

F D F F Q G D E B O R A H G V L H D K A  
 W A Q M A A C A H I K S S A S A K E V E  
 E H A B V I X Q M G D H G T N F H I L A  
 W M I Z O K A Y M K E K A N F K O A U Y  
 C U A P B B C Z K J L X A G R S M M Y L  
 H E J I I C J M E T I H N X A A A U N K  
 H T T T R M M Z W E L D W R W R C T K X  
 N R A Y H I E F F G A F K A Z Z S H B V  
 S L F T B B M J G C H U G L P Z Y M E C  
 A W U U E A M R E S F W I N E Q Y A N L  
 R R G L Y G T G E F M A J R T I H R T B  
 A Z D E Y O L H W B G Q E U B F T T A M  
 H B C I P A A U S I E S K H C O I H F M  
 S D S D H V H Z B H H K Z L U V G A F K  
 Q E F M M O I A J L E S A Y J K G Z E Z  
 R R E Z J E N Y K W Y B A H V W A T Q U  
 Y Y B X N Q O C L Q F Q A C W T H K Z V  
 K Z Q E V J A N K S H R C H R M W N I K  
 X N A J D I M O V H L I P G U O A L E R  
 E G X H B A Y R O D R E R I P P D K E J

<b>Words to Find:</b>	Hannah	Jezebel	Maacah
Eve	Abigail	Zeresh	Haggith
Hagar	Mary	Sarah	Abital
Miriam	Martha	Rebekah	Eglah
Deborah	Dorcas	Rachel	Ahinoam
Ruth	Delilah	Bathsheba	

**It's You**

*Author Unknown*

*Sez I to myself, as I grumbled and growled,  
 "I'm sick of my church," and then how I scowled.  
 "The members are unfriendly, the sermons too long;  
 In fact, it seems that everything's wrong.  
 I don't like the singing; the church — a disgrace,  
 For signs of neglect are all over the place.  
 I'll quit going there, and won't give a dime:  
 I can make better use of my money*

*and time."*

*Then my conscience sez to me, sez he,  
 "The trouble with you is, you're blind to see  
 That your church reflects you, whatever it be.  
 Now come, pray, and serve cheerfully;  
 Stop all your faultfinding and boost it up strong;  
 You'll find you'll be happy and proud to belong.  
 Be friendly, be willing, and sing as your work,  
 For churches are not built by members who shirk."*

# The Bible View

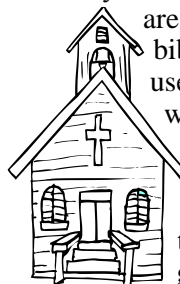



A free publication from: [www.OpenThouMineEyes.com](http://www.OpenThouMineEyes.com) Vol.: 198

**Why Isn't My Church Growing?**

*Bill Brinkworth*

Although it may not be said out-loud, many wonder, "Why isn't my church growing?" Here are some thoughts and biblical principles to use when examining why a ministry may not be growing:



First of all, how do you know that the ministry is not growing? What are you using for measurement? A true, Bible-believing, obeying church is of God. It is His measuring that counts, not ours. As Paul said in I Corinthians 3, "I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase." It is God that builds a church, and its growth depends on our working, but its success is gauged by God.

Congregational numbers do not always indicate growth. Some

*Continued on Page 2*

**I Voted to Close the Church**

*Author Unknown*

Last Sunday, I voted to close the church; not intentionally, not maliciously, perhaps, but carelessly, thoughtlessly, lazily, indifferently, I voted. I voted to close its doors that its witness and its testimony might be stopped, I voted to close the open Bible on its pulpit — the Bible that had been given us by years of struggle and by the blood of martyrs who died that we might have it to read.



For, you see, I could have gone, and I should have gone; but I didn't. I stayed away from church last Sunday.

**Why He Went to Church**

*War Cry*

An aged man, who was a faithful church-goer was urged by his friends one cold, rainy day to stay at home, lest his rheumatism should become worse.

