

A Growing Church
Acts 9:31-43

Main Point:

Seek the growth of the church for the glory of Christ and the well-being of His people.

1. The church grows when it has a healthy relationship with the Lord.

2. The church grows when it expresses care for all of its people.

3. The church grows when Jesus works powerfully within it.

4. When the church grows, Christ is glorified and His people are blessed.

Dennis Johnson “[It] was a time of peace for the church in Judea, Galilee, and Samaria ... Yet the church’s progress depended not on tranquil outward circumstances but on its relationship to its Lord ...”

Derek Thomas “She gave her life to helping those in need. She didn’t sit around complaining, ‘I didn’t get anything out of the sermon this morning.’ She was too busy putting something into the church. She lived for others. She did what she could for others, and she was greatly loved for it.”

James 1:27 ²⁷ Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, *and* to keep oneself unspotted from the world. (NKJV)

Derek Thomas “He could not, as his Lord had done, merely speak the word as though this power were native to him. Peter was but a man, and Jesus was God incarnate. Peter’s powers were a gifting of the Savior’s, and his ability to perform miracles was dependent on the will of his Master.”

Matthew 22:37-39 ³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ “This is *the* first and great commandment. ³⁹ “And *the* second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ (NKJV)