Acts 2:42-44

42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to the prayers.
43 Then fear came over everyone, and many wonders and signs were being performed through the apostles. 44 Now all the believers were together and held all things in common.

Grace Mission Pt. 2: GROW

Acts 2:42-44; 1 Cor 3:5-17; Eph 4:11-16

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Basic principle: Things that have life in them are expected to grow to their full maturity... as they receive proper nourishment and exercise.







5 What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? They are servants through whom you believed, and each has the role the Lord has given. 6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. 7 So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. 8 Now the one planting and the one watering are one in purpose, and each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. 9 For we are God's coworkers. You are God's field, God's building.

10 According to God's grace that was given to me, I have laid a foundation as a skilled master builder, and another builds on it. But each one must be careful how he builds on it. **11** For no one can lay any other foundation than what has been laid down. That foundation is Jesus Christ. **12** If anyone builds on that foundation with gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay, or straw, **13** each one's work will become obvious, for the day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire; the fire will test the quality of each one's work.

14 If anyone's work that he has built survives, he will receive a reward. **15** If anyone's work is burned up, it will be lost, but he will be saved; yet it will be like an escape through fire.

16 Don't you yourselves know that you are God's sanctuary and that the Spirit of God lives in you? **17** If anyone destroys God's sanctuary, God will destroy him; for God's sanctuary is holy, and that is what you are. **14** If anyone's work that he has built survives, he will receive a reward. **15** If anyone's work is burned up, it will be lost, but he will be saved; yet it will be like an escape through fire.

16 Don't you yourselves know that you are God's sanctuary and that the Spirit of God lives in you? 17 If anyone destroys God's sanctuary, God will destroy him; for God's sanctuary is holy, and that is what you are.

You, the church, have the gospel and the Spirit of the Living God in you.

We grow as we receive the Word and practice our faith by building up the church according to the way it has been designed.

Eph 4:11-16

And He (Christ) personally gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the training of the saints in the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God's Son, growing into a mature man with a stature measured by Christ's fullness. ¹⁴Then we will no longer be little children, tossed by the waves and blown around by every wind of teaching, by human cunning with cleverness in the techniques of deceit. ¹⁵But speaking the truth in love, let us grow in every way into Him who is the head—Christ. ¹⁶From Him the whole body, fitted and knit together by every supporting ligament, promotes the growth of the body for building up itself in love by the proper working of each individual part.

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Mature manhood =/ little children

Little children = tossed by the waves and blown around by every wind of teaching, by human cunning with cleverness in the techniques of deceit.

Mature manhood =/tossed by the waves and blown around by every wind of teaching, by human cunning with cleverness in the techniques of deceit. Key description of the process of church growth:

Speaking the truth in love, \rightarrow let us grow in every way into Him who is the head—Christ.

Result: Each part is strengthened because it is nourished and allowed to exercise its gifting/role

16 From Him the whole body, fitted and knit together by every supporting ligament, promotes the growth of the body for building up itself in love by the proper working of each individual part.