

IDENTITY | BELONGING | PURPOSE



And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will flourish in every good work.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:8



A NOTE FROM PASTORS CHAD, RACHEL AND SALVADOR.

Grace and peace to you from Jesus Christ, the one who transforms lives and calls us to flourish towards full life for all!

How do you live the good life? How do you really truly flourish?

What's more, how do we as Jesus followers navigate the clash of cultural visions concerning "the good life" and what it means to truly flourish? For Jesus followers, the notion of "flourishing" goes much deeper than the standard cultural definitions. It's not just "the good life" – it's the way life is meant to be.

When God finished creating the world, God said it was, "Very good." God's intent for God's creation is for it to flourish. As part of God's creation, being made in God's image, we feel this desire for flourishing deep in our bones.

God's intent, plan, hope and dream for the flourishing of all creation is a major theme throughout the Bible. Human flourishing is a key Biblical theme woven through the whole story. This theme, when recognized, explains and enhances foundational aspects of the Bible's testimony, including the very nature and goal of God's redemption for us in Christ, who, after all, promises us eternal and abundant life. The Bible, across its whole Christian canon of both Old and New Testaments, is providing its own God-revealed-in-Jesus-Christ answer to the foundational human question of how to flourish and thrive.

The question of how to "flourish and thrive" is answered very differently by scripture than it is by our culture. Flourishing in Jesus is a continuous journey of growth, where we learn to live out our faith, trust in His goodness, and bear witness to His transformative power in our lives. Flourishing in Jesus means nothing short of abundant life for all.

Join us, in this new season, as we explore how to Flourish.

UNA NOTA DE LOS PASTORES CHAD, RACHEL Y SALVADOR.

¡Gracia y paz para ustedes de Jesucristo, quien transforma vidas y nos llama a florecer hacia una vida plena para todos!

¿Cómo vives la buena vida? ¿Cómo realmente floreces? Más aún, ¿cómo nosotros, como seguidores de Jesús, navegamos el choque de visiones culturales sobre 'la buena vida' y lo que significa realmente florecer? Para los seguidores de Jesús, la noción de 'florecer' va mucho más allá de las definiciones culturales estándar. No es solo 'la buena vida' – es la manera en que la vida está destinada a ser.

Cuando Dios terminó de crear el mundo, Dios dijo que era 'muy bueno'. La intención de Dios para Su creación es que florezca. Como parte de la creación de Dios, hechos a imagen de Dios, sentimos este deseo de florecer profundamente en nuestros huesos.

La intención, el plan, la esperanza y el sueño de Dios para el florecimiento de toda la creación es un tema central en la Biblia. Este tema explica y enriquece aspectos fundamentales del testimonio bíblico, incluyendo la naturaleza y el objetivo de la redención de Dios por nosotros en Cristo, quien nos promete vida eterna y abundante. La Biblia ofrece su propia respuesta, revelada por Dios en Jesucristo, a la pregunta fundamental del ser humano: cómo florecer y prosperar. El testimonio cristiano enseña que, a través de nuestra identidad como hijos de Dios, nuestra pertenencia al cuerpo de Cristo y nuestro llamado y propósito de amarnos y servirnos unos a otros, somos capaces de florecer más allá de nuestros sueños más ambiciosos.

La pregunta de cómo "florecer y prosperar" tiene respuestas muy diferentes en las Escrituras que en nuestra cultura. Florecer en Jesús es un camino continuo de crecimiento, donde aprendemos a vivir nuestra fe, a confiar en su bondad y a dar testimonio de su poder transformador en nuestras vidas. Florecer en Jesús significa nada menos que vida abundante para todos.

Únete a nosotros, en esta nueva temporada, mientras exploramos cómo florecer.

A MOMENT THAT DEFINED US

There are times in a community's journey when faith is tested and the path forward feels uncertain. **Rooted + Rising** was born at one of those moments—a time when we knew that in order to worship, connect, and serve fully, we had to strengthen our foundation. We made the ask, and **you stepped forward**. Through your faith and generosity, we found identity, renewed purpose, and a stronger sense of community and belonging.



