

## **“The Church – A Growing Place” – Karl Jones**

Intro: Nurseries and garden centers are filled with beautiful plants, trees, and shrubs. Why do the plants do so well at the garden center but then die at our house? At garden centers, all they do is grow and care for plants. It is a place designed for growth; they have no other purpose or goal.

Spiritually, God designed the Church to be a place promoting and nurturing spiritual growth in people. The Church should help:

- Each \_\_\_\_\_ realize their full potential as a human being.
- Each \_\_\_\_\_ to “bloom and blossom” with beauty, joy, and lasting stability.
- The Kingdom to grow; the Church should be a \_\_\_\_\_.

### **I. The Church – Growing the Kingdom, Spreading the Good News.**

1. There is good news and bad news. The good news is that the Church \_\_\_\_\_ is growing in ways not seen since the first century. The bad news is that in America, church attendance is in \_\_\_\_\_; the Church is not growing!
2. Church growth is the result of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. (1 Cor. 3:6-9)
3. In Acts we see the Church strongly \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_. And that gave the Church a power nothing could stop!
4. God wants His Church to grow, and He is able to make His Church grow. We need to be devoted to \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_!

### **II. The Church – Growing Us into the Likeness of Christ.**

1. To the Christians at Corinth, Paul identified their real problem as \_\_\_\_\_ – they were not growing! (1 Cor. 3:1-2)
2. To the Christians at Ephesus, Paul encouraged them to \_\_\_\_\_ in every way to be just like Jesus. (Eph. 4:14-16)
3. To accomplish this:
  - A.) We must all be constantly growing in our \_\_\_\_\_. (1 Pet. 2:1-2)
  - B.) We must all grow in the use of our \_\_\_\_\_.
  - C.) We must all grow in our \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ and for \_\_\_\_\_. (1 Cor. 13:1-3)

### **III. The Church – Growing the Next Generation Committed to Christ.**

1. The most valuable asset we have is our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Ephesians 6:4 makes clear that God intends for \_\_\_\_\_ to be the \_\_\_\_\_ in the home.
3. May each of us do everything we can to nurture faith and a love for Jesus and His Church in the \_\_\_\_\_ of our \_\_\_\_\_.