

FBC Service Still Flourishing, Still Bearing Fruit Sunday, October 25, 2026

Psalm 92:1–2, 12–15 (NLT)

Intro: Flourishing Through Every Season

Have you ever stopped to think about how much our lives resemble the **changing seasons of the year?**

Think about springtime. Everything seems fresh and new. The trees begin to bud, the flowers appear, and the world around us comes alive again.

Then comes summer. The trees are full of leaves, the gardens are growing, and everywhere we look there are signs of life and activity.

Before we know it, autumn arrives. The leaves change colour, the harvest is gathered, and we are reminded that another season is passing.

Then comes winter. The leaves are gone, the branches are bare, and the trees that once looked so full of life seem to be standing still.

But here is something worth remembering: just because a tree is not showing signs of growth does not mean it has stopped living.

Beneath the surface, its roots are still there. Life is still present. And when the right season comes, that tree may blossom and flourish once again.

Folks, is that not a graphic picture of life itself? We all pass through different seasons.

There is the springtime of youth, when life stretches out before us and we have dreams and plans for the future.

There are the busy summer years, when we are raising families, building careers, serving others, and often wondering where the time has gone!

Then come the autumn years, when we begin to slow down a little, look back over the journey, and reflect on the blessings and experiences God has given us.

And yes, there may come a winter season, when life is not quite what it used to be. Our strength may not be what it once was. Our circumstances may have changed. Perhaps there are disappointments, difficulties, or losses we never expected.

But here is the question I want to ask you this morning: Does growing older mean we have to stop growing as believers?

Does reaching a certain age mean that our best days of serving the Lord are behind us?

Does a change in our circumstances mean that God has finished His work in our lives?

Absolutely not!

That's what makes our Scripture passage from Psalm 92 this morning so encouraging. It's precisely for real people, living through real seasons.

The Psalmist gives us a beautiful picture of what the Christian life can look like, not simply when we're young and full of energy, but right through the changing seasons of life.

He tells us that the godly will flourish like palm trees and grow strong like the cedars of Lebanon. And then comes that magnificent promise in verse 14: *"Even in old age they will still produce fruit."*

What an amazing thought! We all may be getting older, but we can still be growing.

We may not be able to do everything we once did, but God can still work through our life.

We may be in a different season today than we were twenty or thirty years ago, but that does not mean the Lord has finished with us.

The Christian life is not just about how well we begin. It's about continuing to grow in the grace of God until our race on earth is run.

And that brings us to Psalm 92, that begins with worship and ends with testimony. Morning and evening, beginning and ending, youth and age: **the Lord is worthy of our praise through it all.**

1. Planted in the Lord — Where Life and Growth Begin

Every majestic cedar was once a small tree. Every stately palm that offers shade or produces dates began with a life that had to take root.

In the same way, our Christian lives have a beginning. We're not born Christians simply because our parents believed, or because we faithfully attended church for many years.

Jesus told Nicodemus, *'You must be born again.'* New spiritual life begins when we turn from sin and place our faith in Jesus Christ, who died for us and rose again.

Think back if you can, to when you first came to saving faith in Jesus. Do you remember the new hunger you had to read the Bible, the new joy in prayer, or the astonishing realization that your sins were forgiven.

Peter likens new believers to newborn babies who need spiritual milk in order to grow (1 Peter 2:2). Nobody expects a sapling to have the strength of a mature cedar. **But we do expect it to continue to grow.**

And that raises a searching question for all of us: **how long have we been Christians, and how much have we grown?** Years of church attendance do not automatically produce maturity.

God wants us to grow in grace: in patience when people try us, in forgiveness when we are hurt, in trust when answers are slow, and in love for the people He places around us.

The Bible often uses trees to teach us something.

Little Zacchaeus climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see Jesus.

Jonah sat beneath a plant that gave him shade.

Psalm 1 describes the blessed person as a tree planted beside streams of water.

But here in Psalm 92 the picture is especially vivid: a palm tree and a cedar of Lebanon.

The palm suggests flourishing and fruitfulness. Date palms have long provided food and useful materials in the lands of the Bible.

The cedar of Lebanon suggests grandeur and enduring strength. Its timber was so highly valued that Solomon arranged with Hiram of Tyre to have cedar cut in Lebanon and brought by sea in rafts for the building of the Temple (1 Kings 5).

Imagine those great trees growing for years on the mountains, and their timber eventually being used in a house dedicated to the worship of God.

I don't think the Psalmist is asking us to make a spiritual lesson out of every detail of a tree. But the larger picture is clear. **God grows and strengthens His people, often over many years,** and He has purposes for lives that have been formed by His grace.

