



Global CONNECTION

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“And they continued steadfastly...” Acts 2:42).

It is a pleasure to greet you from the World Evangelism Center, UPCI. I pray God is blessing in each of your areas of responsibility.

The Church is not like any other organization you might find in the world. It is a living organism. The church is a living body established in Acts 2. Only God can cause the church to grow. Every living thing is designed to grow. Growth is a normal result of life. If living things do not grow, they are not healthy.



In this lesson we will look at signs of a healthy, growing church. These signs will be given in more detail later. We will also make a comparison between these ten signs of a healthy church and our physical bodies. When a child is born the parents look for signs to

verify their baby is healthy. This is also done in the spiritual realm.

1. Emphasis must be on the salvation experience.

- Acts 2:37-38
- Acts 20:20-21

New Testament preaching will produce New Testament results.

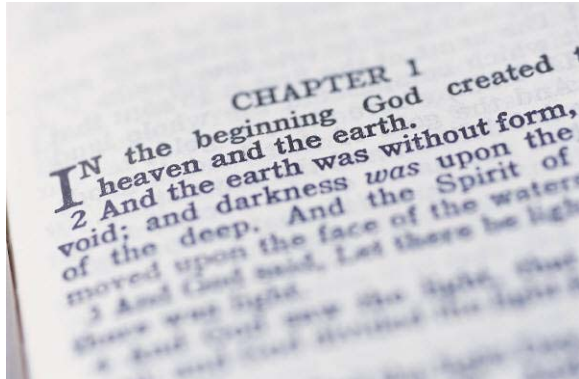
Just as we have children, the Lord wants us to produce spiritual babies. This happens when the church puts emphasis on the salvation of souls. In order for there to be growth there must be the planting of the seed. When we look at John 3:5 and Acts 2:38, we see that we must be born of water (baptism in Jesus' name) and born of the Spirit (baptism of the Holy Spirit).

2. Commitment to the Word of God as the final authority in doctrine and life.

- Acts 2:42
- Acts 6:4
- Acts 15:13-16

When the Word of God is preached and obeyed, the natural response is growth (Acts

6:7). Acts 15:13,16 confirms that a healthy church will be supported by the Word of God.



3. Regular study and reading of God's Word.

- Acts 2:42
- 2 Timothy 2:15
- 2 Timothy 3:16-17

If a child wants to grow he/she must eat. We too must eat the Bread of Life which is the Word of God (which is Jesus Christ Himself - John 6:48; John 1:1; John 14:6). God does not want the church to remain on milk but to regularly study (eat meat) and grow (Hebrews 5:12-14).

4. Effective spiritual leadership.

- Acts 4:13

5. Practical Holiness.

- I Thessalonians 3:12-13
- I Thessalonians 4:7-8
- I Timothy 2:8-10

6. Mobilized membership for evangelism.

- Acts 1:8
- Acts 8:4
- Acts 11:19-21

Growth requires movement! How does one grow physically? By eating and exercising. Once we have digested the Word of God into our hearts and minds, then we need to exercise the Kingdom Power!

7. Fellowship, love, unity, and sharing among members.

- Acts 2:42-45
- Acts 4:34-35

8. Prayer.

- Acts 2:42
- Acts 4:24
- Acts 4:31
- Acts 12:5-11

In Acts 12, Peter was in prison and the church prayed. A praying church is a powerful church.

9. Infilling of the Holy Spirit, and power for service.

- Acts 4:31-33

10. Endurance in persecution.

- Acts 5:27-31, 41, 42
- Acts 14:21-23
- James 1:12
- 2 Timothy 2:3
- Matthew 24:13

It is my sincere prayer that you experience revival and church growth in every church. God has provided us with unprecedented opportunities to impact our world with the life-changing Gospel and the Word of God.

For more information and articles by
Rev. Bruce A. Howell check out
<http://globalconnectionupci.com/>.