

Wildfire

- Over 25 references in the book of acts alone of the church growing..believers multiplying
 - Acts 2 - Peter preaches and 3000 added immediately
 - Acts 2 - God added to the church daily those being saved
 - Acts 5 - Believers were increasingly added to the Lord
 - Acts 6 - Number of disciples was multiplying
 - Acts 9 - The churches were multiplied
 - Acts 11 - Saul and Barnabas - a great number believed and turned to God
- **The Way was growing like wildfire**

Isaiah 9 says Of the increase of His kingdom there will be no end

Jesus spoke of this multiple times - Preach the good news of the Kingdom...used parables
- Yeast mixed with dough - A Little seed that grows to provide shade for many

Acts 1:8 NLT - 8 *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And **you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.**”*

Acts 8:4 NLT - 4 *But the **believers** who were scattered **preached the Good News about Jesus wherever they went.***

THE CHURCH GROWS

1. The Church grows where we plant

- The best evangelism is relational. Separation, not segregation
- **Matthew 9:9-10 NLT** - *“As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at his tax collector’s booth. “Follow me and be my disciple,” Jesus said to him. So Matthew got up and followed him. 10 Later, **Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners.***
- **The Holy Spirit places us strategically** - Where & when you are in the timeline of history.
 - **Geographically - Occupationally - Educationally - Recreationally**
- **Embrace where God has planted you.** Your city, your job, your school isn’t God punishing you, it’s Him **PLANTING** you. Your sphere is **YOUR** sphere. **You are God’s Plan A!**

2. The Church grows where we present - Once planted - How are you presenting Jesus?

The greatest single cause of atheism in the world today is Christians: who acknowledge Jesus with their lips, walk out the door, and deny Him by their lifestyle. That is what an unbelieving world simply finds unbelievable. - Brennan Manning

- **The church grew because of the way they lived**
- **1 Peter 2:12 NLT - 12** ***Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he judges the world.***

- **The church grew because of the way they loved**
- **John 13:35** - *35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.*"
- In Paul's letter to Corinth he used multiple symbols of how we present to people.
- Fragrance of Christ (aroma) - Letters (living epistles) - Mirrors (reflecting God's glory)

3. The Church grows where we proclaim

- **Romans 10:14 NLT** - *14 But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?*
 - All throughout the Bible we see people testify, share, what they have seen & experienced.
Acts 4:20 Peter and John said we cannot but speak what we have seen and heard
- **SALT method**
 - **S**tart a conversation
 - **A**sk Questions
 - **L**isten - Really listen
 - **T**ell your story
- Has there been a change in your life since Jesus? Peace, joy, life? Has anything changed?

All God's asking you to do is tell people how God changed you...I was blind...now I see.

Our whole goal is to help people **Know Jesus**...to get healthy and **Grow in Him**, then **Discover your purpose** and why God put you here...so you can **Change your World**.

If you're world has been turned upside down...you want to share

Charles Spurgeon:

"If Jesus is precious to you, you will not be able to keep your good news to yourself; you will be whispering it into your child's ear; you will be telling it to your husband; you will be earnestly imparting it to your friend; without the charms of eloquence you will be more than eloquent; your heart will speak, and your eyes will flash as you talk of his sweet love.

Every Christian here is either a missionary or an impostor. You either try to spread abroad the kingdom of Christ, or else you do not love him at all.

It cannot be that there is a high appreciation of Jesus and a totally silent tongue about him... If you really know Christ, you are like one that has found honey; you will call others to taste of its sweetness; you are like the beggar who has discovered an endless supply of food: you must go tell the hungry crowd that you have found Jesus, and you are anxious that they should find him too."