

GROWING PAINS

(Job 8:7 KJV) Though thy beginning was small, yet thy latter end should greatly increase.

(Pro 4:18 KJV) But the path of the just *is* as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

Mat 5:14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

Mat 5:15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

Mat 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

• ***So" means "in such a way" or "to such an extent".***

• ***It emphasizes that your good works should be visible and impactful, leading others to glorify God, not you.***

• ***The verse encourages believers to live in a way that their actions reflect God's goodness and inspire others to honor Him.***

(Rev 12:11 KJV) And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by **the word of their testimony**; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

(Act 2:47 KJV) Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

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(Act 6:1 KJV) And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration.

Act 6:2 Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples *unto them*, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.

Act 6:3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, **whom we may appoint over this business.**

Act 6:4 But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.

Act 6:5 And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch:

Act 6:6 Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid *their* hands on them.

Act 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.

Growth brings change. Change is never easy. Growth means new faces, new needs, new opportunities—but also new misunderstandings and pressures.

Common Growing Pains in a Church

Let's look at some typical growing pains:

- **Communication Struggles:** As more people join, it's easier for messages to be misunderstood or for some to feel left out.
- **Loss of Familiarity:** Members may feel the church is losing its "close-knit" family feel.
- **Leadership Stresses:** Existing leaders may become overwhelmed, and there's a need for more volunteers and leaders to step up.
- **Resource Management:** More people means more needs—space, time, finances, and organization must adapt.
- **Diversity of Opinions:** With growth comes a greater variety of backgrounds and viewpoints, which can lead to disagreements.
- **Spiritual Maturity:** New believers need discipleship, and the church must ensure depth as well as breadth.

God's Purpose in Growing Pains

Why does God allow these challenges? Because growing pains are opportunities:

- **For Maturity:** Like muscles growing stronger through resistance, the church matures through challenges.
- **For Service:** Growth opens new ways for people to serve, discover gifts, and step into leadership.
- **For Dependence on God:** When overwhelmed, we remember to rely on God, not just our own strength.
- **For the Gospel:** A growing church is a sign of God's kingdom advancing, and every challenge is a chance to show grace, unity, and love to a watching world.

How to Respond Faithfully

How do we respond as a church experiencing growing pains? **A. Stay Focused on the Mission**

Keep the main thing—the Gospel—at the center. Remember our purpose: to love God, love people, and make disciples. **B. Embrace Change with Grace**

Change can be uncomfortable, but it's often necessary. Be patient with one another and flexible in methods, while holding firm to biblical truth. **C. Communicate Openly and Honestly**

Encourage healthy, loving communication. Listen to concerns, share information widely, and resolve misunderstandings quickly. **D. Equip and Empower New Leaders**

Recognize that growth requires more hands and hearts. Invite others to serve, mentor new leaders, and share responsibility.
E. Foster Unity in Diversity
Celebrate the different gifts, backgrounds, and perspectives God brings. Seek unity, not uniformity—let love be the bond.
F. Pray Together
Above all, seek God’s wisdom and guidance in prayer. Pray for humility, patience, and the filling of the Holy Spirit.

5. Encouragement: The Promise of Fruitful Growth

Growing pains are a sign of life!

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” (Galatians 6:9, NIV)

God is faithful. As we walk through these challenges together, He will use them to strengthen us, deepen our love, and multiply our impact for His kingdom.

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