

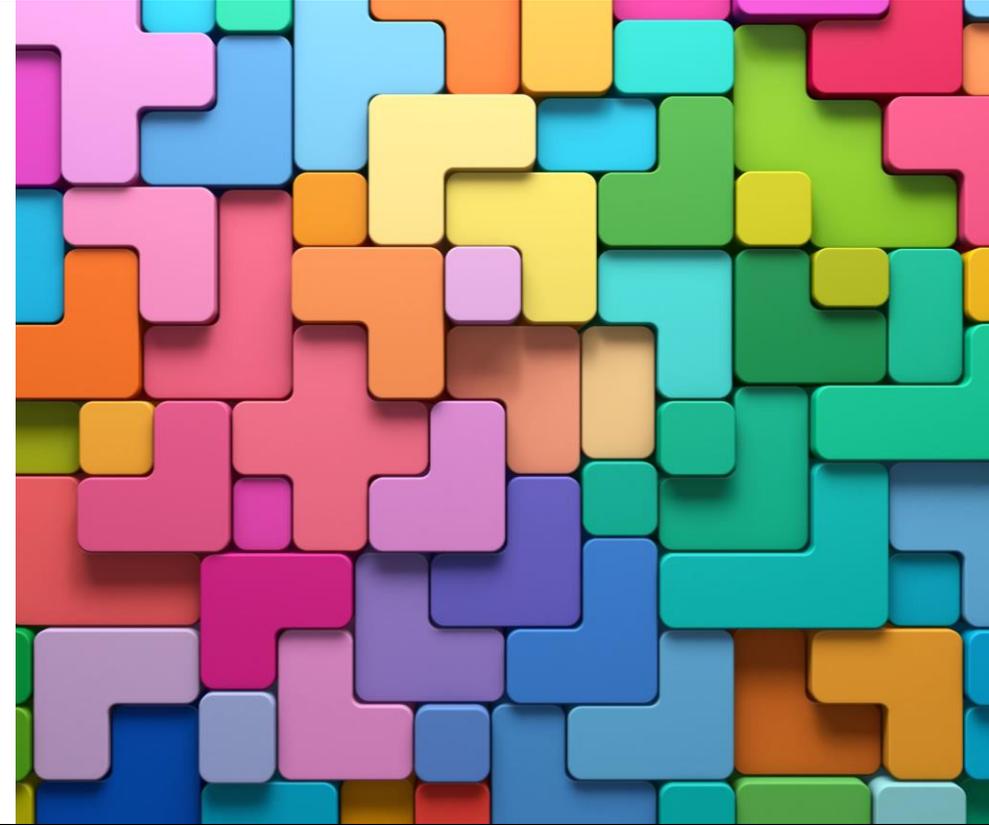
Some Familiar Methods of Kingdom Advancement Identified so far...

- Preaching
- Teaching
- Giving
- Soul winning
- Manifestation of the Fruits of the Spirit
- Service with our spiritual gifts
- Prayer
- Love

Some Familiar Methods of Kingdom Advancement Identified so far...

- Service to God
- Service to others
- Worship
- Keeping unity within the diversity of gifts and offices
- Praying for Spiritual Leaders
- Praying for Godly leaders in our community
- Virtues (commitment; faithfulness, etc.)
- Fulfilling the Great Commission

Persecution



An Effective Tool for Kingdom Advancement

Acts 1:8 (KJV; NKJV)



Acts 1:8

- KJV

8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

- NKJV

8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Definition of Persecution

dictionary definition

Hostility and ill-treatment, especially because of race or political or religious beliefs.

Definition of Persecution

excerpt from www.biblehub.com

Diógnmos is the Greek Word for persecution

- "the *hunt* to bring someone down like an animal," trying to suppress (punish) their convictions.
- literally refers to those seeking to *punish God's messengers with a vengeance* – like a *hunter* trying to conquer (obliterate) someone as their "catch."

**How is the
Kingdom Advanced through**

PERSECUTION?



- Acts 1:3 (NIV)

3 After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.

- Acts 1:8 (NIV)

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Jerusalem	The immediate sphere of influence, which are our family and close friends.
Judea	Acquaintances outside of our immediate comfort zone.
Samaria	Those who are culturally and/or socially different than us.
The Ends of the Earth	Complete strangers.

