

New Testament Church Growth

Text: Acts 2:36–47

Introduction

Church growth requires planning, prayer, promotion, and preparation. The Scriptures tell us how a New Testament church should grow. The Christians:

Message

- 1. Declared the Word of God (verses 36–40).**
 - a. Had a desire to change their part of the world.
 - b. Realized the power of the gospel.
 - c. Were dedicated.
- 2. Continued in doctrine (verse 42).**
 - a. Listened.
 - b. Continued to learn.
 - c. Had solid teaching upon which to stand.
- 3. Had fellowship (verses 42,46).**
 - a. Partook of the Lord's Supper.
 - b. Visited one another.
 - c. Retained their contact.
- 4. Prayed (verses 42,46).**
 - a. Daily.
 - b. Sought God.
 - c. Interceded.
- 5. Saw miracles (verse 43).**
 - a. Miracles pointed to God as source.
 - b. The age of miracles had not left.
 - c. Miracles are seen today.
- 6. Were givers (verse 45).**
 - a. Invested in support of the ministry.
 - b. Gave of their best.
 - c. "God loves a cheerful giver."
- 7. Were joyful (verse 46).**
 - a. Christian joy is contagious.
 - b. "The joy of the Lord is our strength."
- 8. Were united (verse 46).**
 - a. Unity is essential to be effective in ministry.
 - b. Unity held the group together-and it still holds the church together.
- 9. Had favor (verse 47).**
 - a. God gives the Christian the advantage.
 - b. The Hebrews "spoiled" the Egyptians when they left Egypt.
- 10. Saw growth (verse 47).**
 - a. Spiritual.
 - b. Numerical.
 - c. Financial.

Conclusion

Church growth takes work; but the effort, time, and work are worthwhile. As these principles are applied, our churches will see continued growth spiritually, numerically, and financially.

Jerry Newswander, Huxley, Iowa