

THE LORD'S FLOCK

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

The Righteous Shall Flourish

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The "righteous" are the people who follow the correct path. Flourish means to prosper or to grow in vigor. Those who obey the Lord shall flourish like the palm trees (Psalm 92:13-15). The righteous shall stay vigorous and sturdy, and shall bear fruit even in old age.

1) The righteous can be likened to a palm tree:

1.1 Grows from inside out.

Just like a palm tree, a righteous person can be transformed from within by the Holy Spirit. He/she grows progressively and becomes like a mirror radiating God's light (2Cor 5:17).

1.2 Roots give stability.

- The tree grows deep and depends on its root for nourishment. If there are no roots. there will be no fruits (Mt 13:21).
- Likewise, a good person is deeply rooted in faith, and needs feeding with the Word of God. He/she remains steadfast amidst challenges, and relies on God's truth (Jn 15:4-5).

1.3 Has many uses.

The righteous person is relevant, useful and fruitful in every aspect of life. Even in senior years, he/she can be a prophet at home, in the church, community or workplace.

1.4 Grows even in the desert.

The righteous can live harsh circumstances and thrive through severe trials. No matter what happens, nothing can separate the righteous person from the love of the Lord (Rom 8:35-38).

1.5 Can be easily spotted identified.

• The righteous person is noticeable by a very distinctive righteous lifestyle against a corrupted life. He/she is the light and salt of the earth (Mt 5:13).

1.6 Grows at the top end.

The righteous person gives comfort and joy to others. The Holy Spirit helps us to be Christ-like, exhibiting tenderness of speech, being a good example, and a light of the world (Rom 8:29).

2) What are God's Promises to the Righteous Ones?

- 2.1 They shall be forever green and will bear good fruits even in old age. They that hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will run and not grow weary (Isaiah 40:29-31). They will bear fruits in every good work. They are spiritually alive and Christ-like in attitude: kind, faithful, joyful.
- **2.2 They will prosper in everything**. They will succeeed in material terms. Whatever they do will prosper (Ps 1:3).

Like the palm tree, let us be deeply rooted in Jesus. Let Christ change our inner being and renew our stubborn hearts (Rom 8:26-27; 2Tim 3: 16-17). Let the Holy Spirit guide us so that His fruits will be manifested in us. As we surrender everything to Him, we will flourish.

Reflection:

Are you feeling fresh or are you not bearing much fruit? What branches in your life needs pruning?

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