

Thinking Through Growth

Acts 2:36–47

Working Through Expanding Our Footprint In Christ

Verse 36

“Therefore let all the house of Israel know beyond a doubt that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ”

Verse 37

“Now when they heard this, they were acutely distressed and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘What should we do, brothers?’”

Acts 11:18

When they heard this, they ceased their objections and praised God, saying, “So then, God has granted the repentance that leads to life even to the Gentiles.”

Verses 38-39

Peter said to them, “Repent, and each one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and your children, and for all who are far away, as many as the Lord our God will call to himself.”

“Put Your Shoes On And Hurry”

Acts 3:19

“Therefore repent and turn back so that your sins may be wiped out”

Acts 16:31

“Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, you and your household.”

All Who Jesus Calls To Himself

Verse 39

“For the promise is for you and your children, and for all who are far away, as many as the Lord our God will call to himself.”

Verse 40

With many other words he testified and exhorted them saying, “Save yourselves from this perverse generation!”

Three Thousand Added

Verse 41

“So those who accepted his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand people were added.”

Verse 42

“They were devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”

Serious students of the apostles’ teaching

Fellowship which included the effort to share possessions so that no one was in need

Eating together, probably including the Lord’s Supper

Praying together.

Adding To Their Number Every Day

Verse 43-45

“Reverential awe came over everyone, and many wonders and miraculous signs came about by the apostles. All who believed were together and held everything in common, and they began selling their property and possessions and distributing the proceeds to everyone, as anyone had need.”

Verse 46,47

Every day they continued to gather together by common consent in the temple courts, breaking bread from house to house, sharing their food with glad and humble hearts, praising God and having the good will of all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number every day those who were being saved.

Observations Relevant To The Strategy

1) Christ Himself Builds His Church.

Verse 47b

“And the Lord was adding to their number every day those who were being saved”

2) The Lord uses the scriptures in the mouth of His servants to grow the church.

Verse 37

Now when they heard this, they were acutely distressed and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “What should we do, brothers?”

3) There was one church in Jerusalem, and it was big and growing.

4) This church met in large gatherings to hear the apostles in the temple, it seems, and in small gatherings in their homes.

Verse 46

“Every day they continued to gather together by common consent in the temple courts, breaking bread from house to house, sharing their food with glad and humble hearts”

Acts 2:46

“Every day they continued to gather together by common consent in the temple courts, breaking bread from house to house, sharing their food with glad and humble hearts”

Acts 5:42

“Every day, in the temple and from house to house, [the apostles] did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.”

5) They encountered problems along the way because of their size and their ethnic diversity.

Acts 6:1

“Now in those days, when the disciples were growing in number, a complaint arose on the part of the Greek-speaking Jews against the native Hebraic Jews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food”

Expanding Our Footprint