

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

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PART 4:

Intro thought 4:

The goal for healthy church growth is to create a church culture similar to what they experienced in the early church:

Acts 4:20 (NLT)

20 We cannot stop telling about everything we have seen and heard.”

(Just imagine a church full of people like that!)

“80% of people who get saved and stay saved are brought to the Lord by a friend or family member”

- *“Seen and heard”* & *“works and words”* are the right and left hand of ministry
- Just like each of us has a hand that is stronger than the other, the ideal is to strengthen both as we mature.
- **Personal:** I'm a 'Word' person so need to work hard to make space and grow in releasing the prophetic and healing

Let's see how they got this right in the early church

6 EXAMPLES OF GROWTH TRIGGERS IN THE EARLY CHURCH

4. **Spirit filled governmental leadership**

You would think that people dying in a church would put people off!

Acts 5:5 (NLT)

5 As soon as Ananias heard these words, he fell to the floor and died. Everyone who heard about it was terrified.

Acts 5:13-14 (NLT)

13 But no one else dared to join them, even though all the people had high regard for them. 14 Yet more and more people believed and were brought to the Lord—crowds of both men and women.

The fourth growth trigger is exercising loving church discipline - it is actually super attractive to real believers!

Example of glorious leadership:

John 1:14 (NIV) 14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

100% Grace & Truth is glorious - but we all start at one or the other end of the spectrum

Eg. Someone said to me recently “Do what your wife recommends but you need to implement it” (She is all truth, I’m all grace!)

- Truth without love hurts and offends and people leave
- Love (grace) without truth covers a multitude of sins but the environment can become toxic because without truth people are not set free
- Truth in love (grace & truth) produces growth and is glorious

BIG IDEA: Learning to exercise Spirit filled government in a loving and truthful way keeps the church environment healthy and growing