Thanks to your unwavering support, we have been able to **lay down deep roots**. Your participation, whether giving of your time or financial giving has continued to building meaningful relationships that grow. This footing has empowered us to serve, grow, and continue living out our mission.

But our journey doesn't end here.

INTRODUCING FLOURISH

Now, as we move beyond **Rooted + Rising**, we enter a new season—one where **our strong roots and foundation** allows us to focus on **thriving** together. **Flourish** is not just about continuing the momentum; it's about deepening our **identity, belonging, and purpose** in Jesus and nurturing the seeds of hope in our community.

When you give generously, you make the next steps possible. When we flourish together, we build something lasting.

We invite you to be part of this next phase—Flourish.



*So that you may
walk worthy of the
Lord, fully pleasing
to Him, bearing fruit
in every good work
and growing in the
knowledge of God.*

COLOSSIANS 1:10

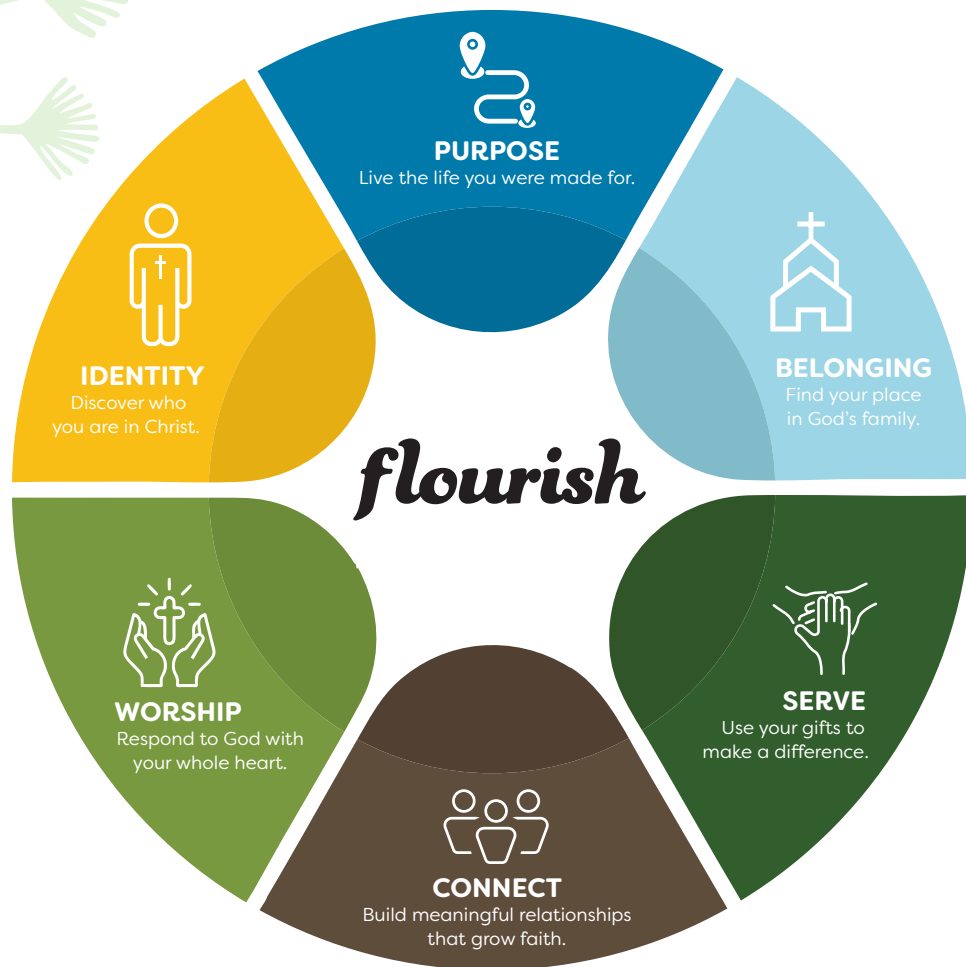
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intransitive verb

2c: to reach a height of development or influence

Flourish is more than just the next step—it's a commitment to living fully in faith, embracing **identity, purpose, and belonging**, and strengthening the bonds of our community, even in adversity. This is our moment to grow—not just as individuals, but as **a congregation united in grace**.





