

Mystery of kingdom ministry growth



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Mystery of Kingdom Ministry Growth

A few points to understand as we desire ministry growth.

I) It is the Lord that brings about genuine growth

Acts 2:47 (NIV)

⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

II) The Lord can grow a ministry from whatever number to the desired number. No amount is too small for the Lord to work with.

Genesis 9:19 (AMPC)

¹⁹ These are the three sons of Noah, and from them the whole earth was overspread and stocked with inhabitants.

Evangelism vs Soul Winning (Discipleship)

a) Evangelism

Evangelism is simply defined as the spreading of the Christian gospel by public preaching or personal witness. (www.google.com)

-Mark 15:15-16 (NIV)

¹⁵ He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.”

¹⁶ Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

b) Soul Winning (Discipleship)

A disciple is a person who is a pupil or adherent to the doctrines of another. One who embraces and assists in spreading the teaching of another. Any follower of another person. In this case, we are referring to a follower of Jesus Christ. (www.google.com)

-Proverbs 11:30 (KJV)

³⁰ The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.

-Mark 28:19 (NIV)

¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Some Will, Some Won't

-Matthew 7:6 (NIV)

⁶ "Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.

-In the context of "judging others", we are admonished not to judge others. However, self-examine. One way to begin this process is to first examine whether or not we fall in the category of "dogs" and/or "pigs". Can we be entrusted sacred things?" "Do we value sacred things?" "Or, are we the type that will poorly handle and devalue sacred things, then, turn around and find fault with the messenger?"

-Once you consciously remove yourself from the category of a dog and a pig, you can then be certain that you will easily identify one (a dog; a pig; one who poorly handles and devalues

sacred things), because you had once been a dog/pig or you do understand the characteristics. This is important because you will be more practical in your approach than judgmental.

-Mark 6:4 (NIV)

⁴ Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his own town, among his relatives and in his own home.”

-Notice how narrow the progression is; town-relatives-home.

-Understand that there was an attempt from Jesus’ end to minister the word. It was not a statement made from assumptions. In **Mark 6:1 (NIV)**, we are told “Jesus left there and went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples.” Therefore, always make an attempt to minister the word like Jesus did.

-Always remember that some will be receptive, so choose to be one and do not give up. **Mark 6:2 (NV)**, we are told “when the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed.” Jesus continued to preach the gospel with the knowledge that not everyone will be receptive.

-Acts 28:24-25 (NIV)

²³ They arranged to meet Paul on a certain day, and came in even larger numbers to the place where he was staying. He witnessed to them from morning till evening, explaining about the kingdom of God, and from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets he tried to persuade them about Jesus.

²⁴ Some were convinced by what he said, but others would not believe.

Achieving ministry growth.

1) The Holy Spirit

The acknowledgement and presence of the Holy Spirit is what brings about genuine ministry growth as exemplified in the new testament in the book of Acts. After the disciples were baptized by the Holy Spirit then the gospel began to spread. **(Read Acts Chapter 2).**

Acts 2:19 (NIV)

¹⁹ I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke.

-Mark 16:17-18 (NIV)

¹⁷ And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues;

¹⁸ they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.”

-1 Corinthians 14:22 (NIV)

²² Tongues, then, are a sign, not for believers but for unbelievers; prophecy, however, is not for unbelievers but for believers.

2) Daily Additions

-Acts 2:47 (NIV)

⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

-Acts 2:42 (NIV)

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

The early church added to their numbers daily using 4 strategies.

- a) Teach
- b) Fellowship
- c) Breaking bread
- d) Prayer

-Acts 16:4-5 (NIV)

⁴ As they traveled from town to town, they delivered the decisions reached by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem for the people to obey.

⁵ So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers.

The early church also added to their numbers daily using the strategy of strengthening of doctrinal practices (read Acts 15:22-29) through the auspices of Apostles and Elders (the church leaders).

3) Great Additions

- Acts 2:41(NIV) - Peter's Account on preaching the word

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

-Acts 4:4 (TPT) - Peter and John's Account on preaching the word

⁴ Yet there were many in the crowd who believed the message, bringing the total number of men who believed to nearly five thousand!

