I Want the Church to Grow–But Do I Want Any More People? #3

Introduction:

1. How can I sincerely pray the model prayer Jesus gave when I have mixed feelings in my heart?

“In this manner, therefore, pray:

Our Father in heaven,

Hallowed be Your name.

Your kingdom come.

Your will be done

On earth as it is in heaven (Matthew 6:9, 10).

1. I WANT THE CHURCH TO GROW BECAUSE JESUS COMMANDED SOWING WHICH PRODUCES GROWTH.
   1. The Great Commission.

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen (Matthew 28:18-20).

And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned” (Mark 16:15, 16).

Then He said to them, “Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem (Luke 24:46, 47).

* 1. The Great Commandments.

“And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these” (Mark 12:30, 31).

* + 1. Jesus encouraged sowing the seed by deed as well as word.
       1. Dinner guest list.

Then He also said to him who invited Him, “When you give a dinner or a supper, do not ask your friends, your brothers, your relatives, nor rich neighbors, lest they also invite you back, and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just” (Luke 14:12-14).

* + - 1. Judgment evaluation. Matthew 25:31-46
    1. It was His plan to distribute the word widely. Luke 14:15-24
       1. compel.

**315 anagkazo { an-ang-kad’-zo}**

AV - compel 5, constrain 4; 9

GK - 337 { ajnagkavzw }

1) to necessitate, compel, drive to, constrain

1a) by force, threats, etc.

1b) by permission, entreaties, etc.

1c) by other means

* + - 1. “To the end of the earth.”

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

1. BUT – I MAY NOT WANT PEOPLE WHO HAVEN’T BEEN THROUGH THE SAME PROCESS OF GROWTH THAT I HAVE.
   1. Some in the early church wanted to require Gentiles to become Jews before they could become Christians.
      1. They wanted to circumcise Gentiles and command them to keep the law of Moses.

And certain men came down from Judea and taught the brethren, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.” Therefore, when Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and dispute with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas and certain others of them should go up to Jerusalem, to the apostles and elders, about this question.

But some of the sect of the Pharisees who believed rose up, saying, “It is necessary to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses” (Acts 15:1, 2, 5).

* + 1. There were advantages in being a Jew.

What advantage then has the Jew, or what is the profit of circumcision? Much in every way! Chiefly because to them were committed the oracles of God. (Romans 3:1, 2).

* + 1. But God’s plan was to unite all people in Christ. Romans 3:21-26
    2. That was the conclusion of the Jerusalem meeting. Acts 15:5-29
  1. Today, some are not content to receive all, equally.
     1. Were you raised in a Christian family?
     2. Were you not raised in a Christian family?
     3. What school did you attend?
     4. Were you taught with OBS or Jule Miller filmstrips?
     5. What books have you studied?
        1. *Experiencing God*.
        2. *Behold, the Pattern*.
     6. Do you keep a journal?
     7. What is your Bible reading schedule and what time do you do that?
     8. Please report your total prayer time each day.

Conclusion:

1. I want to the church to grow, but do I want any more people?
   1. How many?
   2. What kind?
   3. Do I want more people in the church if God will check with me before He lets them in?
2. What does God want?
   1. All who are burdened with sin.

“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light” (Matthew 11:28-30).

* 1. All who want to be saved.

And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely (Revelation 22:17).

1. How will I cooperate with Him?
2. What is your response to God’s call?
   1. Are you weary?
   2. Do you have the desire?
   3. Will you come?