



The Secret to Flourishing | Anna Austin | 07.19.26

Opening Prayer

Begin your group time by inviting the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion.

Icebreaker

What does "flourishing" look like in your life right now? Where do you feel you're thriving, and where do you feel stuck?

Sermon Summary

This message explores what it means to truly flourish as Christians by being planted in the house of God. Using Psalm 92:12-14 as a foundation, we discover that flourishing isn't just about attending church—it's about being rooted in Christ, serving others, engaging in community, worshiping together, and staying spiritually awake.

Key Scripture References

- **Psalm 92:12-14** - The righteous flourish when planted in God's house
 - **Ephesians 5:22-32** - The church as the bride of Christ
 - **1 Corinthians 3:6-16** - Building on the foundation of Christ
 - **Acts 2:37-47** - The early church's devotion to community
 - **Matthew 25:1-13** - The parable of the ten virgins
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Discussion Questions

1. Root Yourself in Christ

Read 1 Corinthians 3:10-11

- Pastor Anna emphasized that Jesus must be our foundation before anything else. How do you ensure that Christ—not religious activity—remains the center of your spiritual life?
- Have you ever found yourself doing "all the right things" while missing your first love (like the church of Ephesus in Revelation 2)? What does returning to your first love look like practically?

2. Carry a Burden (Serve)

Read Ephesians 5:22-27 and 1 Corinthians 3:12-15

- Pastor Anna defined being "subject" to Christ as "voluntarily assuming responsibility and carrying a burden." What burden do you sense God calling you to carry in His kingdom?
- The message challenged us to build with "gold, silver, and precious stones" rather than "wood, hay, and straw." What's the difference between these two types of service? Which are you building with currently?
- If you knew Jesus would evaluate your work when He returns, what would you want Him to find? What might need to change in how you're serving?

3. Get into Community

Read Acts 2:42-47

- The early church "devoted themselves" to fellowship—they were "steadfastly attentive" and didn't faint. On a scale of 1-10, how devoted are you to Christian community? What obstacles prevent deeper devotion?

- The sermon acknowledged that "when you step foot into a crowd of people, you're bound to get hurt." Have you been hurt by church community? How can we balance protecting our hearts while still pursuing authentic community?
- The passage says believers "had all things in common" and cared for each other's needs. What would this look like in our group? Are there practical needs we could meet for one another?

4. Worship Together

Read Revelation 19:6-9

- Why is corporate worship more than just "singing karaoke songs"? What happens spiritually when we worship together?
- Have you experienced worship as something that "clothes you in righteousness and pureness"? Share a time when worship tangibly impacted your spiritual life.

5. Be Ready In and Out of Season

Read Matthew 25:1-13

- In the parable, both the wise and foolish virgins fell asleep. What does it look like to "wake up" spiritually? What are signs that we've fallen asleep?
- The sermon warned: "Don't get so busy going through the motions of life that you forget why you were given grace in the first place." What "motions" can distract us from our purpose?
- How can we help each other stay spiritually awake and ready for Christ's return??

The Roach Story: Zeal for God's House

- Pastor Anna shared a personal story about battling a roach in her home, connecting it to Jesus' words: "Zeal for your house has consumed me" (John 2:17).

Discussion:

- What "roaches" (sin, apathy, division, hurt) might be trying to take up residence in our church community?
 - What would it look like for zeal for God's house to consume us? How can we protect our spiritual home together?
 - The story emphasized not giving up on community despite challenges. What makes you want to "sell the house" (give up on church)? How can we fight through those moments together?
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Key Takeaways

1. **Flourishing requires more than attendance**—it requires being planted and rooted in God's house
 2. **Jesus is the foundation**—everything we build must be on Him, not religious activity
 3. **We are called to serve**—carrying a burden for God's kingdom is part of sanctification
 4. **Community is essential**—we cannot flourish in isolation; we need each other
 5. **Corporate worship matters**—it ushers in God's presence and cleanses us
 6. **Stay awake**—don't fall asleep spiritually while waiting for Christ's return
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Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge:

Choose one area where you need to be more "planted" in God's house:

Option 1: Deepen Your Foundation

- Spend 15 minutes daily in prayer asking God to reveal if you've lost your "first love"
- Journal about what initially drew you to Christ and how you can return to that devotion

Option 2: Start Serving

- Identify one way you can serve in the church this month
- Reach out to a ministry leader and ask how you can help carry the burden

Option 3: Pursue Community

- Invite someone from church to coffee or a meal this week
- Be vulnerable about a struggle you're facing and ask for prayer
- If you've been hurt by church, take one step toward forgiveness or reconciliation

Option 4: Engage in Worship

- Come to church 10 minutes early next Sunday to prepare your heart
- During worship, focus on God's presence rather than your preferences
- Create a personal worship playlist and spend time worshipping at home

Option 5: Wake Up Spiritually

- Identify one area where you've been "asleep" (complacent, distracted, lukewarm)
- Share this with an accountability partner and ask them to check in with you
- Set a reminder on your phone: "Am I awake and ready for Christ's return?"

Group Accountability

Share with the group:

- Which of the five points (Root in Christ, Serve, Community, Worship, Stay Awake) resonates most with you right now?
 - Which practical application will you commit to this week?
 - How can we pray for you specifically?
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Closing Reflection

The sermon ended with two groups:

1. Those who need to receive God's grace for the first time
2. Those who have received grace but have been sleeping spiritually

Final Questions:

- Which group do you identify with today?
 - What is one thing you're taking away from this discussion?
 - How has God spoken to you through this message?
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Closing Prayer

Leader, pray over the group:

"God, thank you for your church and for the family you've placed us in. We ask for zeal for your house to consume us—not just to attend, but to be truly planted and rooted in you. Help us to serve with joy, to pursue community with courage, to worship with authenticity, and to stay spiritually awake. Where we've been hurt, bring healing. Where we've been complacent, bring awakening. We want to flourish for your glory. In Jesus' name, amen."

Additional Resources

- **For those hurt by church:** Consider reading "The Subtle Power of Spiritual Abuse" by David Johnson or talking with a pastor
- **For serving:** Contact the church office about volunteer opportunities
- **For community:** Join or start a Life Group
- **For worship:** Explore worship resources on the church website or app

Remember: Flourishing isn't about perfection—it's about being planted in God's presence and allowing Him to grow us into who He created us to be.