

HOW TO GROW A CHURCH – ACTS 5

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FAITH BIBLE CHURCH

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CHURCH GROWTH REPORTS IN ACTS . . .

Those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls (Acts 2:41).

The Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved (Acts 2:47b).

All the more believers in the Lord, multitudes of men and women, were constantly added to their number (Acts 5:14).

The word of God kept on spreading; and the number of the disciples continued to increase greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were becoming obedient to the faith (Acts 6:7).

The church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up; and going on in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase (Acts 9:31).

The word of the Lord continued to grow and to be multiplied (Acts 12:24).

The churches were being strengthened in the faith, and were increasing in number daily (Acts 16:5).

The word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing (Acts 19:20).

And [Paul] stayed two full years in his own rented quarters and was welcoming all who came to him, preaching the kingdom of God and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all openness, unhindered (Acts 28:30–31).

Jesus said, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

COMPARE MODERN CHURCH GROWTH THEORY . . .

HOW DOES GOD GROW THE CHURCH? HEAR NOW HIS PLAN, HIS WAY, AND HIS PROCESS . . .

1. The _____ are _____ (4:32-37)

³²And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul; and not one of them claimed that anything belonging to him was his own, but all things were common property to them.

³³And with great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all.

³⁴For there was not a needy person among them, for all who were owners of land or houses would sell them and bring the proceeds of the sales

³⁵and lay them at the apostles' feet, and they would be distributed to each as any had need.

³⁶Now Joseph, a Levite of Cyprian birth, who was also called Barnabas by the apostles (which translated means Son of Encouragement),

³⁷and who owned a tract of land, sold it and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

Notes:

2. The _____ is _____ (5:1-2)

¹But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property,

²and kept back some of the price for himself, with his wife's full knowledge, and bringing a portion of it, he laid it at the apostles' feet.

3. The _____ is _____ (5:3-4)

³But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back some of the price of the land?

⁴"While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."

4. The _____ are _____ (5:5-10)

⁵And as he heard these words, Ananias fell down and breathed his last; and great fear came over all who heard of it.

⁶The young men got up and covered him up, and after carrying him out, they buried him.

⁷Now there elapsed an interval of about three hours, and his wife came in, not knowing what had happened.

⁸And Peter responded to her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for such and such a price?" And she said, "Yes, that was the price."

⁹Then Peter said to her, "Why is it that you have agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out as well."

¹⁰And immediately she fell at his feet and breathed her last, and the young men came in and found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband.

5. The _____ are _____ (5:11, 27-29, 42)

¹¹And great fear came over the whole church, and over all who heard of these things.

²⁷When they had brought them, they stood them before the Council. The high priest questioned them,

²⁸saying, "We gave you strict orders not to continue teaching in this name, and yet, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and intend to bring this man's blood upon us."

²⁹But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men."

⁴²And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

Notes:

For further consideration . . .

1. Why would anyone lie to God? Could anything make you lie to God?
2. In what ways are you tempted to cave to peer pressure and perform outward duties for personal attention?
3. Do you see areas of hypocrisy in your life which must be killed? Ask someone to pray for you.
4. Is it hard to worship a God who would cause people to die? How do you handle the truth that our loving God judges sin?
5. How does God grow His church? What church growth strategies do you need to forsake? What is God's strategy for growth?
6. Read Proverbs 1:7 and 9:10. How will you keep the fear of God before your own eyes (Romans 3:18)?