

POWER TO FLOURISH IN THIS HOUSE

WELCOME: Share with the group how your morning routine looks like.

WORSHIP: Sing, **GREAT THINGS** (*Elevation Worship*)

WORD: Read ROMANS 12:1-2

GOD WANTS US TO THRIVE NOT JUST SURVIVE. The Lord Jesus did not just save us from sin and eternal death, He also wants us to flourish in this world (John 10:10) so we can serve as His witnesses to His grace and goodness (Acts 1:8). But do you ever wonder why some Christians don't thrive the way God wants them to? Pastor mentioned that "*many Christians don't thrive because they don't change their rhythm even after they have received Christ.*" If we really want flourish, we need to change our rhythm as the Apostle Paul said in Romans 12:2.

Rhythm is defined as a regularly repeated pattern. God has placed everything in a natural rhythm that allows things to be in order and productive. If there is such a thing as rhythm in nature, God also has a rhythm for a life of abundance and effectiveness. This rhythm can be understood by applying His Word in our life. This is called the rhythm of godly wisdom which leads to success (Proverbs 2:6-8). Pastor said, "It's not enough to have good intention. Intention is good, but nothing significant happens by just having intention; what we need is action." Our salvation (going to heaven and having eternal life) is based on God's grace through faith in Christ alone (Ephesians 2:8-9), but in our sanctification—we need to cooperate with God who is working in us, so we will grow, be fruitful; and we can fulfill the mission of bringing His love to other. That means, we work out our salvation by working with God to help us become fruitful (Philippians 2:12). You and I have a role to play in that, and involves getting into God's rhythm!

THE RHYTHM OF THIS WORLD.

The world has a sin-tainted and sin-driven rhythm. That rhythm or pattern started with Adam; but Jesus came to change that rhythm (Romans 5:19). Pastor said, "Adam's rhythm is a rhythm of failure, a rhythm of disobedience, a rhythm of stubbornness; a rhythm of fruitlessness; a rhythm that leads to death". But the new rhythm of Jesus is the pattern of life; the pattern of blessing; the pattern of obedience; the pattern of fruitfulness.

- *God wants to take us out of that old rhythm (that old pattern).* It all starts with receiving Jesus as Lord and Savior and accepting His gift of salvation. Have you received Jesus in your life (when did you receive Him)? Three or four people may share.
- *Even though we have Jesus in our life, we still live in that old rhythm.* How can we begin to start the new rhythm that leads to an abundant life? Read Romans 12:2.
- Can you say that God has made you wiser since you received Jesus? Or would you honestly say that nothing much has changed?
- Can you honestly say that you are experiencing the abundant life that God wants for you to enjoy? YES or NO, and why?
- If your answer is no, is it possible that you are still following the pattern of this world and haven't embraced the pattern of godly wisdom that Pastor mentioned about in his sermon? Romans 12:2 says, the way to stop conforming to the pattern of this world is by allowing God to transform our minds. When our minds are transformed, we can know God's good, pleasing and perfect will which ultimately leads to a life of wisdom and fruitfulness.
- The most important step in embracing a new rhythm is receiving wisdom from God's word. Read Proverbs 3:1-8 and enumerate the ways we can start embracing a rhythm of wisdom that you can in these verses.

STOP PASSING ON BAD RHYTHMS.

One of the characteristics of rhythm is that it is fluid. It flows from one generation to another; it passes on from friend to friend; it can influence a home or even countries. Pastor read one of the controversial verses in the Bible, Exodus 34:6-7 (read it). Why does it sound conflicting and what did Pastor say regarding how we should interpret those verses?

