Growing the Congregation

Brent Moody · Acts 19:1–10 · Series: **The Way Forward**

INTRODUCTION

- This morning I want to spend more time talking about growing local congregations, growing this group that we're a part of and what that looks like and what that involves.
- A congregation that grows in number, but not in strength, is like a house of cards. It just takes one little bad movement and the whole thing falls in.
- So it's not just about expanding, it's not just about growing numbers and getting lots of people. It's also about deepening understanding.

1 People Who Want to Grow in Knowledge

Acts 13:27

- For those who live in Jerusalem and their rulers, because they did not recognize him, nor understand the utterances of the prophets which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled them by condemning him.
- Reading the Bible and understanding the message are not the same thing. Just because we read it a lot doesn't mean we've put the work in to actually understand.
- It takes some work to understand. It takes diligence, a willingness, and eagerness to want to learn.
- The Jews there are more noble than those who are at Thessalonica because they receive the word with all eagerness, examining the scriptures daily to see if these things were so.
- Growing churches do not fear searching truth. They are eager for it. It's not dangerous. It's not a waste of time. It's what noble people do.

2 Knowledge Helps Nothing If There's No Action

Acts 2:42; Acts 13:2–3; Acts 14:22–23

- All the knowledge in the world, all the understanding of the world helps nothing if there's no action. James says faith without works is dead.
- While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, Set apart from me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.
- Strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.
- I can sit and listen to sermons or Bible classes and then tomorrow go out and just do the same things I've always been doing. And what good has that done?
- Do my actions match my knowledge? Do I live the way I have learned a Christian should live?
- As a congregation, are we building people up? Or are we just counting them?

3 Personal Investments in Local Congregations

Acts 2; Acts 4; Acts 19:1–7

- Congregational growth is contingent upon and it's directly proportional to the level of personal commitment the members have to the body.
- From whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.
- It's going to be because each person decides they are going to personally invest in what's happening here.
- Religion in many ways has become a product that people consume rather than a mission.
- Unfortunately, in modern times, rather than investing in people, sometimes our brethren decide to break them down.
- If we want to grow this congregation with maturity and strength, if we want to encourage people, find someone to mentor. Find someone to help.

THE CHALLENGE

But it comes down to what am I going to do about that? What am I offering? How am I investing in this?

MY NOTES