

**Reading:** Acts 2:42,46,47**Topic:** Total Church Growth # 2

**INTRODUCTION:** Last lesson we observed the power of the \_\_\_\_\_ and the need to sow in order to reap a harvest, and today we will learn about building upon that principle in order to \_\_\_\_\_.

## I. UNDERSTANDING THE PLAN OF GOD FOR THE CHURCH:

### **A. The Fundamental Principle – Growth:**

1. We do not need to beg and plead with God for the church to \_\_\_\_\_ for it is His will and plan for that to happen so we just need to find how to \_\_\_\_\_ and flow with His will and plan. Lk. 12:31,32
2. When Jesus spoke of establishing His Church here on earth, He spoke of it as \_\_\_\_\_ it, which requires both work and the activity of expansion and \_\_\_\_\_. Mt. 16:18

### **B. Growing & Reproducing:**

1. Growth is a fundamental trait of all \_\_\_\_\_ things that God created, both in the world of plants and in the world of humans and \_\_\_\_\_, all are made to grow and reproduce. Gen. 1:21,22,27,28
2. When Jesus and the Word of God gave descriptions of the \_\_\_\_\_, it was compared to living things such as a body, the flock, a vine and branches, a \_\_\_\_\_ and a family, etc. all things that are designed to grow and reproduce. Jn. 15:5

## II. THE PRIORITIES OF THE CHURCH:

### **A. The Early Church:**

1. The early church had got its marching orders directly from Jesus Himself just prior to His \_\_\_\_\_, and the orders were \_\_\_\_\_ - to preach the Gospel and to make disciples. Mt. 28:19,20, Mk 16:15
2. When the Church began at Pentecost, the apostles and others began to put into \_\_\_\_\_ what Jesus had instructed them to do, and they \_\_\_\_\_ that their priorities. Acts 2: 42,46,
3. This was their activities:
  - a. Prayer
  - b. Teaching the Word (Bible Studies)
  - c. Fellowshiping and eating together
  - d. Meeting regularly in the temple and in the homes.
 Through this process, they evangelized and they discipled the new \_\_\_\_\_ and the Lord worked with them and caused the church to \_\_\_\_\_ daily. Acts 2:47

### **B. The Church Of Today:**

1. In today's modern world, the priorities of our churches must not \_\_\_\_\_ from the pattern of that first church that Jesus established – to preach the \_\_\_\_\_ and to make disciples.
2. Every ministry and every \_\_\_\_\_ of every ministry must be focused on these two fundamental objectives – to reach the lost souls and then to help them to \_\_\_\_\_ to maturity. Gal. 4:19

3. The devil doesn't care how busy the \_\_\_\_\_ is just so long as it is too busy with everything else but reaching the \_\_\_\_\_ and making them into mature believers. I Kings 20:39,40
4. Our internal activities must be geared towards the \_\_\_\_\_ souls and the \_\_\_\_\_ converts who need help to \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ.

### **III. CHURCH SELF EXAMINATION:**

#### **A. *Categorizing Our Ministries:***

1. Let us take a few minutes to challenge ourselves and place our \_\_\_\_\_ ministries into the following Categories – a. Evangelism & Soul winning b. Making disciples c. Both d. Neither

<b>Ministry</b>	<b>Category (a,b,c.d)</b>
Church Services	
Sunday School	
Youth Ministry	
Men's & Ladies Prayer	
Discipleship Class	
Ushering	
Welcome Ministry	
Church Cleaning & Maintenance	
Children's Ministries	
Outreach Teams	
Home Bible Studies	
Home Friendship Groups	
Seniors Ministry	
Sunday School Picnic	
Welcome Back Night	
Visitor Follow Up	

2. Each and every ministry and \_\_\_\_\_ needs to be in one or both of the two categories and if it does not meet the criteria, a serious examination of the \_\_\_\_\_ for why we are doing it needs to take place, and possibly consideration to eliminate any useless thing.

**CONCLUSION:** May we keep our \_\_\_\_\_ on the mission of each ministry – to be involved in winning the lost and working to lead them to maturity and \_\_\_\_\_.