Where does that strength come from? Verse 13 says they are planted in the house of the Lord. **The Psalmist is speaking of a life near God, rooted in worship and belonging to Him.**

Psalm 1 speaks of delighting in God's Word; Jeremiah 17 describes roots stretching toward water. **This image shows us a healthy spiritual life needs nourishment.**

We read Scripture not simply to collect facts, **but to hear and obey God.** We pray because we need our Father. We gather to worship because we belong to the family of God.

And there's another part of this picture. A tree does not flourish by pretending it needs no soil or water. **Neither does a Christian flourish in isolation.**

We need the encouragement of God's people. We need the older Christian who has walked through storms, and we need the younger Christian whose questions awaken our own wonder.

trying to live on yesterday's blessings? The strength that sustains us in the storm is often formed quietly, in the ordinary habits of trusting God.

We need to love God's Word, God's work, and God's people.

2. Growing Through the Seasons — Faith When Life Changes

Every tree experiences changing seasons. Spring brings new growth. Summer brings activity and warmth. Autumn brings maturity and harvest.

Winter can leave the branches looking bare. **Yet a bare branch is not necessarily a dead branch.** Life may still be there, though we cannot see much happening.

Our lives are like that. There is the springtime of beginning: perhaps a new faith, a young family, or a new opportunity.

There is the summer of responsibility, when work and family and service fill our days.

There is the autumn of reflection, when we look back and see what God has brought us through.

And sometimes there is a winter season: loneliness, bereavement, illness, disappointment, or the painful loss of abilities we once took for granted.

Psalm 92 is not promising that a godly person will escape these things. I have visited enough people in hospitals and nursing homes to know that sincere believers may endure very difficult years.

Some live with serious illness. Some struggle with memory loss. **Some are unable to come to church at all.** We must never read '**fresh and green,**' as though God has promised perfect health, endless energy, or a long life to every Christian.

The encouragement here is much deeper than that. Our circumstances may change, but the Lord who holds us does not.

Paul could write even amid weakness, that though our bodies are declining, our spirits are being renewed every day. (2 Corinthians 4:16). **We may not choose our season, but we can continue to look to our Saviour in it.**

Think of Joseph, who learned to trust God through betrayal and prison.

Think of David, whose songs of praise were sometimes written out of danger and sorrow.

Think of Paul, who discovered that the grace of Christ was sufficient in weakness. None of them would have called every season pleasant. **Yet the Lord did not abandon them.**

Perhaps you are in a difficult season this morning. You may not feel particularly fruitful. You may be tired. **You may wonder whether your best years are over.**

Let me say gently: present limitations do not mean God has finished with us. We may not be in the springtime of life, **but we can still be in the growing season of grace.**

And if we are younger, this is not simply a message about someone else's future. **The roots we put down today will matter when the winds rise tomorrow.**

Learn to pray now. Learn to trust God's Word now. Learn to love the church now. What grows quietly in your heart today may sustain you in a season you cannot yet imagine.

Still Bearing Fruit — The Beauty of Faithful Older Saints

Now we come to the line that makes this Psalm so precious: '*Even in old age they will still produce fruit*' (Psalm 92:14, NLT).

What a beautiful picture of a believer growing older!

The world often measures usefulness by speed, strength, income, and visible achievement. **But God sees things that the world overlooks.**

I think of faithful older members of our congregation who have served the Lord for decades. Some have taught children, sung in choirs, visited the sick, prepared meals, cared for neighbours, or quietly given to the Lord's work.

Their responsibilities may change with age, but the grace of God has not run out. A prayer offered from a chair, a kind word over the telephone, a card sent to someone who is grieving, or a testimony of God's goodness can bear real fruit.

It is sometimes said by older believers, 'We must make room for younger people.' **Of course we must.** A healthy church welcomes younger generations into meaningful service. [Slide 18](#)

But making room for youth does not mean checking out of the room yourself!

We need one another. Younger Christians need the wisdom of those who have walked with God through many seasons.

Older Christians can be encouraged by the faith and energy of those just beginning.

And here I want to speak to the younger members of our congregation. **Take time to listen to an older believer.** Ask how the Lord brought them through a hard season.

Ask about a prayer God answered, or a Scripture that has stayed with them for years.

They have fruit to share with you, not necessarily apples and oranges, but the fruit of a life rooted in Jesus.

The Bible gives us some splendid examples.

Moses and Aaron were eighty and eighty-three when they confronted Pharaoh (Exodus 7:7).

