

All Geared Up for Expansion

Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

P _____ → W _____ → E _____

Question about expansion

P _____ – S _____ – D _____

PRAY

Ephesians 6:19-20

¹⁹Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

2 Thessalonians 3:1

Finally, brothers, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you.

Colossians 4:2-4

²Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. ³And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. ⁴Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.

DISPLAY

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

¹When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. ²For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. ⁴My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, ⁵so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.

Acts 9:32-25

³²As Peter traveled about the country, he went to visit the Lord's people who lived in Lydda. ³³There he found a man named Aeneas, who was paralyzed and had been bedridden for eight years. ³⁴"Aeneas," Peter said to him, "Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and roll up your mat." Immediately Aeneas got up. ³⁵All those who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.

Acts 9:40-42

⁴⁰Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, "Tabitha, get up." She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. ⁴¹He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called for the believers, especially the widows, and presented her to them alive. ⁴²This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord.

SAY

Proclamation is the primary way that numbers increased and the church expanded

Acts 2:14-40

Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost

Acts 2:41

Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

Acts 4:1-4

¹ The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. ² They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. ³ They seized Peter and John and, because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. ⁴ But many who heard the message believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand.

Acts 5:42

Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.

Acts 6:1

In those days when the number of disciples was increasing...

Acts 8:26-38

Philip speaks to the Ethiopian official and he believes and is baptized.

Acts 9:28-31

²⁸ So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. ²⁹ He talked and debated... ³¹ Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened. Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.

Acts 13:12

¹² When the proconsul saw what had happened, he believed, for he was amazed at the teaching about the Lord.

Acts 13:42-43

⁴² As Paul and Barnabas were leaving the synagogue, the people invited them to speak further about these things on the next Sabbath. ⁴³ When the congregation was dismissed, many of the Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who talked with them and urged them to continue in the grace of God.

Acts 13:48

⁴⁸ When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed.

Acts 14:1

At Iconium Paul and Barnabas went as usual into the Jewish synagogue. There they spoke so effectively that a great number of Jews and Greeks believed.

Acts 14:21

They preached the gospel in that city and won a large number of disciples.

Numbers matter

Acts 1:15

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (**a group numbering about a hundred and twenty**)

Acts 2:41

Those who accepted his message were baptized, and **about three thousand were added to their number that day.**

Acts 2:47

praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And **the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.**

Acts 4:4

But many who heard the message believed, and **the number of men grew to about five thousand.**

Acts 5:14

Nevertheless, **more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number.**

Acts 6:1

In those days **when the number of disciples was increasing**, the Grecian Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.

Acts 6:7

So **the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.**

Acts 9:31

Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, **it grew in numbers**, living in the fear of the Lord.

Acts 11:21

The Lord's hand was with them, and **a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.**

Acts 11:24

He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and **a great number of people were brought to the Lord.**

Acts 14:1

At Iconium Paul and Barnabas went as usual into the Jewish synagogue. There they spoke so effectively that **a great number of Jews and Gentiles believed.**

Acts 14:21

They preached the good news in that city and **won a large number of disciples.** Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch,

Acts 16:5

So the churches were strengthened in the faith and **grew daily in numbers.**

Acts 17:4

Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, **as did a large number of God-fearing Greeks and not a few prominent women.**

Acts 17:12

Many of the Jews believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men.

Acts 17:34

A few men became followers of Paul and believed. Among them was Dionysius, a member of the Areopagus, also a woman named Damaris, **and a number of others.**

Acts 19:26

And you see and hear how **this fellow Paul has convinced and led astray large numbers of people** here in Ephesus **and in practically the whole province of Asia.** He says that man-made gods are no gods at all.

John 10:16

I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.

Isaiah 56:8

The Sovereign LORD declares—he who gathers the exiles of Israel: "I will gather still others to them besides those already gathered."

Matthew 23:37

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing."

Acts 18:9-11

⁹One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: "Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. ¹⁰For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city." ¹¹So Paul stayed for a year and a half, teaching them the word of God.

Isaiah 55:5

Surely you will summon nations you know not, and nations that do not know you will hasten to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has endowed you with splendour.

Luke 14:16-23

²¹ Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.' ²² " 'Sir,' the servant said, 'what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.' ²³ "Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full. ²⁴ I tell you, not one of those men who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.' "

Zechariah 8:20

This is what the LORD Almighty says: "Many peoples and the inhabitants of many cities will yet come...

Romans 11:25

I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in.

The power to speak does not come from education or training

Acts 4:13

When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

The power of our proclamation flows from the reality of our encounter

Acts 4:13

...the court took notice that these men *had been with Jesus*.

Acts 4:20

...We cannot help but speak about *what we have seen and heard*.

Proclamation should be our primary predisposition

Acts 4:20

[Peter said...] "We cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."

Proclamation requires boldness, which we can ask for

Acts 4:23

On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. When they heard this, *they raised their voices together in prayer to God*.

Acts 4:29,30

"Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness, while stretching out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

We must protect the place of proclamation

Acts 4:14,16-18

¹⁴...since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say.... ¹⁶..."Everybody living in Jerusalem knows they have done an outstanding miracle, and we cannot deny it. ¹⁷But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn these men to speak no longer to anyone *in this name*." ¹⁸Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all *in the name of Jesus*.

Expansion