

6/10/07

Marks of A Healthy Church
Acts 6:1-8

One of the most exciting things in life is to experience and be part of a church that is alive and growing in both in numbers and maturity.

1. Growth in numbers alone does not mean a church is healthy spiritually or that it is teaching correct Biblical doctrine.
2. The gospel must be the source of its spiritual growth, development and maturity at every stage, of every person in the body of the church.
3. The numbers are up to the sovereign will of God.

So, just like a physical body experiences growing pains, so will a healthy, growing and developing church pressing on to maturity in Christ.

1. The church is made up of imperfect people and therefore will never be perfect and therefore will experience problems.
2. The problems of the church, are God's opportunity to use godly people through His word and Spirit, to demonstrate that it is He and He alone who can run His church effectively.

Such is the case before us when the church began to grow, providing us with three marks of a healthy church. Act.6:1-8

- I. The problem of growth. vs. 1
- II. The proper oversight. vs. 2-4
- III. The pleasing results. vs. 5-8

I. The problem of growth. vs. 1

- A. The church was growing at an alarming rate. vs. 1a-b
 1. The context is in "those days", when the number of disciples was multiplying". vs. 1a
 - a. The disciples were those who had accepted Jesus as Savior and Lord, the members of the church present.
 - 1) The term disciple "mathetes" means pupil or learner of Jesus, appearing for the first time.
 - 2) The word appears 268 times in the New Testament, 30 times in Acts.
 - b. The condition of the church was one of growth. vs. 1b
 - 1) The word multiplying "plethuno" means to increase in number.
 - 2) This verb form will appear once again, telling us that "the number of the disciples multiplied". vs. 7
 - 3) The noun form "plethos" appears two times in our text. vs. 2, 5
 - 4) Both forms appear twenty-two times in the book of Acts.

- 5) The book of Acts is the record of how Jesus adds to His church such as are being saved.
2. The evidence and pattern has been recorded for us.
- a. 3,000 at Pentecost. Acts 2:41
 - b. 5,000 at the healing of the lame man at the Temple. Acts 4:4
 - c. And after the judgment of Ananias and Sapphira it says, “The believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women.” Acts 5:14
 - d. The apostles consistent activity of those days is stated, “daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.” Acts 5:42
- B.** The church due to it’s growth was experiencing a difficult state. vs. 1c-d
1. There were two classes of Jews within the church. vs.1c
 - a. The Hebrews were natives of Israel who spoke Hebrew and Aramaic, embracing all the Hebrew culture.
 - b. The Hellenists were Jews born outside of Israel in Rome provinces, of Greek culture, speaking Greek, the Diaspora.

2. The Hellenists were accusing the Hebrews of neglecting the Hellenist widows. vs. 1c
 - a. The way it manifested was by of a complaint.
 - 1) The word complaint “gongusmos” means to mutter or grumble in a low tone, indicating a secret or private displeasure, till heard.
 - 2) In the LXX it is for the murmuring of the Israelites against Moses. Ex. 16:7, Num. 14:27
 - 3) Words like murmuring are called “onomatopoeic” because they imitate the sounds associated with the object or actions they refer to, like “buzz” or “murmur”.
 - 4) “Do all things without complaining and disputing,” Phil. 2:14
 - b. The neglect regarded the daily distribution for widows. vs. 1d
 - 1) The meaning of the verb neglected “paretheorounto” is to look beyond, to overlook, the imperfect means it was going on for some time but it was not deliberate, found only this time in the N. T.
 - 2) The O.T. was very concerned over the care and abuse of widows and orphans. Ex. 22:22, Deut. 10:18

- 3) There had been intimidating opposition without by the religious men as they were put in prison for preaching and ordered not to speak in the name of Jesus but they rejoiced they were worthy to suffer shame for His name. Acts 5:40
 - 4) Opposition by internal corruption by Ananias and Sapphira.
 - 5) Now there is murmuring from within, all three will be an attempt to disrupt the work of God and for God to work.
- c. Two collections were made every Friday morning, one at the market, the second homes.
- 1) They met temporary and permanent needs comprising of 14 meals a week, two per day. Acts 4:35
 - 2) There were two funds one called “Kuppah” meaning “basket” for needs, and “Tambui” meaning “tray”, for emergencies.

Illustration

M. Grinard mentions a plant which germinated in the bottom of a mine and raised itself to the height of 120 feet in order to reach the light, though the usual height of the plant is only six inches. #7064

* Problems and difficulties will cause us to turn to Jesus, the light and cause us to grow healthy!