- God is saying this not in a vindictive manner but in a logical sense. The problem is the pattern (not God, or your children). He is saying, our rhythm (process)—the choices we make, the words we say and the steps we take will greatly affect our life (product) and the future. So we must be careful with the rhythms and patterns we follow.
- If you don't like the product change the process. If you want to your life to flourish, the rhythm's got to change. What rhythms or patterns have been passed on to you that are not making your life any better?
- Pastor said, "*You can't do the same thing, the same way and expect a different result each time!*" That's how Albert Einstein defined insanity. We also heard several hilarious examples of rhythms people follow, but actually have very serious consequences. Do you remember any of the rhythms pastor mentioned? Which of his examples struck your heart that makes you want to change your rhythm?
- What other patterns and rhythms are you engaged in that don't make your life any better? Can you think of one and share it with group?
- How can you change your rhythms so you can get the results that you want and honor God in the process?
- Parents have the power to create rhythms for your children that will propel them to flourish! But that means creating new God-honoring rhythms for themselves. Read Proverbs 22:6.
- Teens should not blame their parents' for not creating rhythms for them. If you're parents aren't providing a godly example, you must choose to follow God's rhythm and set yourself as an example to your parents, in a humble manner. Read 1 Timothy 4:11.

DON'T USE YOUR RHYTHM AS AN EXCUSE OR CONFUSE IT WITH YOUR DESTINY.

We all have tons of patterns and rhythms that have turned into excuses; and many people confuse our decision with our destiny. Pastor said, "*If you think you're in a pattern because it's your destiny to be in that pattern then the Apostle Paul would not have said, 'do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world.'* He would have said, '*embrace your lot, that's your destiny.*'"

- We think that what we have is because of what we are, when in fact, what we have is because of the pattern we follow. Have you ever used your rhythm as an excuse or confused it with you destiny?
- Often, we blame the devil all we want for keeping us from our destiny to flourish, when in fact, it's just our rhythm that keeps us from enjoying what God has for us and experiencing the power to flourish. When our life is unproductive and always failing, we tend to look for someone or something to blame; and when we can't find a suitable person or something to blame, we embrace failure and fruitlessness as our destiny.
- The devil is "not always to blame" but sometimes, when we use our rhythms as our excuse, he can make us believe that our excuses is who we truly are. He will make us believe phrases like, "I'm just a late person (because...)," or, "I'm disorganized," or "I'm just not smart," or "I was born this way." As children of God, we shouldn't say that anymore. Our rhythms don't have to become our destiny. With Jesus, the One who broke the pattern of sin by dying on the Cross for our sins, we have the power to change the product of our lives by changing our rhythms of our thought and behavior.

IF THE PROBLEM IS YOUR RHYTHM, CHANGE THE RHYTHM...

Pastor said, "If the rhythm is keeping you from flourishing, the rhythm has to change." If you want to flourish in our finances our spending rhythm and generosity level must change; if we want to flourish at school, our study rhythms must change. If you don't like the product, you got to change the process. Read Luke 16:10-12.

- Make a commitment that beginning with you, everything will change! You got to stop doing what isn't helping. God has a rhythm (or a pattern) for us to follow so we can have the power to flourish for His glory.
- "*What is not healed gets handed down.*" Pastor encouraged us to cancel by faith in the name of Jesus, whatever negative rhythms or products have been handed down to you—it might be racism, anger, bitterness, laziness, poverty, indebtedness, a string broken relationships; it might be an illness (that runs in the family), whatever that is, nothing is beyond the healing grace of God! And choose to embrace new rhythms that will propel you to flourish!
- *You may not always have a choice as to what gets handed down to you, but you do have a choice of what you get to pass down.* Beginning with you, create a godly rhythm that will cause your life to flourish, as well as the future generations.
- Have a vision for a different and more fruitful life! [Perhaps you can share *the vision for your life* form your assignment last week?].

WORKS

- Memorize ROMANS 12:2.
- Check our Mosaic's website and click on EVENTS...
- Pray for the people you wish to invite to ANNIVERSARY (Worship and Vision Banquet) and EASTER.
- Change your churchgoing rhythm by bringing someone who is not a churchgoer already.