



The Jerusalem congregation was extremely victorious because they were...

- Key 1) Devoted to God.
- Key 2) Of One Heart & Mind.
- Key 3) Always Telling Others of Jesus.
- Key 4) Serving One Another.
- Key 5) Working Their Specialized Function Within The Body.
- Key 6) Promptly, Wisely Faced And Overcome Problems. (Sin, Needs, Doctrine)
- Key 7) Bold in the face of Rejection. (Fearless, Loving, Resolved, Selfless, Unwavering)

WE MUST HAVE THESE BIBLICAL KEYS TO UNLOCK THE DOOR TO BIBLICAL GROWTH!

Yet, to utilize these keys for phenomenal growth, the first century Christians had three key advantages. What were they? Can we still benefit from those same dynamics for our own success?

**(WE HAVE THE KEYS; HOW DO WE USE THEM?)**

## **WHAT MADE IT WORK?**

### **I. There Was Widespread E\_\_\_\_\_ Over Something N\_\_\_\_\_.**

**A.** As familiarity increases, it's natural for initial excitement to lessen.

How do we prevent this from happening with "the same Good-News?"

**B.** Think of all the apostles were continuing to learn (**cf. Mark 13:11**).

Think of all the brethren were increasingly grateful for.

**C.** How are we doing at this? (*illus.*) Consider brethren in Ephesus in **Revelation 2:1-7**.

Are we letting what we know continue to fuel our zeal?

### **II. They Were Free From T\_\_\_\_\_ Approaches To Worship & Work.**

(*Their focus stayed on principles and solutions; not precedence or personal preferences, views or opinions.*)

**A.** Routines can often become worse than a rut. Congregations can maintain a "form of godliness" (**2 Tim.3:5**), while denying it's glorious, soul-saving, new-life-giving power.

**B.** Reconsider **Acts 6:1-6**. What became our "blueprint" was a Spirit-guided solution to a new problem they faced as they grew. Since when does any decision "*please everyone?*" (**6:5**)

**C.** Expedient changes are often necessary to aid/foster growth. Are we mature enough to ensure we discern the difference between Scripture and tradition? \_\_\_\_\_

### III. They Could “More Easily” S\_\_\_\_\_ T\_\_\_\_\_ With Other Christians.

A. “It’s not good to be ‘always be too busy.’”

**A ‘Faster-Parody’ of the 23<sup>rd</sup> PSALM:**

The clock is my dictator, I shall not rest.  
It makes me lie down only when exhausted.  
It leads me to deep depression, it hounds my soul.  
It leads me in circles of frenzy for activities’ sake.  
Though I run frantically from task to task, I will never get it all done.  
For my ideal is with me. Deadlines & craving for approval, they drive me.  
They demand performance from me beyond the limits of my schedule.  
They anoint my head with migraines. My in-basket overflows.  
Surely fatigue and time pressure shall follow me all the days of my life;  
And I will dwell in the bonds of frustration, forever.

**If this parody describes your more accurately than God’s version, accept Jesus’ offer in Mtt.11:28-29**

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B. How did they do this without the modern conveniences? (**Acts 2:46-47**)

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C. Are we successfully prioritizing our Christian duty/privilege? (**Colossians 3:2**). (**Luke 10:38-42**).

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D. A quote from David Myers’ book, ***The American Paradox***.  
(Yale University Press, New Haven and London, 2000, p 179.)

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E. If we lose focus on truth, we will start following culture. Keep your spiritual tank filled with the fuel to zealously do those things which make for a strong church. (**Ephesians 5:16**).

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### **Conclusion:**

Let’s excited about Holy Scripture, devoted to the blueprint, wise in our discernments.

Let’s maintain our love for the Lord that we remain zealous to please him in all we do.

Let’s prioritize our schedule to bless the church-family.

**Let’s E\_\_\_\_\_ (match & surpass) the success of the congregation at Jerusalem.**

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### **“BONUS ARTICLE: (AUTHOR UNKNOWN) JUST HOW DEVOTED ARE WE?**

*Some get out of bed at 6 o'clock for the work-week, 5 o'clock on Saturdays to fish,  
but always sleep in on Sundays. (Is 9 AM truly too early for Bible study?)*

*Some would drive a hundred miles on a work-night for a several hour ball game or paid event,  
but see no time for a local mid-week Bible study.*

*Some always have money to spare for luxuries and recreation,  
but don’t have more than one dollar contribute to the congregation’s ministries.*

*Some will struggle through work despite an annoying headache,  
but a lesser one is reasoned for missing another worship assembly.*

*Some would canvass the neighborhood, promoting and recruiting for their community clubs and organizations, but evade opportunities to approach people for the Lord.*

**IS IT POSSIBLE THE MAIN DIFFERENCE IS OFTEN JUST A MATTER OF LOVE & DEVOTION?**

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