Application

1. The problems that come to a growing church are to be welcomed.
 - a. As a church grows, the awareness of all the needs is impossible, yet it is to meet the ones it knows about and can meet them.
 - b. As a church grows it is easy for people to murmur when they are carnal.
 - c. As a church grows it has to be flexible and be there to meet the challenges, rather than merely voicing ones complaint.
 - d. The best way to cure murmuring is to be a church participant, not a mere spectator.
 - e. The common belief that the church should feed and cloth all that ask is not Biblical.
 - 1) We should not exclude the poor but equally we should not cater to the poor alone, “James says, “Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.” Ja. 1:27
 - 2) We as individuals should meet the needs that the Lord brings to us personally and not merely pass it on to the church, “But whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in **need**, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?” 1Jn. 3:17
2. The church is never to be partial in what she impart to people.

- a. Yet we are men and women with sin-nature still in us, we can corrupt the love and grace of God to others.
 - b. We can allow physical appearance to sway us to be more patient, more approachable or even more willing to help financially or spiritually.
- * “My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality. For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, “You sit here in a good place,” and say to the poor man, “You stand there,” or, “Sit here at my footstool,” have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? But you have dishonored the poor man. Do not the rich oppress you and drag you into the courts? Do they not blaspheme that noble name by which you are called? If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you do well; but if you show

partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors.”

Ja. 2:1-9

- 3. The church is to look at the various problems and needs of the church as a great opportunity to do the work of God to see Him make it grow.
 - a. It may be in providing some food, clothes, a night in a hotel room or contacts for a job.
 - b. It may be spiritual wisdom in dealing with what is causing their present problem.
 - c. It may be that what a person is asking for, the church cannot provide it.
 - d. What we need to make sure that we do not look at the church primarily as if it is a social welfare organization but rather a dispenser of the gospel to lost man with loving and sensitive compassion for man.
 - 1) “For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies. Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread. But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary in doing good.” 2Thess. 3:10-13
 - 2) The Epistle of Timothy tells us widows with family are to be helped by them, so

that widows without family can be helped by the church, meeting very specific qualifications . 1Tim. 5:3-16

The problem of growth is a mark of a healthy church!

II. The proper oversight. vs. 2-4

- A.** The twelve directed themselves to the multitude of disciples. vs. 2a
 * “Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said.”
- 1.** The twelve were present among the people.
 - a.** The twelve were appointed by Jesus but Judas committed suicide, then lots were cast and Jesus chose Mathias as Judas replacement.
 - b.** The choice of God was acknowledged by the church and Luke, evident as he constantly mentions “the apostles” and specifically here “the twelve”.
Acts 2:42, 43, 4:33, 35, 36, 37, 5:2, 12, 18, 29, 34, 40
 - c.** The apostle Paul mentions Jesus appeared to the twelve and others, last by him. 1Cor. 15:5, 8
 - d.** Paul says the church or household of God is built on the foundation of the apostles, and prophets and Jesus

Himself being the chief cornerstone.
Eph. 2:19-20

- 2.** The disciples as we noted in verse one, were those who had accepted Jesus as their Savior and Lord.
 - a.** As disciples “mathetes” they were pupils or learners of Jesus.
 - b.** The gospels tell us of the twelve apostles that began as disciples.
 - c.** The gospels also tell us of the 70 disciples Jesus sent out by two.
- B.** The twelve denounced the abandoning of the word to serve tables. vs. 2b
 * “It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables.”
- 1.** The twelve did not allow the pressure and emotions of the moment to divert them from their priorities.
 - a.** The people were not rebuked but the apostle understood people’s shortsightedness that could worsen problem.
 - 1)** They saw only their physical needs.
 - 2)** They saw injustice and unfairness.
 - 3)** They were embroiled in their cultural factions.
 - b.** The people could not see the further problems, if the apostles gave in to their petition.

- 1) Jealousy and envy only increases without the word.
 - 2) The innocent neglect interpreted to be partiality would worsen without the word of God.
2. The twelve allowed their spiritual maturity to make the right decision.
- a. The apostles knew they could no longer be over the distribution.
 - 1) The word desirable “arestos” means agreeable or fit, that which is appropriate and proper, pleasing.
 - 2) The word is used by Jesus when He said, “I do always those things that please the Father.” Jn. 8:29
 - 3) It is used of Herod who left Peter in jail after killing James because it pleased the Jews.” Acts 12:3
 - b. The apostles didn’t refuse to distribute the needs out of pride of their position or authority but out of wisdom.
 - 1) They would not leave “kataleipp” means to leave behind and forsake.
 - * The word is used for a man leaving his father and mother, to be joined to his wife. Mk. 10:7
 - 2) They were being obedient to their call of the Great Commission, to make disciples and teaching them to observe all things Jesus had commanded. Matt. 28:19-20

