

WHAT IT MEANS TO GROW:

1. Indicates a continuous expansion. New members continually added to the church.
2. The rapid advancement of Christianity in the first century. Acts 2:41; 4:4; 6:1; 8:12

NOTE: In our failure to be successful in the Lord's work Satan has filled us with flimsy excuses.

The early church did not have a single tool that we think we must have today to be successful. NOTE:

1. THINGS WE THINK WE NEED TODAY

1. A good preacher with an educational background.
2. A nice building in a good location.
3. Acceptability in the town.
4. Successful men in the leadership.
5. Establish a school to promote the church.
6. Establish an orphan home.

11. WHAT DID THEY HAVE IN THE FIRST CENTURY.

1. Preachers of a mediocre background.
(1) Paul's speech contemptible (2nd Cor. 10:10)
(2) Present educational requirement would have eliminated the Galilaean fishermen who served so well in the beginning.
2. No building at all:
(1) No doubt the same stigma attached to a rented hall of that day as now.
3. They were run out of town:
(1) No acceptability...Not popular
4. Humble fishermen were their leaders:
(1) Considered fools and offscouring.
1 Cor. Chapters 1-3; 4:9-13

5. PROSPECTS AND CONVENIENCES:

(1) No conveniences: No baptistry; No heat to warm water; No clothing for the candidates; No air conditioning to cool buildings.

(2) Their prospects:

1. The Philippian jailor
2. The ruler of the synagogue
3. The wicked Corinthians and Saul of Tarsus.

This list would have scared us to death.

111. Why we are not so successful as were they?

1. We are too concerned with popularity.

(1) A bad situation when all men speak well of us. Luke 6:26.

(2) THIS MEANS:

1. We never stand against anything or oppose religious error.

2. We do not have enough soul-stirring prayer.

(1) They prayed to God and their place of worship shook with the presence of God. Acts 4:23-31.