



Thrive in 2025 with Uncommon Favor

Heritage Church International
January 12, 2025

2024 Topics

- prayer and basic principles
- the ministry of Jonah: God's grace and mercy
- the promises of God and His presence.
- false belief systems and the mind of Christ.
- faith steps
- Excellence
 - followership, loyalty and honor;
 - maximizer
 - reinvent
- spirit-led spiritual warfare and intercession
- the wisdom of God and fixed mindsets

January
Understanding
Grace, Favor &
Thriving

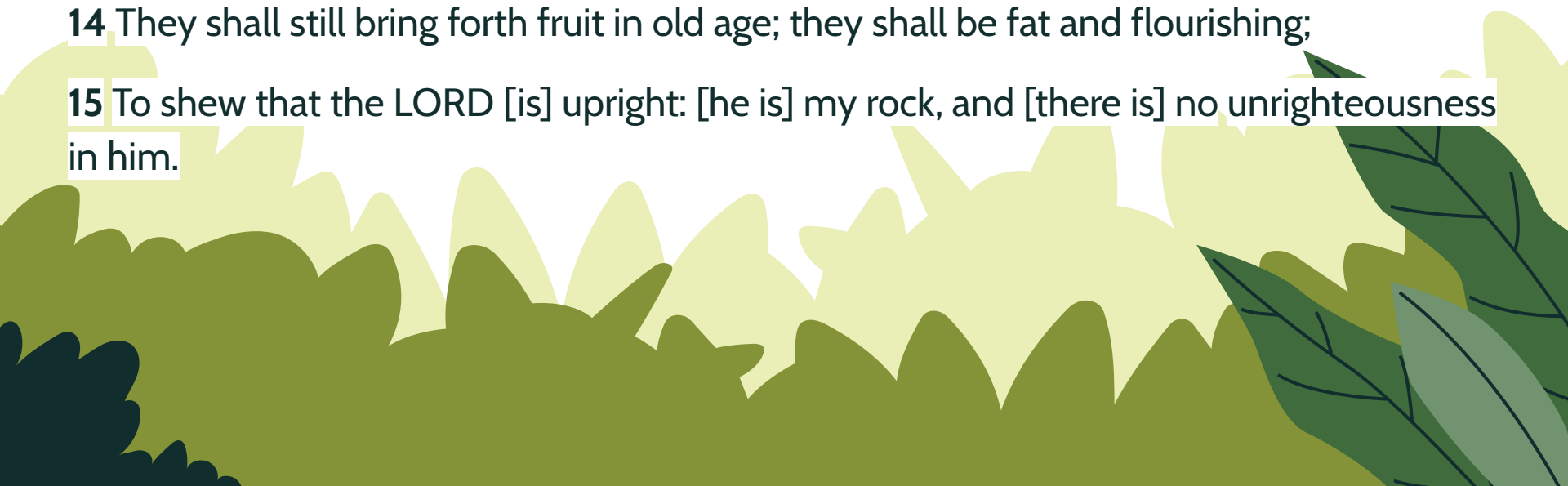
Focus Scripture | Psalm 92:12 - 15 (HCSB)

12 The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

13 Those that be planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God.

14 They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing;

15 To shew that the LORD [is] upright: [he is] my rock, and [there is] no unrighteousness in him.



Questions for Psalm 92:12-15

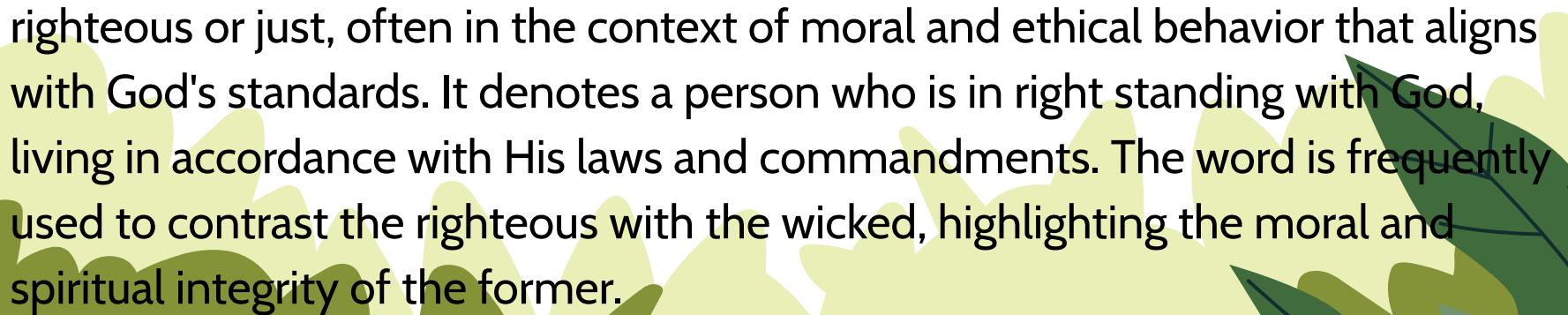
1. What does **righteous** mean?
2. What does **thrive** mean?
3. Why are we being compared to **trees**?
4. Why these **two types** of trees (palm and cedar) specifically?
5. Why these two types of trees in the area of **Lebanon**?