Caleb, at eighty-five still trusted God's promise and said, "give me another mountain to conquer." (Joshua 14:10–12). **I love Caleb's spirit. What an inspiration!**

He didn't say, 'I've done my part; let somebody else do it now.' He trusted the Lord who had kept him all those years.

That doesn't mean every eighty-five-year-old must take on another mountain!

Caleb's story is not a demand that people ignore their health or physical limits. **It's a testimony that courage and trust in God need not expire with age.**

Think of Simeon and Anna in Luke 2 who had waited for the Lord's promised salvation.

Think of Paul, who called himself an old man in his letter to Philemon. In prison he continued encouraging believers and writing words that still bless the church.

Sometimes our sphere of activity becomes smaller, but our influence through Christ can still be wide.

We should also remember the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. (Galatians 5:22–23)

Those graces are not reserved only for people who can run meetings or carry heavy furniture.

A person confined to bed may still show remarkable patience. Someone living with loss may still offer kindness. A quiet saint may still pray faithfully for the next generation.

So please don't confuse fruitfulness with busyness. The Lord doesn't measure our worth by the number of jobs we can still perform.

We belong to Him by saving grace. And He can still produce beautiful fruit in us, even when our outward strength is fading.

4. Still Declaring His Faithfulness — A Testimony for Every Generation

There's one more thing we must not miss. Why does the Psalmist describe the godly as flourishing and fruitful?

Verse 15 gives the answer: they declare that the Lord is just, that He is their rock, and that there is no evil in Him. The tree is not there merely to be admired.

The flourishing life points beyond itself to the faithful God who sustains it.

And that takes us right back to the beginning of the Psalm.

In the morning, proclaim His unfailing love.

At night, proclaim His faithfulness.

What a wonderful way to describe a lifetime with God!

In the morning of youth, when so much lies ahead, we praise Him for His love. In the evening of life, after joys and sorrows, blessings and losses, we can testify that He has been faithful.

There is something deeply moving about hearing an older Christian say, **'The Lord has been so good to me.'** That doesn't mean everything has been easy.

It may be spoken by someone who has buried a loved one, endured illness, or walked through years of uncertainty. The words carry weight precisely because they have been tested.

What will we leave to the next generation? There may be possessions and photographs and stories.

But one of the finest legacies we can leave is the testimony that Jesus Christ can be trusted. Psalm 71:18 contains the prayer of an aging believer who wants to proclaim God's strength to the next generation. **That is a prayer worth making our own.**

Always remember where all this spiritual life comes from. Jesus said in John 15, 'I am the vine; you are the branches.' He tells us to remain in Him, **because apart from Him we can do nothing.**

Psalm 92 is not a call to manufacture spiritual success by trying harder. It's a call to remain close to the Lord who gives life. We are saved through Jesus Christ, who died for our sins and rose again, and the fruit we bear is the work of His grace within us.

So whether you are nineteen or forty-nine, or eighty-nine or ninety-nine, the invitation is the same: **trust Christ**, stay close to Him, receive His Word, love His people, and let your life declare His goodness.

There is no retirement from belonging to Jesus or bearing witness to His grace.

Conclusion — Still Growing to the Very End

There is an old illustration, attributed to Louis Albert Banks, about a man walking near Lake Superior who came upon a great big pine tree that had fallen in a storm.

As he examined the tree, he estimated that it had stood for some 250 years. But what impressed him most was the evidence that **even on the day it fell, it had still been growing.**

Whether or not every detail of that old account can be verified, **it leaves us with a vivid picture of a tree that endured through generation after generation and was still growing at the end.**

Surely that must be the prayer of every believer. Not that we never grew tired. Not that we never struggled. Not that we never had doubts or tears.

But that right to the end we were still growing in grace, still trusting Jesus, still loving His people, **still bearing fruit**, and still declaring the faithfulness of God.

We cannot stop the passing of the years. But by God's grace we need never stop growing in Christ.

The Psalmist's words are not merely about growing old; **they are about growing old with a testimony.** Morning and evening, through every season, may our lives say: 'The Lord is faithful.'

Still flourishing. Still bearing fruit. Still declaring the goodness of our God.

Closing Prayer

Our gracious heavenly Father, thank You for Your unfailing love in the morning and Your faithfulness through every evening of life.

Thank You for the new life You give us through Jesus Christ. Help us to put down deep roots in Your Word and to love Your people.

Encourage those facing difficult seasons, strengthen those who are weary, and remind our older brothers and sisters how precious their prayers, wisdom, and witness are to You.

Make us fruitful by Your Spirit, whatever our age or circumstances, so that our lives will point others to Jesus Christ, our Saviour and our Rock. In His name we pray. **Amen.**