Lebanon that he planted

- God says we can stand tall and strong above the rest
 - Firmly established and resilient
 - Thriving, Kingdom-minded people
 - Committed to resource the work of God
 - Time – Treasure – Talent

5 Things

What am I Building?

What do I love?

What am I adding to?

What am I confronting? – don't allow complacency

What am I supplying?

Acts 2:46–47 (The Message)

They followed a daily discipline of worship in the Temple followed by meals at home, every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful, as they praised God. People in general liked what they saw. Every day their number grew as God added those who were saved.

How Can I Help My Church Thrive – 5 things

Your Testimony

No Slide: 2 Corinthians 3:3 (NKJV) Living Epistles

- When your life is flourishing in God others will be inspired by your testimony and example

Your Attention

No Slide: Hebrews 13:17 (NLT)

¹⁷ Obey your spiritual leaders, and do what they say.

- Am I a Fan or a Follower?
- Jesus said – Follow me

Your presence

No Slide: 2 Corinthians 2:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing.

- You are a fragrance of Christ
- You make a difference in the Church Services
- You contribute to the atmosphere

Your Gifts and Talents

No Slide: Ephesians 4:16 (NLT)

¹⁶ As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow,

Your Health (Spirit, Soul and Body)

No Slide: 2 Peter 1:5–8 (NLT) 8 The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

How to Thrive in the Church

3 John 2 (NKJV)

² Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.

- It is Gods desire for you and me to thrive and prosper
- Prosper – Healthy, Sound, Accurate, Well-Watered
- Being planted in the Church is a key to prosperity
- Those who share the load constitute the healthy soul of the Church
- Our commitment and contribution causes the local church to flourish

1 Timothy 6:17–19 (NKJV)

¹⁷ Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. ¹⁸ Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, ¹⁹ storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

- In this passage we see 4 levels of Christian growth and maturity that will help us to thrive
- Enjoyment
- Servanthood
- Giving
- Sharing the Load

Philippians 3:12 (NKJV)

¹² Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.

Enjoyment

1 Timothy 6:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ ... nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy.

- The issue is not so much about riches as it is one of trust
- God doesn't mind if we have nice things
- He doesn't want things to have us!
- He wants us to enjoy life
- We should be the most magnetic, fun loving people around
- Are you living with an excitement of what God has in store for your life?
- Enjoyment is not the only thing God has for our life but it sure is better to enjoy church than endure it

Servanthood

1 Timothy 6:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ Let them do good, that they be rich in good works

- It will add to your enjoyment of the church when you make a commitment to serve in God's House
- Ushers, greeters, youth and children's church volunteers who serve others with a willing heart make a valuable contribution to the body

Psalms 100:2 (NKJV)

² Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before His presence with singing.

- Don't serve grudgingly but with a spirit of gladness

Giving

1 Timothy 6:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ ready to give, willing to share,

- When we become actively involved in serving in God's House you gain a revelation of what the spirit of giving is all about
- Some people are happy to serve but less enthusiastic when challenged to give
- You limit your own life
- It is better to give than to receive

Acts 20:35 (NKJV)

And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

- Don't resist the topic of giving or finance
- We will always rise to defend what we love
- The truth is 'the love of money' keeps many from advancing in the purposes of God
- When it is time to give tithes and offerings in church, what is your response?
- Do you come prepared to give?
- Do you act in defiance or annoyance?

Luke 12:34 (NKJV)

³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Thriving Financially

People mistakenly believe that Jesus taught against money, but the real issue is our attitude about money. Part of the covenant God made with Abraham, the covenant Jesus grafted us into, was to prosper him.

Genesis 12:2 (NLT)

² I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others.

“Over the centuries, there has been a lot of upside-down thinking about wealth and finance that has limited the effectiveness of the Church. For too long God's people have been discouraged from flourishing financially and the result has been that they have been limited in their ability to make a huge impact in blessing others.”

– Brian Houston – How to maximize your life

Psalms 92:14 (NLT)

¹⁴ Even in old age they will still produce fruit; they will remain vital and green.

- Fruit is not meant to stay on the tree
- Apple trees don't eat apples
- Our fruit is for others
- If we are not prospering, we can not bear fruit for others
- God's purpose is to bless us for the sake of others
- When we live well beyond ourselves we bless others

Sharing the Load

1 Timothy 6:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ willing to share

If there were a malnourished orphan standing here most of us would be willing to give generously to help

How many would be prepared to take the orphan home?

Those who **share the load** are the ones who will do whatever it takes to fulfill the vision

The 5-fold ministry is called to equip the church to do the ministry

Ephesians 4:12–16 (NLT)

¹² Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. ¹³ This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. ¹⁴ Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth.

¹⁵ Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.

¹⁶ He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

- Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers are to inspire others
- To bring us to unity through sound teaching
- To the full and complete standard of Christ
- The work of the ministry is the responsibility of every believer
 - Be a witness! – only 2% of Christians invite the unchurched
- When you plant yourself in God's House you will begin to thrive and flourish!

Your thinking determines what Thrives in your life

What you allow to flourish in your thinking has a powerful impact on who you are and who you become

Proverbs 23:7 (NKJV)

⁷ For as he thinks in his heart, so *is* he.

When we allow our heart and thinking to line up with the word of God we will begin to become the person he says we are

2 Corinthians 10:5 (NKJV)

⁵ casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.