christian advance archives

# how does the kingdom of god grow – 11/01/17

**HOW DOES THE KINGDOM GROW?** There is a short but profound parable which is only in Mark and often over looked. Mark 4:26-29 is the story of a man who sows, *has no idea how it grows*, and then harvests. Jesus is teaching a profound truth to His disciples. God grows people! This doesn't mean we don't teach our disciples the Bible, how to pray, to worship, fast, and so on. The Bible is clear on that. We invest in life on life transference. However, the Holy Spirit is the One who sanctifies, God gives the growth. Not only is this taught in Mark but also in 1 Cor. 3:6 where Paul states, "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. As a discipler you don't have to take that pressure on yourself. Certainly, do the work of a discipler but leave the growth up to God. And let's be real, you don't know how it is happening anyway!

Think of the ramifications of this parable. We can't control the growth, or control God. Cause and effect go out the window. If I think I have developed a plan or program to cause others to become followers of Jesus Christ or grow in Christlikeness I am sadly mistaken. The growth of God in a human being is still a mystery and we can't control it or cause it to happen. That's God's job. Let him do it.