



Sustaining Faith

Introduction Letter 2010

*The righteous will flourish like a palm tree
they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon
planted in the house of the LORD
they will flourish in the courts of our God.
They will still bear fruit in old age
they will stay fresh and green*

Psalm 92:12-14

While we were thinking and praying about what this year's theme would be, several people from the body shared with us their thoughts, questions, insights and stories. Many did not intentionally address the theme, but we believe God planned for them to share with us and thereby guide us in our quest.

It was an organic process, not only because it seemed to take root and grow on its own, but also because all the ideas sprouting up were pictures from the organic realm. Therefore, it seemed fitting that we should entitle this year's theme "Sustaining Faith."

"Sustaining Faith" captures the gift of faith that God gives us through Christ that powerfully sustains us. Sustaining faith also energizes our calling to live by faith and help sustain the faith of others.

This year we can envision ourselves creating a sustainable agriculture of faith in the soil of our souls, homes, workplaces, communities and the OCC body.

To illustrate sustaining faith, we will look at the various organic elements from genetic DNA to an established forest, in order to understand the inner and outer workings of faith. Therefore, we have selected texts from various areas of the Bible. We encourage you to follow along with the sermon schedule ("Plot Plan") each week and augment this with additional studies of these texts ("Deeper Tilling") individually or with others. You may also commit to reading through the entire Bible this year ("Daily Nutrient"). All soil needs fertilization, so we will again be distributing "Renewable Energy Bars" this year.

Psalm 92 (above), states that the righteous will flourish, grow, bear fruit and stay fresh and green. May we plant ourselves in the courts of our God this year and work the soil in that garden as good stewards of the wonderful gifts that God has given us.

Your Fellow Gardeners,

John & Josh