- c. The apostles knew it would be wrong for them to leave the word of God to serve tables, in view of the great number of people needing the word.
 - 1) The word serve “diakoneo” means an attendant, to wait upon.
 - 2) We get our word deacon, minister, serve from it.
 - 3) Many see these as first deacons in the church, though it is not stated..
 - 4) Jesus uses the word for Himself, “The Son of Man came not to be ministered unto.” Matt. 24:28
- C. The twelve delegated the serving of tables to those who were qualified. vs. 3
- * “Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, which we may appoint over this business;
1. The conclusion of the matter was that ministry would be passed down to other born again believers. vs. 3a-b
 - a. The word therefore “oun” means in accordingly or consequently of the fact that there were too many people coming to Christ.
 - * In view of this, they needed to be taught the word of God!
 - b. The brethren “adelphos”, those of the same womb, born of the word of God

- and the Spirit of God, into the family of God, the first of 34 times in Acts.
2. The brethren were to select out from among themselves seven men. vs. 3c
 - a. We should never think the church is a democracy, it is Spirit directed, though Spirit filled men.
 - b. The number seven is often used as a number of completeness.
 - c. There are seven days in a week, seven notes on the scale, etc.
 - d. The word seek “episkeptomai” means to look upon to inspect and examine with the eye.
 - 1) Similar qualifications are found for those to help Moses. Ex. 18:17-23
 - 2) The qualification for elders and deacons are clearly given. 1Tim. 3:1-7, 8-13
 3. The brethren were to seek out men who met a certain standard. vs. 3c-d
 - a. Men of good reputation.
 - 1) The phrase is one word in the Greek “martureo” to be a witness.
 - 2) Those who testify, bear record of Christian character.
 - b. Men full of the Holy Spirit.
 - 1) Those baptized in the Holy Spirit.
 - * The word for full “pleres” means not just full but under it’s control.

- 2) Those who are being filled as their life-style, being a witness to and for Jesus. Acts 1:8, Eph. 5:18
 - c. Men full of wisdom.
 - 1) The adjective full applies also to wisdom.
 - 2) The word is “Sophia” a broad and full intelligence used in a proper way to arrive at the best solution. Acts 7:55, 11:24, 13:52
 - 3) This is spiritual wisdom that will certainly enhance human wisdom but not to be confused with it.
 - * In Him are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” Col. 2:3
 - d. The purpose is declared. vs. 3e
 - 1) The plural pronoun refers to the seven men.
 - 2) The plan was to appoint “kathestemi”, to be set over the responsibility of the business of distribution, to end the murmuring.
- D.** The twelve declared their commitment to their top responsibility. vs. 4
- * “But we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”
1. The sharp contrast between the “urgent” and the “more important”, can not be missed by the word but “de”.

2. They would give themselves first continually to prayer, “proseuche”, which is used only for God.
 - a. Notice the manner of prayer, continually.
 - 1) The word continually is “proskartereo” to adhere to one, to devoted to or steadfast.
 - 2) The same word has been used already three times for the believer’s life. Acts 1:14, 2:42, 46
 - b. Prayer declares many things.
 - 1) Our dependency on God to receive from God.
 - 2) Our source of illumination for the word of God.
 - 3) The article is present “the payer” and could be a reference to the times of prayer. Acts 1:14, 2:42
2. Then and only then would they give themselves continually to the ministry of the word.
 - a. The word comes second, after prayer.
 - 1) The study of God’s word can become nothing but academics.
 - 2) A badge of pride, rather than humbling one as a servant.
 - b. The phrase ministry of the word describes the studying and imparting of God’s revelation of Himself and the redemptive plan for man.

- 1) The “diakonia logos”, the service of and by the word of God.
- 2) The teaching of the word, from Genesis to Revelation for saints to grow, develop and mature.

Illustration

Moody said, “It is better to train ten people, than to do the work of ten people. But it is harder.” #3023
 * No one person can do it all and ministry will suffer and never expand!

Application

1. The exciting thing in the church is to personally see the diversity of people God saves.
 - a. Some come with no Biblical understanding, at all and they just light up.
 - b. Others come with some knowledge through their religious background, seeing their past deception become passionate disciples.
 - c. Still others come with twisted doctrines taught by the cults and occults to which they once belonged, rejoicing in the truth.
 - d. All who come to Jesus have failed morally and ethically, be it in practice or in the heart.
 - 1) “He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor

of the will of man, but of God.” Jn. 1:11-13

- 2) “And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),” Eph. 2:1-5

2. Another exciting thing in the church is the personal witness of people’s progressive transformation through God’s word.