1. What does **righteousness** mean?

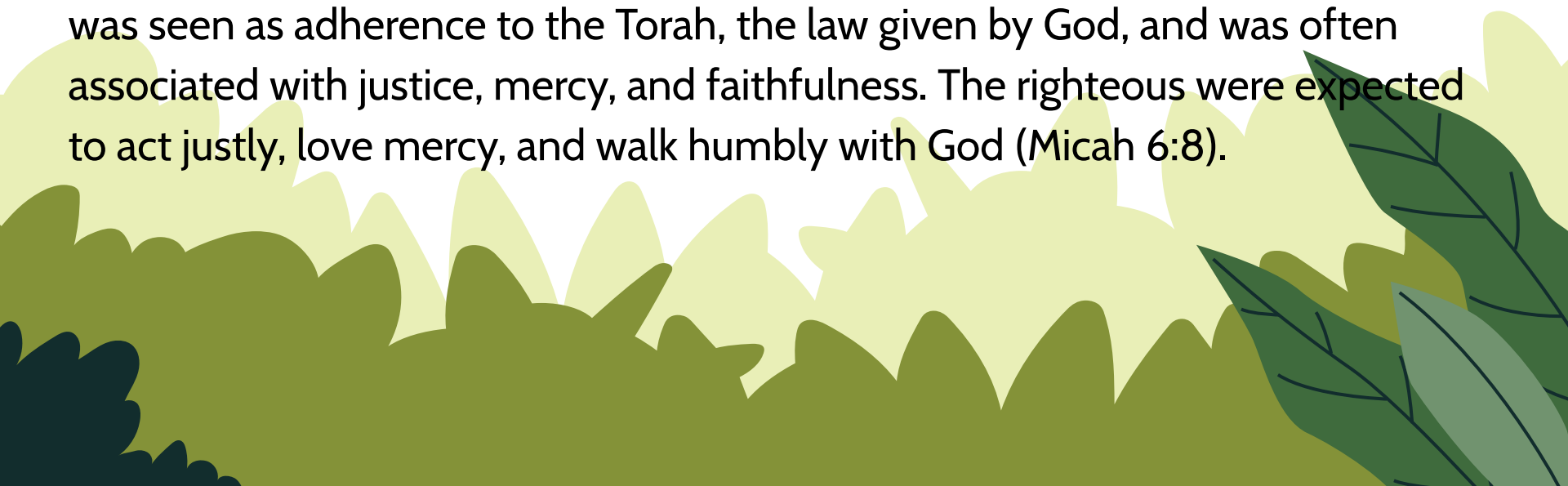
Tsaddiq (6662): Hebrew word that means righteous, just

The term "tsaddiq" is used in the Hebrew Bible to describe someone who is righteous or just, often in the context of moral and ethical behavior that aligns with God's standards. It denotes a person who is in right standing with God, living in accordance with His laws and commandments. The word is frequently used to contrast the righteous with the wicked, highlighting the moral and spiritual integrity of the former.



1. What does **righteousness** mean?

In ancient Israelite society, righteousness was not merely a personal attribute but a communal expectation. The concept of "tsaddiq" was deeply embedded in the covenantal relationship between God and His people. Righteousness was seen as adherence to the Torah, the law given by God, and was often associated with justice, mercy, and faithfulness. The righteous were expected to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God (Micah 6:8).



We don't have our own righteousness

Isaiah 64:4-6 AMPC

4 For from of old no one has heard nor perceived by the ear, nor has the eye seen a God besides You, Who works *and* shows Himself active on behalf of him who [earnestly] waits for Him.

5 You meet *and* spare him who joyfully works righteousness (uprightness and justice), [earnestly] remembering You in Your ways. Behold, You were angry, for we sinned; we have long continued in our sins [prolonging Your anger]. And shall we be saved?

6 For we have all become like one who is unclean [ceremonially, like a leper], and all our righteousness (our best deeds of rightness and justice) is like filthy rags *or* a polluted garment; we all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away [far from God's favor, hurrying us toward destruction].