-Acts 8:4 (NIV) - Philips' Account

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

-Acts 14:21 (NIV) - Barnabas and Paul Account

²¹ They preached the gospel in that city and won a large number of disciples.

4) Signs and Wonders

Healings

-Acts 5:12-14 (NIV)

¹² The apostles performed many signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade.

¹³ No one else dared join them, even though they were highly regarded by the people.

¹⁴ Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number.

Deliverances and Creative Miracles

-Acts 8:4-8 (NIV) - Philips' Account

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.

5) Designated Meeting Place(s)

-Acts 2:46 (NIV)

⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts,

-Acts 5:12 (NIV)

¹² The apostles performed many signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade.

-Acts 5:42 (NIV)

⁴² Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.

-Acts 19:8-10 (NIV)

⁸ Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God.

⁹ But some of them became obstinate; they refused to believe and publicly maligned the Way. So Paul left them. He took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus.

¹⁰ This went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord.

6) Persecution(s) and Overcoming Persecution(s)

-Acts 5:40-42 (NIV)

⁴⁰ His speech persuaded them. They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.

⁴¹ The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name.

⁴² Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.

-Acts 8:1-5 (NIV)

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.

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.

- Acts 11:19-21 (NIV)

The Church in Antioch

¹⁹ Now those who had been scattered by the persecution that broke out when Stephen was killed traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, spreading the word only among Jews.

²⁰ Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus.

²¹ The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.

When the disciples were scattered, they preached the word wherever they went. Therefore, that provided potentials for growth of the church as more people believed the word preached.

7) Order

-Acts 6:1-7 (NIV)

¹ In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.

² So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, “It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables.

³ Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them

⁴ and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.”

⁵ This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism.

⁶ They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

⁷ So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

8) Peace

-Acts 9:31 (NIV)

³¹ Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened. Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.

9) Encouragement

-Acts 11:22-24 (NIV)

²² News of this reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch.

²³ When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts.

²⁴ He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.

Holy Spirit led and faith-based encouragement are all powerful strategies for kingdom growth.

10) Philip's Approach

-Acts 8:26-40 (NIV)

²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza."

²⁷ So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means "queen of the Ethiopians"). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship,

²⁸ and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet.

²⁹ The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it."

³⁰ Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked.

³¹ "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

³² This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading: (the passage is from **Isaiah 53:7**)

“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. ³³ In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth.”

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?”

³⁵ Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

³⁶ As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?”

³⁷ Then Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.”

And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”

³⁸ And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.

³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.

⁴⁰ Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

- When it comes to helping others grow, permit the Spirit of God to lead the process. Pray and ask the Father for leadership. When He leads, please obey.
- When it comes to discipleship, always remember that different approaches might be required depending on the need. However, the gospel of the kingdom is the same. Therefore, be eclectic (use diverse approaches as led) and elentic (help others discover truth and correct falsehood in their thought process). The Ethiopian eunuch eventually got baptized and was an addition to the kingdom.

11) The Berean Approach

-Acts 17:10-12 (NIV)

¹⁰As soon as it was night, the believers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea. On arriving there, they went to the Jewish synagogue.

¹¹Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

¹²As a result, many of them believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men.

12) The Apollos Approach

-Acts 18:24-28 (NIV)

²⁴Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures.

²⁵He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he spoke with great fervor and taught about Jesus accurately, though he knew only the baptism of John.

²⁶He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately.

²⁷When Apollos wanted to go to Achaia, the brothers and sisters encouraged him and wrote to the disciples there to welcome him. When he arrived, he was a great help to those who by grace had believed.

²⁸For he vigorously refuted his Jewish opponents in public debate, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Messiah.

****The Berean approach and Apollos approach are both addition strategies and retention strategies. An addition strategy in that it is the knowledge of the truth of the word that changes a person and adds them to the kingdom. A retention strategy in that, the individuals can continually grow and remain established in the kingdom with understanding, while seeking ways to bring others in.**