

# flourish

## GROWING IN GOD'S GARDEN OF GRACE

**DATE:** April 16, 2023

**RECAP:** We are beginning a new series on the topic of flourishing, a horticultural term for a healthy flowering plant that is metaphorically used to describe the good life of a person or group of people. Flourishing is a prevalent theme throughout Scripture. It begins with the Garden of Eden created by God for humanity to indwell and culminates in the garden city where God will dwell with His people forever (Revelation 22:1-5). Consider also the depiction in Psalm 1 of the blessed person who delights in the instruction of the LORD like a flourishing tree planted beside a living stream. Human flourishing is participation in the Father, Son, and Spirit by faith, being conformed to the image of Christ, and embodying the kingdom and mission of God. Flourishing is an upward, inward, outward life. This week, Pastor Derwin asked us to consider what it is like to flourish in times of uncertainty by remembering what is true of God.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

- Take a moment to imagine a flourishing garden. How would you describe it?
- What does uncertainty feel like? How/When do you experience uncertainty?
- Read Romans 8:31-34. How do you know that God is for you?
- How can we remind each other of this cruciform (cross-shaped) truth when uncertainty creeps in?
- Sometimes uncertainty amplifies regrets of the past. Read Acts 2:23-24 and Romans 8:28-29. What do these passages tell us about how God sees your past? How then should you see your past?
- Sometimes uncertainty attempts to paralyze our present and future. Read Romans 8:35-39. We are called "more than conquerors" (literally, hyper-nike). What is the reason for this bold claim? Does this mean that you won't have trouble? What does it mean to be more than a conqueror?
- Paul lists things that won't conquer him. Write your list, then write: "Nothing can separate me from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."