When “The Disciples Multiplied Greatly”
Acts 6:7

Introduction:
A. Jerusalem church *united* and *growing*. (Acts 2:41,46,47; 4:4,24,32; 5:12,14; 6:7)
B. Jerusalem church demonstrates some important *factors* in church growth.
   1. Divine providence.
   2. People longing for kingdom of God.
   3. Member's own performance of God's will—individually and collectively.
   4. We have little or no control over (1) or (2), but we do over (3).

Discussion:
I. **Complete Conversion.**
   A. Changed attitude:
      1. Toward Jesus. (ch. 2:36).
      2. Toward past life of sin. (ch. 36,37).
   B. Changed relationship to God and sin. (ch. 2:38,41,47).

II. **Constant Service.**
   B. Diligent in service.
      2. Daily attending to needs each others (ch. 2:44-46; 6:1).
      3. Daily religion far beyond Sunday morning.

III. **Constructive Solutions.**
   A. To problem of internal sin. (5:1-11).
      1. God directly removed leaven - later Corinth to remove leaven by discipline.
   B. To the problem of internal unrest. (6:1).
      1. Apostles could get handle on this unrest!
         a. Knew where complaining was coming from and what it was about.
         b. Understood the gripe and had workable solution.
      2. We cannot always get as good a handle on unrest.
         a. By chronic grippers (cf. Mt. 11:18,19).
         b. By “Greener pastures syndrome”–Jerusalem solved problem–no place to run.
         c. By carnally minded thrill seekers who find divine way dull. (1 Cor. 1:21ff).
      3. But, we can always handle unrest.
         a. By addressing legitimate complaints.
         b. By refusing to be stampeded by chronic complainers.
         c. By firmly dealing with spreaders of unrest. (Tit. 3:10; Rom. 16:17).

IV. **Competent Organization.**
   A. Divinely organized by Apostles—under their oversight at first, then later elders. (Acts 15:2)
      1. Work load passed around.
      2. Each “office” expected to “major” in his field.
      3. When everything everyone's business, soon becomes no one's business.

V. **Compelling Conviction.**
   A. Had to speak truth. (4:20,31).
      1. Not overly concerned with technique–had to speak it. (cf. “Durty Skkunk”)
      2. Not overly concerned with consequences or results–had to speak it.
   B. Had conviction that it was only way for folks to be saved. (4:12).
   C. Considered honor to suffer shame for the gospel. (5:41,42).

Conclusion:
A. What would happen in this area if had these thing going for us?
   1. No one can tell for sure, don't know God's providence or other's hearts.
   2. Can know that growth would be enhanced.
   3. Can know that personal responsibility would be met.
B. Why not do all we can to develop these things?
   1. Then can really plant and water in way pleasing to God.
   2. Then God will produce results that pleases Him for this time and place.