

How To Succeed In Teaching The Gospel

The Growth Of The Church In The First Century

Acts 2:41, "They then that received his word were baptized: and there were added (unto them) in that day about **three thousand souls**."

Acts 4:4, "But many of them that heard the word believed; and the number of the men came to be **about five thousand**."

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

Acts 9:31, "So the church throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria had peace, being edified; and, walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, **was multiplied**."

Acts 11:24, "for he was a good man, and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith: and **much people** was added unto the Lord."

The Growth Of The Church In The First Century

- ▶ **The Word Of God Was "TAUGHT"**
Acts 2:14-41; 4:4; 5:14; 5:42
- ▶ **The Word Of God Was Taught "DAILY"**
Acts 5:42; 2:47; Acts 20:31
- ▶ **The Word Of God Was Taught "EVERYWHERE"**
Acts 5:42; Publicly and privately. cf. Acts 20:20
- ▶ **The Word Of God Was Taught With "ENTHUSIASM"**
They had something to say. Titus 2:14
- ▶ **The Word Of God Was Taught "PERSISTENTLY"**
Acts 5:38-39; Acts 5:42 NASV "They kept right on preaching ..."
- ▶ **The Word Of God Was Taught By "EVERY CHRISTIAN"**
Acts 8:4

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The power to save resides in the message.

Isaiah 55:10-11, "For as the rain cometh down and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, and giveth seed to the sower and bread to the eater; so shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

How to Succeed in Teaching the Gospel

The results depend upon the type of soil where the seed (the gospel) is sown. Luke 8:11-15

"The Way Side."

- ▶ This soil represents those who have "ears to hear" but refuse to do so (Matthew 13:14-15; cf. Acts 7:57).
- ▶ The "implanted" word is to be **received with "meekness" (James 1:21)**; sometimes it is to be replanted again and again.

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- ▶ **"The Rocky Ground."** It was received with joy, but it soon withered because it had no root (Mark 4:16-17).
- ▶ Immediately following this parable Jesus taught, "Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that which he thinketh he hath" (Luke 8:18).

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- ▶ **"The Thorny Ground."**
 - *"the care of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches" (Matthew 13:22).*
 - *"the cares of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things" (Mark 4:19).*
 - *"cares and riches and pleasures of (this) life" (Luke 8:14).*

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- ▶ **"The Good Ground." Luke 8:15**
 - Note: Only one of the four "types" of soil brought forth fruit.
- ▶ The goals we set should be regarding how many are taught, rather than how many are converted.

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The teacher is a "seed-sower."

- ▶ *"What then is Apollos? and what is Paul? Ministers through whom ye believed; and each as the Lord gave to him. I planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase." 1 Corinthians 3:5-7*
- ▶ cf. 1 Corinthians 1:10-16; Philipians 1:15-18

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The principle of sowing and reaping applies to the preaching of the gospel.

- ▶ 2 Corinthians 9:6, *"But this (I say,) He that soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he that soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully."*
- ▶ **To convert more, teach more!**

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Sometimes when one sows, it is another who reaps!

- ▶ John 4:35-37, *"Say not ye, There are yet four months, and (then) cometh the harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields, that they are white already unto harvest. He that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal; that he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together. For herein is the saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth."*

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God's providence is at work in the saving of souls. (cf. 1 Corinthians 3:9)

- ▶ Acts 14:27, "And when they were come, and had gathered the church together, they rehearsed all things that God had done with them, and that he had opened a door of faith unto the Gentiles."
- ▶ 1 Corinthians 16:8-9, "But I will tarry at Ephesus until Pentecost; for a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries."
- ▶ 2 Corinthians 2:12, "Now when I came to Troas for the gospel of Christ, and when a door was opened unto me in the Lord."
- ▶ Colossians 4:2-3, "Continue stedfastly in prayer, watching therein with thanksgiving; withal praying for us also, that God may open unto us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds."

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These doors will open to those who prepare themselves for the work!

2 Timothy 2:15, "Give diligence to present thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, handling aright the word of truth." cf. Colossians 4:2-6

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- ▶ 1 Corinthians 15:58, "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not vain in the Lord."

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