HOW CAN WE THINK ABOUT FLOURISH BIBLICALLY?

When we talk about what it really means to “flourish and thrive,” we find that scripture paints a very different picture from what our culture tells us. The contrast between the two is pretty striking, and here are six key ways they clash.

1. A Pathway to Flourishing

The biblical view of flourishing is unique because it doesn't just offer a vision—it provides the way to actually achieve it. Christianity isn't just about setting values or chasing a vision of a good life; it gives us the heart transformation we need to truly flourish. And the best part? This flourishing isn't something we have to manufacture on our own. It comes through grace—God's gift to us—restoring our original relationship with Him. That's real, lasting flourishing!

2. Who Gets the Glory?

Biblical flourishing directs all the glory to God as the source. When we flourish, God is glorified! But this is a major departure from the cultural idea of flourishing, which tends to put the focus on our own achievements, elevating and glorifying individual success.

3. Flourishing Is Missional

One of the most beautiful aspects of biblical flourishing is that it's outward-focused. It's not just about personal gain—it's about helping others thrive too! In contrast, cultural flourishing often leans toward self-centeredness, focusing inward on personal success rather than extending grace to those around us.

4. Flourishing in Every Aspect

The biblical view of flourishing touches every part of who we are—our spiritual, emotional, psychological, and even material well-being. The cultural narrative, on the other hand, often narrows flourishing down to material wealth, promising happiness through prosperity alone.

5. Flourishing for Everyone

One of the most profound aspects of biblical flourishing is that it's available to everyone. No matter your gender, age, education, financial status, or background—flourishing in Christ isn't reserved for a select group. As Galatians 3:28 reminds us, all are included!

6. Flourishing That's Still in Progress

Lastly, biblical flourishing acknowledges that we're living in an ongoing story—God's redemptive plan is still unfolding. Full restoration and ultimate flourishing will come at the end of this age when God redeems all things. Until then, we have important work to do!

Why flourish matters

We are called to thrive, not just survive—this campaign is about becoming more deeply who God created us to be.

This is more than fundraising—it's a movement toward personal growth, deeper relationships, and community investment.

FLOURISH IS BUILT ON THREE GUIDING PILLARS:



Identity

Who are you in God's world? How does faith shape who you are? I am enough because Jesus loves me. We are all children of God.



Belonging

How are you fulfilling God's call? Where do I fit? I belong with God's people. And everyone who comes to Grace belongs here.



Purpose

What gifts and talents do you bring? How do you fit into the bigger picture? Purpose gives deeper meaning. What difference do I make? A LOT! You're invited to be part of God's story.

THE RIGHTEOUS WILL
FLOURISH LIKE A PALM
TREE, THEY WILL GROW
LIKE A CEDAR OF LEBANON;
PLANTED IN THE HOUSE
OF THE LORD, THEY WILL
FLOURISH IN THE COURTS
OF OUR GOD. THEY WILL
STILL BEAR FRUIT IN OLD
AGE, THEY WILL STAY
FRESH AND GREEN.

PSALM 92:12-14 (NIV)



A Community Growing In Grace

Rooted + Rising showed us what was possible when we came together at a pivotal moment. That discipleship generosity initiative was about strengthening our foundation—Flourish is about thriving on it.

What are we flourishing into – our ways of life. As a congregation, we created these ways of life as a guide for who we are, our truths, and what we stand for. Flourish means embodying all these. While the way we talk about our Ways of Life remains the same, here are some ways to think about our Ways of Life within Flourish specifically:

LIMITLESS GRACE

- Offer grace-centered support to others without expecting anything in return.
- Live out our mission: God's heart. Our hands. Grace in ACTION—at work, home, and in community across all generations.
- Amplify stories of God's unconditional love to inspire faith journeys in others.

LIMITLESS GRACE

When have you experienced God's grace in a way that felt truly limitless?

How did that change you?

ALL MEANS ALL

- Actively include and affirm people of all backgrounds in our church community and beyond.
- Educate yourself and others on issues of equity and justice across identities.
- Advocate for inclusive language and practices in every ministry area, in a culturally authentic way.

