

## Thrive – 5

### Psalm 92:13–14 (NKJV)

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

### Psalm 104:16 (NLT)

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

- 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?

How Can I Help My Church Thrive – 5 things

Your Testimony

Your Attention

Your presence

Your Gifts and Talents

Your Health (Spirit, Soul and Body)

## How to Thrive in the Church

### No Slide: 1 Timothy 6:17–19 (NKJV)

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

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

### No Slide: Ephesians 4:12–16 (NLT)

- Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers are to inspire others
- Every believer is to do God's work and build up the Church
- As we grow it creates unity as we mature and become more and more like Christ
- As we each do our part it helps the other parts grow
- 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)

<sup>7</sup> 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)

<sup>5</sup> 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.

- Thoughts that are negative, cynical or defeatist are contrary to the heart of God
- Jesus warned that offenses would come
- There is danger when we allow an offense to dominate our thinking

### Hebrews 12:15 (NLT)

<sup>15</sup> Look after each other so that none of you fails to receive the grace of God. Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many.

- Quickly take negative thoughts, wrong perceptions or offenses captive before they take root
- The more you think about the offense the stronger it becomes
- Keep your thinking clear and lined up with God's word

### 2 Corinthians 10:5 (NKJV)

bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.

## Thoughts

- We take captive our thoughts because if we allow them to roam free, it can be a potential threat to the promises of God
- It's easier to pull a weed out while its small

## High Things

- A high thing is something that starts to dominate your thoughts
- Constantly preoccupying your mind
- These thoughts will elevate themselves against God's word

## Arguments

- Once a thought becomes a high thing it can quickly become an argument
- We justify why we think the way we think
- When we feel we need to defend a way of thinking it's started to make sense to you and already blurred your perspective

## Strongholds

- At this stage it is no longer easy to pull out
- We start to think we are right and everybody else is wrong
- When this happens it will choke our potential for a flourishing life

## Resisting temptation

The time to conquer a thought is at the point of temptation, when it is still a seed

- We begin to indulge a thought
- Before long we become preoccupied in our thought process
- Soon we will argue that the train of thought we are involved in won't hurt us
- We believe it's acceptable and won't harm anyone
- This is when the behavior is hard to break

Temptation starts when we are drawn away and enticed by our own thoughts

### James 1:14–15 (NKJV)

<sup>14</sup> But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. <sup>15</sup> Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

- The bottom line is sin will lead us to a place where we have difficulty hearing the voice of the Lord
- When we live a life of deception we live a life far from the council of God
- It makes it hard to know and live in God's perfect will
- Living out of the will of God is spiritual death

### Romans 6:23 (NKJV)

<sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

When we entertain a thought too long it becomes a lifestyle contrary to the plan of God for your life

When we are deceived by these illusions we don't see the full ramifications of our behavior

When I'm tempted by pornography I don't see how it can affect intimacy with my spouse

When I chose to have an adulterous affair I don't see how it can bankrupt me financially and destroy my family

When I entertain a lie about a friend I don't see how that will affect my relationships the rest of my life

When I chose to sin I don't see how it will affect my intimacy with the Lord

If I don't experience intimacy with the Lord my life remains unchanged

**1 Corinthians 10:13 (NKJV)**

<sup>13</sup> No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God *is* faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear *it*.

## A Flourishing Prayer Life

**Luke 18:1 (NKJV)**

**18** Then He spoke a parable to them, that men **always** ought to pray and not lose heart.

- It is presumptuous for us to think we can live as a Christian and never pray
- Many call themselves Christians yet never take the time to communicate with God
- Your relationship with God cannot thrive without prayer

God created us to know Him and enjoy a personal relationship with Him

After Adam fell in the garden he hid from God  
The truth is many of us still do this today

It's sad to say but many people find prayer difficult because of many misconceptions about what prayer is

- These perceptions keep us starved of a personal relationship with God

Jesus was in constant communication with the Father and never acted without His instruction

You can also see how Jesus communicated with those who were close to him

- Open honest communication where they could ask Him anything
- Enjoy taking time out to talk to God and see your prayer life flourish

## Thriving in the Midst of Opposition

### Matthew 10:22 (NKJV)

<sup>22</sup> And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.

When you learn how to flourish in life you will attract some attention

Unfortunately, some will not be thrilled about it

Here are some steps to continue to flourish when persecution arises

Commit to a greater blessing

### Matthew 13:21 (NKJV)

<sup>21</sup> yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.

- Don't allow the actions of others to cause you to draw back
- Stand your ground and commit to flourishing
- Let the word of God take root and bear fruit in the midst of persecution

Pray for God to bless those who persecute you

### Matthew 5:44 (NKJV)

<sup>44</sup> But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.



Are you planted?

**Jeremiah 17:8 (NKJV)**

<sup>8</sup> For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river, and will not fear when heat comes; But its leaf will be green, and will not be anxious in the year of drought, nor will cease from yielding fruit.

- If you are not planted anywhere you will not grow
- When you are planted you receive regular nourishment
- Every believer needs to be planted in a local church to thrive
- A place where you are encouraged and allowed to grow

How easily can you be uprooted?

- When your roots run deep and wide its harder to be uprooted
- Commit for the long hall
- Stay actively involved – classes – groups – ministry

Can you take the heat?

- When heat comes not if
- A flourishing life is not thrown off course by obstacles and a bit of heat
- Don't draw back when faced with the fire

**Psalm 66:12 (NKJV)**

<sup>12</sup> We went through fire and through water; But You brought us out to rich *fulfillment*.

Thrive – 5

Is your spiritual health a priority?

- The older we get the harder it is to keep our health and fitness where it used to be
- The same is true spiritually
- Mature Christians can think they know it all and have no need for growth
- That couldn't be further from the truth
- Never take your spiritual life for granted

Are you ruled by the seasons?

- Some people never move forward because they are ruled by seasons
- They always take the path of least resistance
- When things get tough they shrink back
- Don't be afraid of dry seasons
- Press on and grow through each season

**Galatians 6:9 (NKJV)**

<sup>9</sup> And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

Make fruitfulness a lifestyle

- Those who are planted make giving a lifestyle, not just something they do when circumstances are favorable
- Commit to give generously from the fruit of your life regardless of the season
- Be a giver not a taker
- Time – Treasure – Talents