Righteousness is by faith, not works

Romans 3:21-27

21 But now the righteousness of God has been revealed independently *and* altogether apart from the Law, although actually it is attested by the Law and the Prophets,

22 Namely, the righteousness of God which comes by believing *with* personal trust *and* confident reliance on Jesus Christ (the Messiah). [And it is meant] for all who believe. For there is no distinction,

23 Since all have sinned and are falling short of the honor *and* glory [a]which God bestows *and* receives.

24 [All] are justified *and* made upright *and* in right standing with God, freely *and* gratuitously by His grace (His unmerited favor and mercy), through the redemption which is [provided] in Christ Jesus,

25 Whom God put forward [[b]before the eyes of all] as a mercy seat *and* propitiation by His blood [the cleansing and life-giving sacrifice of atonement and reconciliation, to be received] through faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in His divine forbearance He had passed over *and* ignored former sins without punishment.

26 It was to demonstrate *and* prove at the present time ([c]in the now season) that He Himself is righteous and that He justifies *and* accepts as righteous him who has [true] faith in Jesus.

27 Then what becomes of [our] pride *and* [our] boasting? It is excluded (banished, ruled out entirely). On what principle? [On the principle] of doing good deeds? No, but on the principle of faith.

Righteousness is received through Jesus Christ

2 Corinthians 5:21 AMPC

For our sake He made Christ [virtually] to be sin Who knew no sin, so that in *and* through Him we might become [[a] **endued** with, viewed as being **in**, and examples of] the righteousness of God [what we ought to be, **approved and acceptable** and in **right relationship** with Him, by His goodness].

2 Corinthians 5:21 AMPC

9 For in Him the whole fullness of Deity (the Godhead) continues to dwell in bodily form [giving complete expression of the divine nature]. 10 And you [f]are in Him, made full *and* having come to fullness of life [in Christ you too are filled with the Godhead—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—and reach full spiritual stature]. And He is the Head of all rule and authority [of every angelic principality and power].

Romans 8:1-2 AMPC

1 Therefore, [there is] now no condemnation (no adjudging guilty of wrong) for those who are in Christ Jesus, *who live [and] walk not after the dictates of the flesh, but after the dictates of the Spirit.* 2 For the law of the Spirit of life [which is] in Christ Jesus [the law of our new being] has freed me from the law of sin and of death.

Philemon 1:6 AMPC

[And I pray] that the participation in *and* sharing of your faith may produce *and* promote full recognition *and* appreciation *and* understanding *and* precise knowledge of every good [thing] that is ours in [our identification with] Christ *Jesus* [and unto His glory].



Walk in Your Righteousness

1. Let Him be Lord
2. Walk in Confidence
3. Don't Be Afraid to Mess Up



2. What does **thrive** mean?

To grow or develop well, vigorously



Thriving vs. Surviving

	Thriving	Surviving
<i>Definition</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● to flourish, grow, and prosper, actively engaging in life and pursuing goals● a more positive state of actively flourishing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● to continue existing, often just meeting basic needs and getting by with the minimum necessary, especially in challenging situations● a state of merely existing through difficult circumstances.
<i>Focus</i>	emphasizes actively pursuing happiness and fulfillment	simply staying alive or coping with challenges
<i>Emotional State</i>	associated with positive emotions like joy, contentment, and engagement	can involve stress, anxiety, and exhaustion
<i>Action</i>	involves actively working towards goals and personal growth	often means just getting through the day with minimal effort

2 Corinthians 9:6 - 11 AMPC

[Remember] this: he who sows sparingly and grudgingly will also reap sparingly and grudgingly, and he who sows generously [that blessings may come to someone] will also reap generously and with blessings. Let each one [give] as he has made up his own mind and purposed in his heart, not reluctantly or sorrowfully or under compulsion, for God loves (He takes pleasure in, prizes above other things, and is unwilling to abandon or to do without) a cheerful (joyous, "prompt to do it") giver [whose heart is in his giving]. [Prov. 22:9.] And God is able to make all grace (every favor and earthly blessing) come to you in abundance, so that you may always and under all circumstances and whatever the need be self-sufficient [possessing enough to require no aid or support and furnished in abundance for every good work and charitable donation]. As it is written, He [the benevolent person] scatters abroad; He gives to the poor; His deeds of justice and goodness and kindness and benevolence will go on and endure forever! [Ps. 112:9.] And [God] Who provides seed for the sower and bread for eating will also provide and multiply your [resources for] sowing and increase the fruits of your righteousness [which manifests itself in active goodness, kindness, and charity]. [Isa. 55:10; Hos. 10:12.] Thus you will be enriched in all things and in every way, so that you can be generous, and [your generosity as it is] administered by us will bring forth thanksgiving to God.

Conclusion

answer & reflect on the last 3 questions

1. Why are we being compared to trees?
2. Why these **two types** of trees (palm and cedar) specifically?
3. Why these two types of trees in the area of **Lebanon**?