

The Pastor's Pen

May 2015

How does your Garden/Church Grow? I Corinthians 3:6

Spring helps us forget about the cold and snow of winter and reminds us of the beauty of the summer. Things spring to life this time of the year. This is the season of hope. The trees and bushes that seemed dead all winter now spring to life as the warmth and sunlight fill the hours of the day. Many folks have already started their seedlings and are looking forward to planting them in the ground in just a few weeks. It will take care to get these plants to reach their full potential and bring their beauty or fruit to maturity.

Just like great yields from our garden don't just happen, so spiritual growth and reaching our potential need to be cultivated. It takes prayer, preparation and being led by the Holy Spirit to see growth take place. I Corinthians 3:6 reminds us that, *I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow.* It is our Lord that brings the growth through the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives and in our church.

We all want our church to continue to grow. Let's continue to cultivate the spiritual discipline it takes to see a church experience growth. We will fulfill our calling when we continue to do the things that allows the Spirit to move in our midst. We are called to be people of prayer. That is the basis for spiritual growth and spiritual maturity. It is in prayer that we learn to build our relationship with Christ and what it means to move in His Spirit. Prayer is that quiet time in His presence when the word becomes alive in our hearts and we can follow His leading. It is the foundation of growth.

We also need to be a people who read and study God's word. Come up with a strategy that works for you to keep you in the Word every day. Some people read an Old Testament chapter and then a New Testament chapter each day. Others start with Genesis and read right through to Revelation. Others focus on one book at a time. They read it until they are finished with it.

Regardless of your strategy, always begin your Bible reading time with a short simple prayer asking God to reveal His truth to your heart. When you are done reading, ask the Lord to share a small portion of His truth with you. The last step is to ask Him how the truth you just read applies to your life. This simple format can help you grow in the Spirit as you learn His word.

Remember, we are called to reach out to our friends, family and neighbors and share the love of Christ with for them. Doing these things will help us grow spiritually and will create an atmosphere of spiritual growth within our Church family. Lets continue to plant spiritual seeds of faith and let the Holy Spirit water them so we can grow strong in the Spirit.