Summarily,

“Kingdom Advancement” is a Global Assignment.

Why?

The Message of REDEMPTION is universal.

JERUSALEM



- Acts 1:12-13 (NKJV)

12 Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city.

13 When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James.

- Acts 2:1-13 (NKJV)

The Holy Spirit comes at Pentecost and the disciples are accused for taking so much wine

- Acts 2:14-41 (NKJV) ...emphasis on verse 40 and 41

40 With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation."

41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about **three thousand** were added to their number that day.

JUDEA & SAMARIA



The Stoning of Stephen

Acts 7:54-60 (NIV)

54 When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him.

55 But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.

56 “Look,” he said, “I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”

57 At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him,

The Stoning of Stephen

58 dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

59 While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”

60 Then he fell on his knees and cried out, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he fell asleep.

The Church Persecuted and Scattered

1 And Saul approved of their killing him. On that day a great **persecution** broke out against the church in **Jerusalem**, and **all** except the apostles were scattered throughout **Judea and Samaria**.

2 Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him.

3 But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison.

Philip in Samaria

4 Those who had **been scattered preached the word** wherever they went.

5 Philip went down to **a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah there.**

6 When the crowds heard Philip and saw the **signs he performed**, **they all paid close attention to what he said.**

7 *For with shrieks, impure spirits came out of many, and many who were paralyzed or lame were **healed.***

8 So there was great **joy** in that city.

ENDS OF THE EARTH



The Persecutor becomes the persecuted!

Acts 9:15-16 (NIV)

15 But the Lord said to Ananias, “Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel.

16 I will show him how much he **must suffer** for my name.”

The Prison Epistles

Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians & Philemon

The Prison Epistle

Ephesians 6:18-20 NKJV

18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

19 Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel,

20 for which I am an ambassador in **chains**. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

The Prison Epistle

Philippians 1:12-26 NIV

Paul's Chains Advance the Gospel

12 Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually **served to advance the gospel.**

13 As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ.

14 And **because of my chains**, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.

15 It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill.

16 The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel.

17 The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains.

18 But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice. Yes, and I will **continue to rejoice**,

19 for I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance.

20 I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.

21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

22 If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know!

23 I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far;

24 but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.

25 Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and **joy** in the faith,

26 so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.

The Prison Epistle

Colossians 4:2-4; 4:18 (NIV)

2 Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

3 And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that **we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains.**

4 Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.

18 I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you.

The Prison Epistle

Philemon 1:8-14 (MSG)

8-9 In line with all this I have a favor to ask of you. As Christ's ambassador and now a prisoner for him, I wouldn't hesitate to command this if I thought it necessary, but I'd rather make it a personal request.

10-14 While here in jail, I've fathered a child, so to speak. And here he is, hand-carrying this letter—Onesimus! He was useless to you before; now he's useful to both of us. I'm sending him back to you, but it feels like I'm cutting off my right arm in doing so. I wanted in the worst way to keep him here as your stand-in to help out while I'm in jail for the Message. But I didn't want to do anything behind your back, make you do a good deed that you hadn't willingly agreed to.

The Pastoral Epistle

2 Timothy 2:8-10 (NIV)

8 Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel,

9 for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. **But God's word is not chained.**

10 Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

Matthew 5:11-12 (NIV)

11 “Blessed are you when people **insult you, persecute you** and **falsely say all kinds of evil against you** because of me.

12 Rejoice and be glad, because **great is your reward** in heaven, for **in the same way** they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Communion

Hosea 2:21-22 (NKJV)

21 “It shall come to pass in that day
That I will answer,” says the LORD;
“I will answer the heavens,
And they shall answer the earth.

22 The earth shall answer
With grain,
With new wine,
And with oil;
They shall answer Jezreel.

Communion

Hosea 2:21-22 (NKJV)

22 The earth shall answer

With **grain**,..... The Word of God

With **new wine**,..... The Holy Spirit

And with **oil**;..... The Anointing

They shall answer **Jezreel**..... God sows