

Understanding what makes a church grow (or at least trying to.....)

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PART 3:

Intro thought 3:

FIRST PRINCIPLES - what was the source of the growth of Jesus' ministry?

Luke 4:14-15 (NLT)

14 Then Jesus returned to Galilee, filled with the Holy Spirit's power. Reports about him spread quickly through the whole region. 15 He taught regularly in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

- Full of the Holy Spirit's power is always at the root of true growth and effectiveness
- The best 'advertising' of his ministry was always people's testimonies of what God has done
- His 'works' seemed to gather people and his 'words' won them over.

WHAT TRIGGERS GROWTH IN THE CHURCH?

3. Spirit filled ministry of the gifts of the Spirit both in and out of the church

Acts 3:7-11 (NLT)

7 Then Peter took the lame man by the right hand and helped him up. And as he did, the man's feet and ankles were instantly healed and strengthened. 8 He jumped up, stood on his feet, and began to walk! Then, walking, leaping, and praising God, he went into the Temple with them.

9 All the people saw him walking and heard him praising God. 10 When they realized he was the lame beggar they had seen so often at the Beautiful Gate, they were absolutely astounded! 11 They all rushed out in amazement to Solomon's Colonnade, where the man was holding tightly to Peter and John.

Acts 4:4 (NLT)

4 But many of the people who heard their message believed it, so the number of men who believed now totaled about 5,000.

The third growth trigger revolves around releasing the life of God through the spiritual gifts of the priests

The gifts God has given you carry the life and power of God

- There is no life in a model - a model is helpful to carry and sustain the life of God, it doesn't release the life of God.
- Life comes from the grace and power of the Holy Spirit. Whatever gift you have has the potential to release God's life which produces growth.

Eg. I couldn't get one person to respond to an outdoor evangelism preach but 11 got saved after a Bible teach in Nicaragua. God can use any gift! I might not be a good evangelist but people can still get saved when I teach.

Personal: I did quite a few Positioning the Prophetic Conferences and came to this conclusion - I'm a lazy prophet. I can prophesy if I go intentionally to God to ask for a prophetic word. If not, no prophecy.

- gifts need intentionality!

BIG IDEA: From day 1 train yourself to use your spiritual gifts and encourage others to use their spiritual gifts to release the life of God.