

# Growth In Adversity

041518AM

## Acts 4:15-20

- Mat 16:18 – I will build my church...
- Dan 2:44 – A kingdom which will never be destroyed...
- The church was born into conflict and persecution.
- Has always been under attack & has rarely lived in peace.
- How did the first century church thrive & what can we learn?

## They Believed In the Power of the Cross

- Jn. 12:31-33 – If I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.
- Acts 2:14-26 The heart of the first Gospel sermon!
- 1 Cor. 1:18 – The power of God to the saved.
- Gal. 5:11 – It offends many, but we cannot give it up.
- Gal. 6:14 – The only source of glory for Christians.

## They Were Converted to Christ

- Acts 2:37-41 – *Gladly* received the word!
- Mat. 18:3 – Unconverted cannot go to heaven!
- Lk. 22:32 – Unconverted cannot strengthen brethren.
- 2 Cor. 8:5 – Conversion is giving self to the Lord, first!

## They Were Committed to Evangelism

- Mat. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15-16
- Acts 4:4, 5:14 – They ignored threats.
- Acts 8:1-3 – They resisted persecution.
- Acts 8:4 – They preached wherever they went (cf. Mat. 28:19 Lit. “having gone”)
- 1 The. 1:8 “For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything.”

## They Valued Fellowship and Service

- Acts 2:42-47 – Steadfast in apostles' doctrine / temple daily & breaking bread house to house; 4:32-37 – great grace was upon them all... Nor was there anyone among them who lacked...
- Definitely not “Sunday morning Christians”
- Heb. 10:25 – One of the reasons for the weakness of the Hebrew brethren was because they has already begun to habitually neglect assembling.

## They Confronted Sin

- Acts 5:1-11 – Annanias and Sapphira...
- Amazingly, shortly thereafter, Acts 5:14 “And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women”
- 1 Cor. 5:6 “Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?”
- 2 Thess. 3:6 “But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us.” Cf. Rom. 16:17.

## They Believed In the Power of Prayer

- Acts 1:24 – prayed to replace Judas.
- Acts 4:24-31; 12:12 – when faced with hardship.
- Acts 6:6 – when meeting local church needs.
- Acts 13:3 – when preparing for evangelism.
- Acts 14:23 – when organizing the church.

## Decision...

- Your salvation rests in Christ, as did theirs.
- The Great Commission is still in effect.
- Fellowship and service are still important.
- Sin is still as destructive, and must not be accommodated.
- The power of prayer is no less today.