- a. From liars to men and women of truth.
- b. From fornicator and adulterers to purity, godly young women and men.
- c. From bad wives and husbands to faithful ones.
- d. From committed sinners to committed saints.
- e. This all happens by prayer and the study of God’s word as people come consistently to

church and learn, as disciples of Jesus, from a Pastor teacher.

* “Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord *is* gracious.” 1Pet. 2:1-3

3. Still another exciting thing in the church is proper understanding of a person’s qualification for service from the leader.

- a. They have become men and women of God.
- b. They have become men and women full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom by the word.
- c. They have become mature saints to be used by God.

- 1) The requirements for serving are clear, for deacons, elders and bishops. 1Tim. 3:1-13, Tit. 3:5-9
- 2) The purpose of the church is to perfect the saints for the work of ministry through the gifted men God calls, anoints and places in the church. Eph. 4:11-16
- 3) Those preparing themselves will step into the overflow of ministry as the need arises, as the ministry expands.

* “But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the

latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.” 2Tim. 2:20-21

The proper oversight is a mark of a healthy church!

III. The pleasing results. vs. 5-8

A. The multitude of disciples agreed with the counsel of the twelve. vs. 5-6

- * “And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them.”
- 1. The declaration pleased all the believers who heard. vs. 5a
 - a. They were on the same page with the apostles.
 - 1) Tracking with the apostles for the growth of the church.
 - 2) Tracking the priority of the word of God to instruct the church.
 - b. The unity and harmony of the church was a healthy mature sign.

- 1) The word pleased “aresko” means to be acceptable.
 - 2) The people did not think the apostles were being irresponsible or lazy but wise.
2. The execution of the plan was implemented. vs. 5b-i
- a. They chose seven men who appear to be Hellenist, at least by name. vs. 5b-c
 - * Nothing is known about these men except two for sure, Stephen and Philip, a third, Nicolas by opinion.
 - b. Stephen was full of faith and the Holy Spirit. vs. 5b-c
 - 1) He began waiting on tables, whose name “stephanos” means crowned, the victors crown.
 - a) Full of faith “pistis” confidence and trust in God for what He says.
 - b) Full of the Holy Spirit for the empowerment to serve to be led.
 - 2) He will become an evangelist to the Synagogue of the Freeman, resulting in being the first martyr of the Church. Acts 7
 - c. Philip “Philippos” means lovers of horses. vs. 5d
 - 1) He also began waiting on tables.
 - 2) He became an evangelist.

- 3) He is the only one called an evangelist in the New Testament, though there are other who exercise the gift. Acts 8:5, 21:8
- d. The next three we know nothing about, except for their names. vs. 5e-h
 - 1) Prochorus means leader of the chorus.
 - 2) Nicanor means conqueror.
 - 3) Timon means honorable.
 - 4) Parmenas means abiding.
- e. Nicolas was a proselyte from Antioch. vs. 5i
 - 1) His name means victor of the people.
 - 2) He is from Antioch, which would be the center of missions and he has been identified by some with the sect of the idolatrous and immoral Nicolaitans but we cannot be certain. Acts 11:19-30, 13:1-3, Rev. 2:6
- 3. The confirmation of the chosen men was affirmed before all. vs. 6
 - a. The public presentation was witnessed by all.
 - 1) The people brought and set the seven before the apostles. vs. 6a
 - 2) The apostles were the recognized ruling authority.

- b. The official recognition was witnessed by all. vs. 6b-c
 - 1) The apostles prayed first.
 - * Without doubt commending them to God for the ongoing anointing and gifts to serve.
 - 2) The apostles laid hands on the seven.
 - a) The practice of laying hands goes back to the Old Testament, such as Isaac, Jacob and certainly the book of Leviticus and others. Gen. 48:14, Num. 27:18
 - b) This is the first appearance, the symbolic act of imparting authority, prayer and blessing.
- B. The multitude of the disciples and the apostles witnessed the church continue to grow. vs. 7
 - * “Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.”
 - 1. The process was sourced in the word of God. vs. 7a
 - a. This is another summary statement, the word of God spread due to being taught, having delegated to others the ministry of serving food.

