

## INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Matthew 6:30-34**.
- B. One congregation put so much time and effort in building a building once it was completed they didn't know what to do next?
- C. Goals and dreams are an important part of life. This is not only true in the career or financial choices that we make, but is true spiritually too. Those who fail to plan spiritual, plan to fail spiritually.

## EIGHT WAYS TO GROW "FROM HERE."

- A. Growth--personally and spiritually takes commitment! Life is overly complicated these days and if we are not careful we can find ourselves committed to everything except the church!
- B. Here are eight things churches must do if they are to grow.
  - 1. **A church must want to grow.**
    - a) This involves seeing the church as God intended it to be (Eph. 2:19-22).  
So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, **20** having been built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner *stone*, **21** in whom the whole building, being fitted together is growing into a holy temple in the Lord; **22** in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.
    - b) This means obeying the Great Commission (Mt. 28:19-20).  
"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."
    - c) Tonight I'll be preaching about some who did not want to grow!
  - 2. **A church must plan to grow.**
    - a) Set goals and make the most of your time (Eph. 5:16).  
...making the most of your time, because the days are evil.
    - b) Long range goals are important too... 1,5,10 yr. plan.
  - 3. **A church must have leadership to grow.**
    - a) I'm not talking about elders, but every member must be visionary to the future (Prov. 29:18).  
Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained, But happy is he who keeps the law.
    - b) The apostle Paul gives the formula for leadership for every Xian (Phil. 4:9).  
The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things; and the God of peace shall be with you.
  - 4. **A church must prioritize to grow (put first things first).**
    - a) The devil wants everything to crowd out "church work."
    - b) We never "find time" but must "make time" to do good works.
    - c) Let us have the attitude, "no matter what else happens today, I'm going to do something for my growth and church growth" (see **Mt. 6:33**).
  - 5. **A church must disciple its converts.**
    - a) I'm afraid we have too many baptized believers in the church and not enough disciples.
    - b) The great commission is not to make baptized believers, but to make committed, learning, followers of JC.
    - c) One good brother told me the other day that some churches are growing and their methods stink, but nevertheless are growing because they are committed to that method.
  - 6. **A church must make ministers of its members.**
    - a) Servant-hood is where the power comes from (Mt. 20:28).  
"...just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."
    - b) If I am not a servant of others I will not stand with X in the judgment (see **Mt. 25:31-46**).

7. **A church must make worship a celebration.**
  - a) David was overjoyed at the idea of worshipping God (Psa. 122:1).  
"I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD."
  - b) Early Xians broke bread from house to house with gladness in their hearts (Ac. 2:46).  
And day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart,
  - c) My God and my Jesus are not dead--they live for evermore and I'm here to celebrate that.
8. **A church must offer multiple ministries to grow.**
  - a) We have many new things that are now happening in this congregation that were not happening a year ago, we are trying to find way for every member of this spiritual family to use their talents.
  - b) And Lord willing, there will be more new things to come.
  - c) Every part of the body needs to be used in service for the Master.
- C. May it be said of the Sunnyside "family" like that of the church in Thyatira, "their of works of late are greater than those of first" (Rev. 2:19).

### **CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.**

- A. Where do we go from here is the question before us.
- B. I hope the answer to that question involves;
  1. A desire to grow.
  2. A plan to grow.
  3. Leadership to grow.
  4. Priority of growth.
  5. Making disciples to grow.
  6. Making ministers to grow,
  7. A celebration of worship in growth, and
  8. Multiple ministries to grow.
- C. A congregation of the church of Christ went from 0 to 900 in five short years because of these principles. We can do it too!
- D. Where do I want to go from here? 1,000 by 2,000.
- E. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.