



## RBC CONNECT GROUP STUDY FOR WEEK 5/7/20

### **RBC: A THRIVING CHURCH**

As always, the following questions are discussion starters to the topic of faith. Feel free to explore what faith is as you begin your discussion.

**To thrive:** to grow or develop in a healthy or vigorous way, especially as the result of a particularly congenial environment.

**To thrive (Bible):** to grow luxuriantly; to increase and enlarge, as a healthy growing plant; to be prosperous; to grow in grace and in good works.

#### **Bible Reading: 2 Thessalonians 2:3-5,11-12**

<sup>3</sup> We must always thank God for you, brothers and sisters. This is right, since your faith is flourishing and the love each one of you has for one another is increasing. <sup>4</sup> Therefore, we ourselves boast about you among God's churches—about your endurance and faith in all the persecutions and afflictions you endure. <sup>5</sup> It is a clear evidence of God's righteous judgment that you will be counted worthy of God's kingdom, for which you also are suffering, <sup>11</sup> And in view of this, we always pray for you that our God will consider you worthy of His calling, and will, by His power, fulfil every desire for goodness and the work of faith, <sup>12</sup> so that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified'

- 1) **If 'to thrive' is described in plant terminology, what do you think some indicators might be for a church to thrive?**
- 2) **If our faith (both individually and whole church) was healthy, how might things be different?**
- 3) **Do you think we can interchange 'thriving' with 'healthy?'**

In the next few weeks we will be considering some aspects of what a healthy church and, by default, church member should look like. Of course, there will be differences of opinion, after all this is a definite sign of health, but how those differences of (sometimes) strong opinions are handled is a key.

In the reading above there is a key word that should be at the absolute heart of who we are.

4) Can you identify that word?

5) What do you think the purest aspect of that word is?

6) Does 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a give you any insights as to how our community life should be lived?

Prayer:

Our loving heavenly Father,

We thank You for this blessed day. Lord, we pray that You may give Your children the steady mind to take wise decisions. Teach them to learn to ask Your will in all that they do. Father, may they receive success for the works of their hands. Guide them in the way they should go and may they flourish in the land that You bless them.

In Jesus name we pray,

Amen.

**Next Week:** RBC - A Thriving Church #2 'God & Discipleship'