



## **Church DNA: A Growing Community**

Pastor James Heyward

The DNA of the Church, as God intended it to be, will look like this:

- **COMMITTED**, to the Lord and His teaching,
- **FILLED**, with the Holy Spirit's presence,
- **CARING** for each other's real needs,
- **PRAISING** God, and finally,
- **GROWING** community.

*“They committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles, the life together, the common meal, and the prayers. Everyone around was in awe—all those wonders and signs done through the apostles! And all the believers lived in a wonderful harmony, holding everything in common. They sold whatever they owned and pooled their resources so that each person's need was met. They followed a daily discipline of worship in the Temple followed by meals at home, every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful, as they praised God. People in general liked what they saw. **Every day their number grew as God added those who were saved.**” Acts 2:42-47 (MSG)*

A. Added suggests growth.

Read 2 Peter 1:5-9 (Message).

Church growth starts with individual growth. Growth is becoming more and more like Jesus.

- 1. How do individuals grow in being more and more like Jesus?**
- 2. How does the church grow in being more and more like Jesus?**

B. “Every day their number grew” suggests numerical growth.

Growth should be in quality and in quantity.

- 3. Why is numerical growth in the church desirable?**
- 4. Why should numbers not be the only measure of church growth?**

C. “Added to their number daily” suggests regular growth.

Maintaining is not enough. The church corporately will not grow if the individuals of the church are not growing.

- 5. Are you seeing regular growth in your spiritual life? Explain.**
- 6. Are you seeing regular growth in the church?**

D. “Their number grew as God added those who were saved” suggests new conversion growth.

We grow as we go. We only grow to the level of our obedience.

- 7. Are you going as you are growing - going to those who need to be loved in the name of Jesus?**
- 8. How is your obedience level? Is there something that God has asked you to do that you have not done yet?**