SERVANT HEARTS

- Engage regularly in church ministries or outreach programs using your unique gifts.
- Invite others to serve with you to build community and share faith.
- Celebrate and affirm the contributions of all volunteers, regardless of role.

ALL MEANS ALL

Are there areas where you struggle to believe that God's invitation truly includes everyone? Why?

How can you actively extend belonging to others in your community this week?

SERVANT HEARTS

What practical steps can you take to serve someone selflessly this week?

Who in your life has modeled a servant heart well? What have you learned from them?

UNBOUNDED GENEROSITY

- Cultivate a habit of generosity, contributing to both church and community needs.
- Offer your time and resources to enrich the lives of others, both personally and as a community.
- Embrace gratitude as a spiritual practice, letting it inspire generosity in all aspects of life.

MOSAIC LIFE

- Cultivate authentic relationships that celebrate the rich cultural and ethnic diversity within our community.
- Actively engage in multicultural worship and learning experiences.
- Support efforts that dismantle barriers to inclusion in church and society.

UNBOUNDED GENEROSITY

What does generosity mean beyond finances? How can you show it with your time, words, or presence?

Who has been radically generous toward you, and how did it shape your life?

MOSAIC LIFE

Flourishing happens in many aspects of life—faith, work, relationships, community. Where do you feel most alive right now?

Where might God be inviting you to grow and flourish in ways you haven't yet imagined?

LASTING ACCOMPANIMENT

- Build relationships with local and global partners grounded in mutual respect.
- Engage in consistent, long-term mission and justice work, beyond one-time efforts.
- Commit to listening, being and journeying together.

ONGOING DISCERNMENT

- Set aside time regularly for intentional prayer and spiritual reflection.
- Encourage open, Spirit-led conversations that lead to purposeful change.
- Be flexible in ministry planning, willing to adapt as discernment evolves.

LASTING ACCOMPANIMENT

Recall a time someone walked alongside you. What did their presence mean to you?

How can you commit to long-term companionship with others in meaningful ways?

ONGOING DISCERNMENT

Where have you noticed God's guidance in your journey, even in hindsight?

What's one area where you're actively seeking discernment? How are you leaning into trust?

OUR VISION:

Flourishing as a Community

Flourish is about **who we are and what we stand for**. It's about **living out our faith in real, tangible ways** that bring hope, connection, and transformation.

What do you stand for?

How do you live out your faith in real tangible ways?

What can you do to further hope, connection and transformation and truly flourish?

“True giving is a thoroughly joyous thing to do. We experience happiness when we form the intention to give, in the actual act of giving, and in the recollection of the fact that we have given. Generosity is a celebration. When we give something to someone we feel connected to them, and our commitment to the path of peace and awareness deepens.”

SHARON SALZBERG

EVERY ACTION – NO MATTER HOW SMALL – HELPS US FLOURISH TOGETHER.

Here are some ways to Flourish together:

- Invite someone to lunch or coffee after church—build relationships, create belonging
- Host a dinner or gathering—welcome others into your life
- Form a small group—explore faith, support one another, and grow spiritually
- Invite someone to watch your kids' swim meet
- Volunteer together—serve at a local organization or simply help in ways that matter
- Prayer partners and commitment cards—deepen spiritual connections and accountability
- Ask someone how you can pray for them—be present, listen, care
- Support the Des Moines Food Bank—serving our neighbors, feeding the community
- Write a note or text of encouragement to someone during the week
- Introduce yourself to someone new each Sunday
- Host a game night or movie night with church friends and neighbors
- Walk or exercise regularly with someone as a way to talk and pray
- Start a shared Bible reading plan with a friend or group
- Attend a class or retreat together and discuss insights afterward
- Share a personal testimony during a worship or group setting
- Keep a shared gratitude journal or text thread
- Commit to weekly prayer walks in your neighborhood

- Organize a service project with others, like park clean ups or pack hygiene kits
- Offer to drive someone to church or appointments
- Create or join a "meal train" for new parents or those recovering from illness
- Sponsor a local family or refugee through a community partnership
- Host a donation drive for school supplies, hygiene items, or coats

What are other ways you can Flourish at Grace?

