

Ready, Set, Grow

Pt. 4 - A Growing Church

Open - Holane's doll with the hair that grows

- Growth doesn't just magically happen.

2 Peter 3:18, Let the gift of undeserved grace and the understanding that come from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ help you keep on growing.

Note - Healthy things grow. We grow by grace but we must be intentional about growth.

- God wants His church to grow.

2 Peter 3:9, The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.

Note - Real church growth happens when people get saved and God wants people saved!

Luke 14:16-23, "A certain man prepared a great banquet and invited many guests. 17 When it was time for the banquet, he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.' 18 But one after another they all began to make excuses. The first one said, 'I have bought a field, and I need to go see it. Please excuse me.' 19 Another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out. Please excuse me.' 20 Still another said, 'I have married a wife, so I cannot come.' 21 The servant returned and reported all this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the city, and bring in the poor, the

crippled, the blind, and the lame.’ 22 ‘Sir,’ the servant replied, ‘what you ordered has been done, and there is still room.’ 23 So the master told his servant, ‘Go out to the highways and hedges and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full.”

Note - We cannot let COVID lure us into complacency. Satan isn't taking a break!

Example - Hell House

· Every believer has a role in growing the church. Ephesians 4:11-16, Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. 12 Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. 13 This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. 14 Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. 15 Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. 16 He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

How the Church Grows

1. Believers are connected to leadership that equips them for service.

Note - Next Steps, Serve Teams

2. Believers unite and mature.

Note - Growth Track, small groups

3. Believers speak truth.

Note - Your story, your influence, your invitation.

4. Believers help each other grow.

Note - Lead a small group, promote the system we have in place

1 Corinthians 3:6, I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow.

· Working toward church growth gives us the opportunity to be the answer to Jesus' only prayer request.

Matthew 9:38, "So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields."

Note - See that God's house is full and He will see that yours is too! (Love, peace, provision, blessing, health, joy, strength, etc.)