- 1) The word spread “auxano” means to cause to grow, the imperfect implies continuously.
 - 2) The word is used for the growth of plants, infants, multitudes and Christian growth.
2. The product of the word of God were children of God . vs. 7b-c
- a. The number of disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem. vs. 7b
 - 1) New believers became student or pupils of Jesus, multiplying continuously, by the imperfect.
 - 2) Greatly “sphodra” means exceedingly in Jerusalem, as Jesus said, “You shall be witnesses to Me, first in Jerusalem. Act. 1:8
 - b. The number of priest obedient to the faith were also many. vs. 7c
 - 1) The faith being Christianity.
 - 2) Josephus said there were 20.000 priests in his days.
 - 3) The phrase great many “polus” means a large number.
- C. The multitudes of disciples and the apostles witnessed the Lord use Stephen in greater ways. vs. 8
- * “And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and signs among the people.

1. He began by serving tables, never thinking it beneath him or insignificant.
 - a. This verse usually is the first of the next section in the natural division.
 - b. But I think it is a transitional verse that is vital to what precedes and what follows.
2. He was a man full of faith and power, ready to believe and obey.
 - a. Some MSS have grace, instead of faith.
 - b. The power “dunamis” is of the Holy Spirit.
 - * Also of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom. vs. 3
3. He was used by God in great wonders and signs among the people.
 - a. Wonders “teras” super-natural miracle that cause people to be in awe and consider their divine origin.
 - b. Signs “semeion” again divine miracles that points people to God as the source.
 - c. His name remember means crown and he was faithful unto death as an example of Christ, Jesus stood to receive the 1st martyr of the Church.

Illustration

When we follow the Biblical manual and allow the process of the Spirit to do the work of God, then

and only then, will we see the product that only the Spirit of God can produce!

* Jesus said, "I will build My church".

Application

1. What a joy it has been to be your Pastor for the last 27 years.

- a. You have been in agreement with us when we have appointed men and women to take over, expand ministries or start new ones.
- b. You have seen us at times lay hands on those going to the mission field.
- c. You have seen how God has multiplied the church body, going from three people, to 300 when the Lord gave us this building.
- d. You have seen the church grow from those 300 to a conservative 12-1500 on Sunday.
- e. You have seen mission involvement grow, through sending tapes, CD's, helping churches and Pastors.
- f. You have seen God provide for medical outreaches in Mexico, Nicaragua, Nias, etc.
 - 1) "And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved." Acts 2:47b
 - 2) "Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, nor share in other people's sins; keep yourself pure." 1Tim. 5:22

2. What an incredible privilege all of us have had in seeing God provide for all of our needs without begging, pledges or programs to raise money.

- a. But we have lived within our means by the measure that God has always so graciously provided for us.
- b. God gave us this building with only 300 people and then had the nerve to pay it off.
- c. We believed God was directing to build the gym and by the time we turned the key, it was completely paid off.
- d. We have stepped out in radio across the U.S and He has paid the bill continuously.
- e. We have gone from two people on staff to ten full time staff.
- f. I am not boasting, I am reminding you of the greatness of our God and what He can do if people do only what He wants them to do, not what they want God to do for them.
- f. We run this ministry by the philosophy, "If God guides, He provides" and "It is better to give, than to receive", these two very important principles for successful ministry.
- g. And success is not measured by the numbers or size but by the growth, development and maturity of the church body, in order to be used as instruments of God for His glory.
 - 1) Be thankful, "For who has despised the day of **small things**?" Zech. 4:10
 - 2) Be content, "Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have

learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” Phil. 4:11-12

- 3) Be open and obedient in faith, “Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” Eph. 2:20-21

3. What should we say about the people we have seen God heal and touch miraculously.

- a. Peter Hanagraff wife Wendi that ran the children’s ministry had the latest stages of cancer in her bones, lymph nodes, etc, and God touched her.
- b. Tracy Kens had a tumor, the x-ray revealed it covered her entire chest area, God healed.
- c. Lisa was told to abort one of her triplets to insure the safety of the other two, she did not, and all three were born alive.
- d. One had a hole in his heart, God healed it completely.
- e. Lisa had cancer of the cervix, God healed her.
- f. There have been some that we prayed and God did not see fit to heal them, due to His own purposes.

- g. But let me tell you of the greatest miracle you will ever see, the repentance of a sinner and the transformation of his or her life.

* “Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! “For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor? Or who has first given to Him And it shall be repaid to him? For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.” Rom. 11:33-35

The pleasing results is a mark of a healthy church!

Conclusion

These are three marks of a healthy Church.

- I. The problem of growth!
- II. The proper oversight!
- III. The pleasing results!