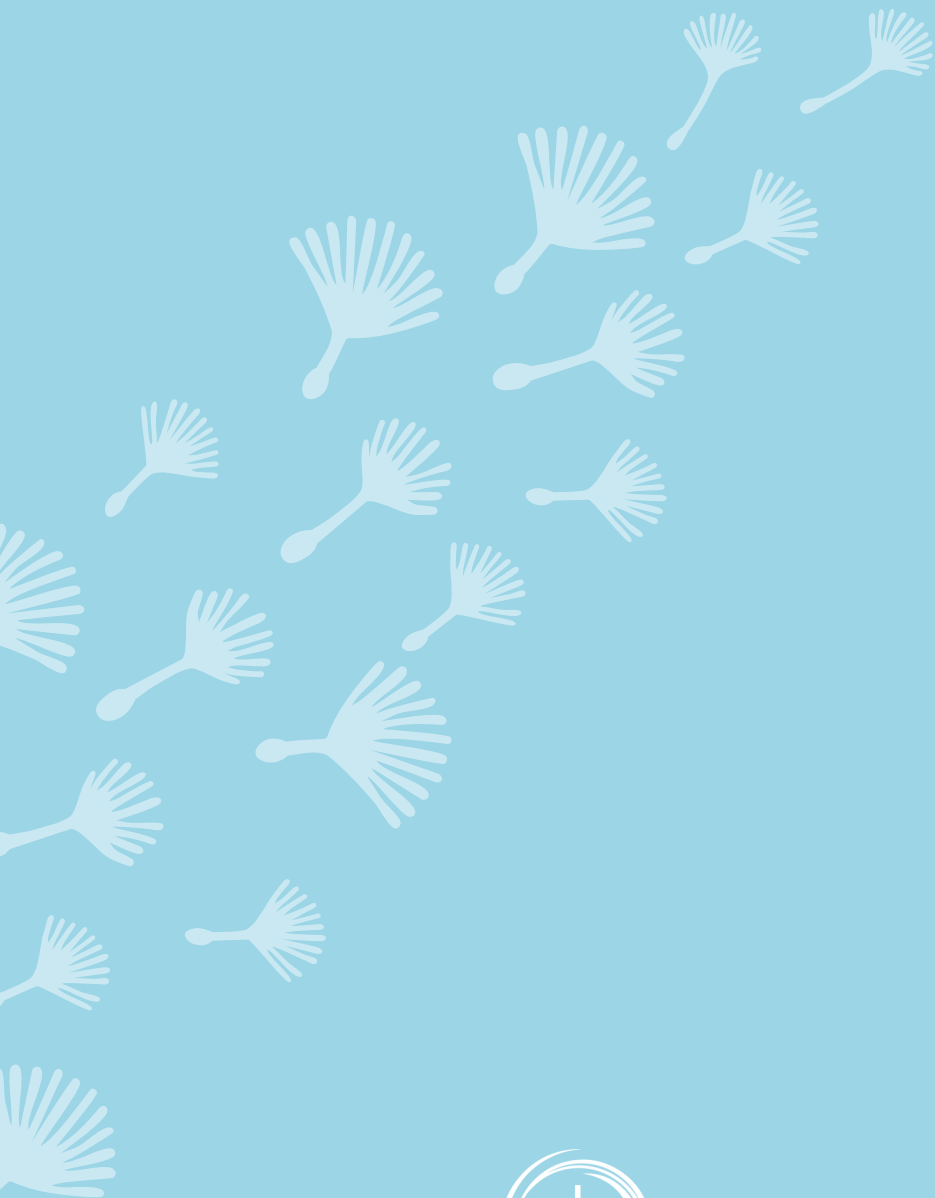
*“Love is our true destiny.
We do not find the meaning
of life by ourselves alone – we
find it with another.”*



Thomas Merton







Grace Lutheran Church | gotgrace.com | 206.878.2460

OUR MISSION: God's heart. Our hands. grace in ACTION.
OUR VISION: A radically inclusive, multicultural community
who serve and lead together with the love of Jesus.