The elderly man replied, "But I must go. Who knows but de blessin' may come today, an' I don't want to miss it."

## Why Isn't My Church ...

*Continued from Page 1*

of the churches with the largest audiences do not preach the whole truth from the Word of God. The preacher there knows if he did, fewer people would come. He knows if he preached what the Bible says about adultery, homosexuality, lying, drinking, temptations of this world, separation from ungodliness of this world, and put the spotlight on sin, people would be angered and not come back. So, the preacher does not preach on those things. He has sold the truth of God for popularity. People come to hear only his positive messages. They can leave feeling good; rather than convicted of their sin and disobedience. Yes, the number may increase, but few hear or do what God wants them to do. The watered down messages only produce weakened Christians.

Many churches rarely see people come forward to be saved, see a person scripturally baptized, or see many burdened enough to serve the Lord. No, a populated church does not always mean it is a growing church. There are so-called churches that are powerless; as II Timothy 3 reminds us: "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." A Christian that desires to please God should not even attend those type of churches.

I have read of more than one mega-church that boasts of movie theaters, ballroom dancing, yoga

classes, and huge auditoriums with services to "soothe your soul." Their numbers may be huge, and many are certainly entertained; but seldom have they advertised biblically commanded practices such as soul-winning, tithing, serving, salvation, and baptism.

Acts 2 described a successful church. Its numbers did increase daily, but other important aspects showed they were truly growing:

📖 "...they were all with one accord in one place." They all wanted to do what pleased the Lord. There was no mention of any worrying about "what the church could do for me." Bickering and bitterness among members were not mentioned. They purposed to all work together for what they could do for the Lord, because of their gratefulness toward Him, in what He had done for them.

📖 When they heard the preaching "they were pricked in their heart", and they wanted to obey God. There was no storming out, because the preaching addressed their sin. They were excited and wanted to work for God. Repentance, baptisms and praying were on every heart. Money and the things of this world had lost their importance. The things of God had become more valuable to them, and the church did increase. It grew as a result of their doing right!

The Acts 2 early church did not have the finished Word of God with them at the time. God did allow them to do things that are not for our church age in order to

increase their faith (I Cor. 13:9-13). We today do have the completed Word of God and will not see all the types of miracles the early church did. We can, however, still see similar growth; if we follow their example in their attitude toward Christ.

Today's church will grow if:

📖 The Word of God is preached in its entirety.

📖 More time is spent praying and reading the Bible, than is spent watching television and other entertainment.

📖 More would have a burden for the unsaved of this world and work harder to reach them, not just expect others to do it for them. Excuses of being too old, too shy, too unknowledgeable will hinder growth rather than encourage it. Excuses can rob the church of power and keep it from reaching others.

📖 More would obey what is preached to them, and what they have been shown to do from the Bible. Writing off obedience as "it was for another time", "it wouldn't work now", is rebellion against God and will definitely hinder church growth.

📖 More would work. Each saved person is one of the tools God has saved to serve Him. They will not do any good for the cause of Christ; if they sit "rusting" and unused for His glory.

We are in the "last days", that the Bible speaks about. As it was prophesied, it may be harder to reach the lost and overcome the world's temptations and obsta-

***"The great task of the church today is not only to get sinners into Heaven, but to get saints out of bed."***

— Ralph W. Mitchell,

cles. However, God is the same as He was in biblical days. He still desires and expects us to obey His commands.

The majority of those that are saved were led to the Lord by someone else, or by someone else's work. If you were one of those led to the Lord by another, where would you spiritually be if the person did not put in the time to give you the saving message? If you are one of those, you should see the importance of one-on-one soul winning. Nowhere in the Bible is it mentioned that leading people to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ is the work of a pastor alone. We are all to pitch in and work. It is the work of God we should be zealous about to perform. If we all were of one mind to do the work of God He has left us to do, our church and Christianity would grow daily.

*An announcement on a church bulletin board read, "This church is the gateway to heaven!"*

*Summer came and the following words were appended, "Closed for the summer!"*