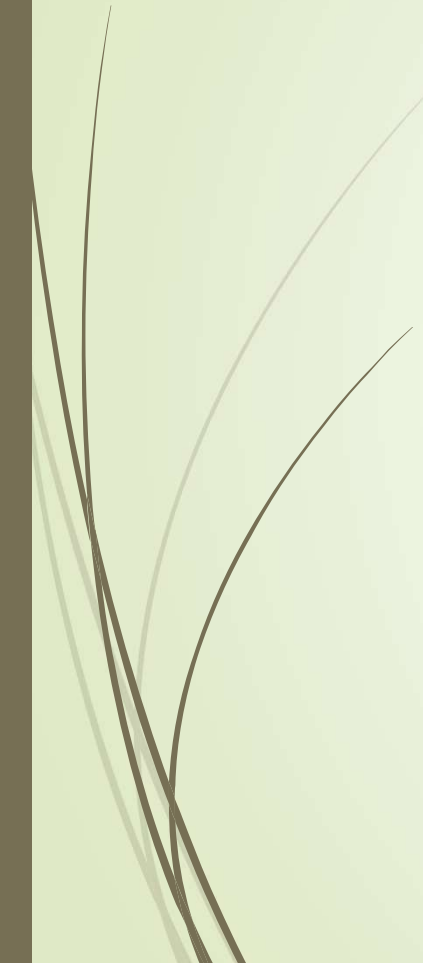


The church grew when...





The Lord wants the church to grow!

- ▶ Personal growth – 2 Corinthians 10:15;
Colossians 1:9-12
 - ▶ Congregational growth – Ephesians 4:15-16;
Colossians 2:19
 - ▶ More souls being saved – 1 Corinthians 3:6-7;
Acts 16:5
 - ▶ Do our part toward the growth that God wants
- 




1. The church grew when the gospel was preached

- Acts 2:22-36, 41
- Acts 4:4
- Acts 8:5, 12
- Publicly and privately
- Luke 8:4-15
 - The seed – the word of God
 - The soil – the hearts of men



1. The church grew when the gospel was preached

- ▶ Sin was identified and confronted
- ▶ The good news was told
- ▶ Men were told how to be saved
- ▶ Boldly, with neither timidity nor apology
- ▶ In purity and simplicity
- ▶ Jesus exalted as Lord and Christ, to be heard, believed, and obeyed
- ▶ Let us pray and work for opportunities to teach the gospel to the lost



2. The church grew when it was persecuted

- ▶ Acts 4:2, 16-17
- ▶ Acts 4:23-31
- ▶ Acts 5:41-42
- ▶ Acts 12:1-5, 24
- ▶ Courageous, convicted, godly response
- ▶ This spirit existed: Jeremiah 20:7-12
 - ▶ 1 Peter 1:7
 - ▶ James 1:2-4
- ▶ How is our courage and our conviction?

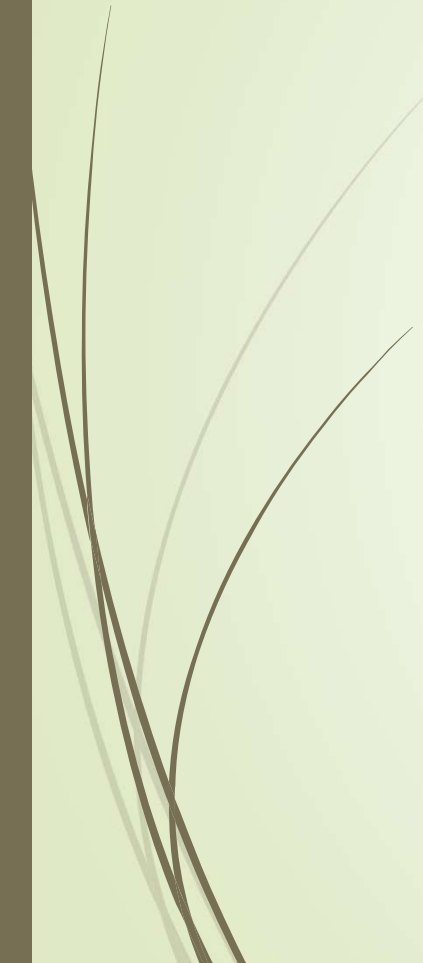


3. The church grew when discipline was exercised

- ▶ Acts 5:1-10
- ▶ The result: 5:11, 12-16, especially v14
- ▶ Will the church grow when discipline is not exercised when it is needed?
 - ▶ 1 Corinthians 5:6; Romans 16:17-18
- ▶ Are you willing to follow God's plan for discipline in the church when it is needed?



4. The church grew when internal problems were addressed

- Acts 6:1-6
 - Despite this, verse 7
 - The problem was addressed according to apostolic teaching
 - If we want the church to grow today, any problems that come up must be addressed according to Bible principles and apostolic teaching
- 




5. The church grew when the gospel was taught to the saved

- Acts 16:4-5
- 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- 1 Timothy 4:6; 2 Timothy 1:13-14, 2:2, 14
- Growing in knowledge and understanding – 2 Peter 3:18
- Being reminded – Philippians 3:1
- Being stirred up – 2 Peter 3:1
- What does this have to do with me?
 - Personal reading and study
 - Assembling on the first day of the week
 - Bible studies on Sunday and Wednesday



6. The church grew when men repented and there was evidence of it

- Acts 19:19-20
- Repentance – a change of the mind, of the will, followed by a change of action
- Zeal stirs up zeal
- Great power in the example of changed lives
- Can people see in your life the fruits of repentance? A changed life? A zeal for righteousness?



7. The church grew when it had peace, was edified, and brethren were walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit

- Acts 9:31
- Grew in time of persecution and in time of peace
- Christians conducting themselves as Christians
 - Living in the fear of the Lord
 - Living according to the counsel of God's word
- Lights, salt, influence for the gospel
- How are you living at home, at work, at school, at play?

The church grew when...

- When the gospel was preached to the lost
- When the church was persecuted
- When discipline was exercised
- When internal problems were addressed
- When the saints were taught the gospel and they kept it
- When people repented
- When the church had peace and was edified and brethren were walking in the fear of the Lord and the comfort of the Holy Spirit

- Isaiah 55:10-11