

Understanding Church Growth

6 Growth Triggers from the Book of Acts

INTRODUCTORY THOUGHT:

1 Corinthians 3:5-7 (NLT)

5 After all, who is Apollos? Who is Paul? We are only God's servants through whom you believed the Good News. Each of us did the work the Lord gave us. 6 I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow. 7 It's not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What's important is that God makes the seed grow.

BIG IDEA 1: What's not important is who does the planting

- So, we can relax because God can use anyone with any gift!
- You might not feel like the planting type, much of an evangelist or the perfect candidate!

BIG IDEA 2: What is super important is that God makes things grow

- So, don't worry so much about models and methods, focus on Jesus!
- Take hold of this revelation - Jesus is LIFE and what has life, grows!!!!

GROWTH TRIGGER #1:

1. Spirit filled message and messenger

Acts 2:36-41 (NLT)

36 "So let everyone in Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, to be both Lord and Messiah!"

37 Peter's words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?"

38 Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away—all who have been called by the Lord our God." 40 Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation!"

41 Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all.

The first growth trigger follows straight after the filling of the Holy Spirit

- The **MESSENGER**, Peter, was full of the Holy Spirit and so preached with a level of power and propheticness that was supernatural
- The **MESSAGE** was prophetic, relevant, piercing and practical

Preach the Word!

Preach Jesus!

Be super loving and super piercing!

BIG IDEA: To never minister just from gifting or ability, but from anointing and dependence on the Holy Spirit

PRACTICAL CHALLENGE:

1. Make sure that when you are preparing your sermon you are really asking the Holy Spirit to help you and direct you - aim for revelation life and prophetic life
2. Try and spend as much time letting the Holy Spirit prepare you as the messenger as you did preparing the message!

Hope it helps. Be sure to WhatsApp me with feedback and any questions.

God bless

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