

The Growth of the Church

Church Growth By Faith

Introduction

Hebrews 11:1-6

- 1. This morning we will conclude our study on “The Growth of the Church”. So far we have talked about:**

“The Growth of the Church”

“The Problem of Sin in the Church”

“Keeping the Church Pure”

“Church Growth By Right Relationships”

- A. This morning we will discuss “Church Growth By Faith”.**

- 2. There is a great need for the church of our Lord to grow.**

– and it will grow.....

Colossians 1:23 if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

– and if you’re.....

Colossians 2:7 rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.

A. Most Christians need to be on the Meat of the Word - The Milk should be absorbed by new born babes.

1 Corinthians 3:1-2

Hebrews 5:12-14

B. The church can grow in two ways. And we want it to grow in both ways.

1) The Members grow in faith and knowledge "Spiritual"

2) The Church grows in number – because of spiritualness.

3. There is a great need for faith in the church so that it can grow!

John 8:24 Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

A. The growth of the church depends on the faith of the members.

1) The greater our faith - the greater our growth (spiritually and physically)

Faith Defined

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

1. This is the ruling principle of all religion.

A. Everything else is dependent upon one's faith.

2 Corinthians 5:7 For we walk by faith, not by sight.

B. It is whole-hearted acceptance of Christ and His way.

2. To believe is to give yourself **completely to Jesus!**

There Is One Faith

Ephesians 4:4-6 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

- 1. Faith is not in man or man's organizations.**
- 2. Faith only comes by hearing God's Word.**

Romans 10:17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

- A. We can't grow in faith without growing in knowledge.**
 - 1) Growth and progress are marks of success.**
- B. Lack of knowledge accounts for a lack of growth. We gain knowledge by faith.**

2 Timothy 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

There Is One Faith - but Various Degrees of Faith

1. Little faith

Matthew 8:26 But He said to them, "Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?" Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.

2. Great faith (Centurion) (His servant – "speak a word")

Matthew 8:10 When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!"

3. Strong faith (Abraham)

Romans 4:20 He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God,

4. Weak faith

Romans 14:1 Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things.

5. Active faith

James 2:14-18

6. Dead faith

James 2:26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

7. Perfect faith

James 2:21-22 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect?

The Value of the One Faith

1. It saves us

Hebrews 10:39 But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.

2. It purifies the heart

Acts 15:9 and made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.

3. It sanctifies

Acts 26:18 to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are **sanctified by faith in Me.**

4. It justifies (free from blame or guilt)

Romans 5:8 Thereafter, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

5. It brings the crown of life

Revelation 2:10 Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

How Then Does the Church Grow by Faith?

1. **Since faith comes by hearing the Word, it stands to reason that it can grow only as the members grow!**

A. **As we, the members are faithful and regular in our attendance.**

Hebrews 10:25

2. **As we, the members earnestly pray for others and ourselves.**

1 Timothy 2:1-8

3. **As we are liberal in our giving.**

1 Corinthians 16:2 On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.

4. **As we are zealous in our teaching.**

2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

5. **As we let our lights shine before others.**

Matthew 5:16

6. **As we seek first God's kingdom above all else!**

Matthew 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

7. **As we search the scriptures daily.**

Acts 17:11

A. **The church will grow in faith if we practice these things.**

Conclusion

- 1. As members grow in faith, the church can grow in members.**
- 2. How about your faith?**
 - A. Is it helping the church grow here?**
 - B. Is it hindering the church from growing?**
 - 1) If your faith is weak and hindering the progress here, won't you ask God to help you start fresh today and be the faithful Christian that God fully expects you to be?**

