

Series: The Great Commission

Title: Nurturing Growth

Text: (1 Thes 2:7-12)

It's Exciting to help others grow in their faith.
Nothing more Needed than helping others grow in faith.
Spiritual Maturity is like Physical Maturity, not overnight.
It is not a destination.
Spiritual Growth is a process that ebbs and flows.
It takes a long term attitude to follow & be mentored.
Young Christians need an atmosphere of Acceptance,
Encouragement, and Growth.
We all can Nurture Spiritual Growth in others.

I. Nurturing Growth:

A. Fellowship and Hospitality:

The local church is to be more than just a place to come, here a sermon, "Get your Praise on" and leave.

(Heb 10:24-25) *Let us: Speaking to Christians.*

Consider one another: Be Intentional to provoke unto:

To move; to incite; to stir up; to induce by motives.

To Love (others) and

Even the Sinners know how to do this.

(Lk 6:32) *For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them.*

Good Works (Serve Others)

Exhorting one another: Encouraging to Act with proper motives.

As ye see the day approaching: Christ's Return!
There is no better place than Sunday School.

We Must Be Intentional at reaching out to new people & befriending them.

Illus: This is I got into church long enough to be saved.

Yes! Be friendly when they are with you in class.
Be friendly and invite them to be with you in class.
Open your home to them and Fellowship.

Hospitality:

(Acts 2:42) *And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.*

(Rom 12:32) *Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.*

(1 Pet 4:9) *Use hospitality one to another without grudging.*

On a scale of 1-10, how hospitable are you?

B. Church Involvement: New believers need to involved with a local church.

Universal Church is an Unbiblical Doctrine.
Impractical Doctrine also.

We are body parts that are floating around the world, without physical connection.

Without Physical Connection there is No Practical Function.
Encourage them to be Faithful to all the Regularly Scheduled service. (Three to Thrive!)

Encourage them to join a Sunday School Class.
Ask them to get involved in what you are doing.
Join the Choir, Go Visiting with you.
Join in at a Fellowship.
Help them recognize their “Place in the Church Family”.

C. Discipleship:

Disciple~ is a committed Follower of Jesus Christ.
Discipleship~ is a Life-Long process of Growth.

(John 8:31) *Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;*

Encourage them to get into a Discipleship meeting.

1 on 1 with me, or Sunday School, where they can ask questions & have a mentoring relationship.

Illus: Our Spanish Ministry meets tonight in a families home because she cares about her friends getting saved & Discipled.

(John 13:35) *By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*

(John 15:8) *Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.*

Invite a new Christian to go soul winning with you.

Offer to help a new Christian share the gospel with friends and relatives.

Training others, is how the Gospel Gets Multiplied.

(Acts 6:7) *And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.*

(Acts 12:24) *But the word of God grew and multiplied.*

Encourage a new Christian to invite others to church.

Sharing our faith is a natural outgrowth of receiving the Gospel.

(John 4:28-29) *The Woman at the Well*
The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men, 29 Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ? 30 Then they went out of the city, and came unto him.

(1 Thes 1:8) *the Thessalonian Christians:*

For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad;

Spreading the Gospel, 1 on 1 is the natural result of receiving the gospel.

II. God wants us Committed to Multiplication:

God’s Plan is Not Merely Addition, It’s Multiplication.

When Someone shares the Gospel, & the person is saved. That’s Addition. *Praise God!*

When you teach someone how to share their faith, & encourage them to do it while you are doing it too, ***That’s Multiplication.***

What happened to the FBC Jerusalem

(Mk 16:15) *And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*

(Acts 1:14-15) 120 People Praying - Preparing for Pentecost.

(Acts 2:41) Result - 3000 souls were saved

(Acts 2:42) They started to train new Believers to Evangelize.

(Acts 2:47) God Added to the church.

(Acts 4:4) 5000 believers (Still adding to the church).

(Acts 4:32) 1 heart, 1 soul, All Things Common. – UNITY!

Unity of Doctrine and Unity of Purpose!

Unity: only possible when we all agree the Bible is the truth

Common – Salvation & Pardon

Common – Purpose (Acts 1:8)

Common – Prize = To see the kingdom/Church Grow

(Acts 5:14) More Added, Multitudes

(Acts 6:1a, 7) The Word Increased, # of Disciples Multiplied

Something Goes Wrong: They STOP being Intentional!

(Acts 6:1b) Conflict Arises when we stop making Soul winning the MAIN thing.

They got complacent, & became Inward focussed.

Their church was the biggest and most influential

Their name was well known

Their church was the place to be.

Then the griping started.

What happened?

They forgot the World

They forgot the Great Commission

The Church Quit Going: (Acts 1:8)

The Church Backed Off on it's Giving: (Acts 5:2)

The Church stopped going after the Poor: (Acts 6:1, Lk 14:13, James 2:1-5) *People just became TOO much work.*

The Church started waiting for the Lost to come to them: (Lk 14:23) *And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.*

The FBC started fellowshiping with Non-Baptist

Church: (Acts 6:9) *Then there arose certain of the synagogue, which is called the synagogue of the Libertines, and Cyrenians, and Alexandrians, and of them of Cilicia and of Asia, disputing with Stephen.*

God's Answer to this problem was Persecution:

(Acts 8:1-4)

God is not going to bless us if we are not faithful to keep the Gospel, and training new people in sharing the Gospel the MAIN THING. (Matt 28:19-20)

A. Private Prayer:

If you want to see people you have led to the Lord continue growing in grace & become fruitful, Don't Neglect to Pray for them.

(Eph 1:16) *Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;*

(Phil 1:4) *Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy,*

(Col 1:3) *We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,*

(1 Thes 1:2) *We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers;*

B. Faithful Testimony:

The Greatest gift you can give a new convert is to be a good example.

1. *Remain faithful as a Christian.*

One of the easiest ways Satan discourages a new believer is when they see you ceasing to be faithful.

As a new believer, It would discourage me when I would come to church, and the faithful brothers and sister I looked up to were not there.

Who is watching you?

What ONE thing will you do this week that will matter 1 second after you are dead?

Make Finishing Strong and Faithful to the End your life goal.

2. *Remain faithful as a soul winner.*

The man that led me to the Lord, no longer wins souls.
The man that led me to the Lord, no longer trains others.
When he quit, half the church did too.

Who is watching you?

Who is following your example?

This church is only as faithful as you are.

This church is only as committed as you are.

Could you live off the income your tithes says you make?

Will the Gospel Survive you?

***This church is only as faithful as we are.
This church is only as friendly as we are.
This church is only as functional as we are.***