



### **Growing Pains**

Acts...Now It's Our Time – Part 4  
Pastor Chris Collins

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. (Acts 1:8)*

### **Acts 4:36 – 5:11**

**HYPOCRISY** - the practice of claiming to have moral, or religious standards and beliefs that one does not really possess

### **THE DRIFT TOWARDS HYPOCRISY**

#### **1. WE FORGET WHAT THE GOSPEL TEACHES ABOUT US AND OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.**

- I am a sinner in need of **GRACE**

*But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)*

- I am in **PROCESS**

*Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:12-14)*

#### **2. WE FAIL TO COMMIT TO A COMMUNITY THAT WILL HELP US REVEAL WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON IN OUR HEARTS, MINDS AND LIVES.**

- It won't be beneficial to **PRIVATIZE YOUR FAITH**

*Two are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble... three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken. (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, 12b)*

- When we walk in honest relationship with others there will be **FRICTION**

*As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend. (Proverbs 27:17)*

- **Christian community helps us overcome DOUBT AND SIN**

*But encourage each other daily, while it is still called today, so that none of you is hardened by sin's deception. (Hebrews 3:13)*

**Acts 6:1-7**

**THE DRIFT TOWARDS THE SACRED**

**3. THE LOCAL CHURCH WILL ALWAYS CHANGE AND MODIFY MINISTRY STRATEGY TO MAKE DISCIPLES.**

**OUR THEOLOGY informs our PHILOSOPHY which informs our PRACTICE**

**DOING NOTHING IS NOT AN OPTION**