

THE BOOK OF ACTS

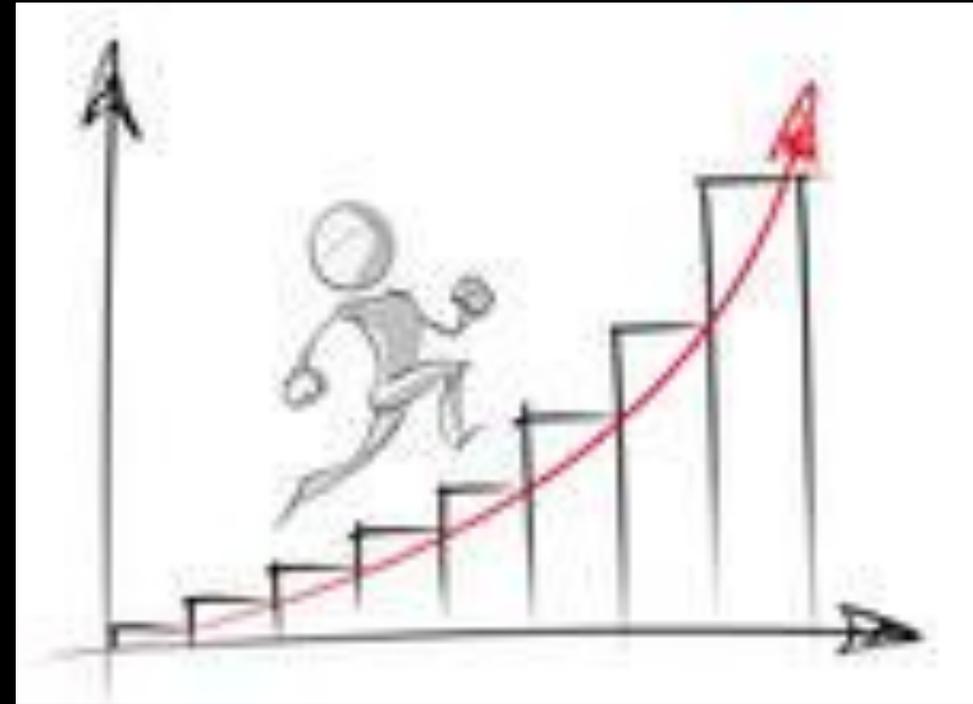
The Time of the Holy Spirit and the Birth of the Church

EXPONENTIAL GROWTH

Acts 6:7

⁷ And the word of God continued to increase, and **the number of the disciples multiplied greatly** in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

Let's talk today about growth...
exponential growth!



THE EARLY CHURCH

The history of the Early Church is one of personal experiences with God, followed by trials, followed by breakthroughs.

Last time we saw the church face persecution, threats, and imprisonment. But as they stood boldly for their faith, God delivered them and they continued to grow.



THE PATTERN IN ACTS

Chapter	Experience with God	Obstacle	Breakthrough
2	Outpouring of Holy Spirit	Mocking Crowd	Preaching and Water Baptism
3 - 4	Healing of a Lame Man	Peter and John Arrested	Apostles Released and Pray for More
5:1-11	Extreme Generosity	Deceit in the Church	Sin Corrected and Greater Respect
5:12-42	Miracles and Growth	Apostles Imprisoned	Apostles Delivered
6:1-7	Helping People in Need	Racial / Cultural Tension	Church Involvement & Increased Service

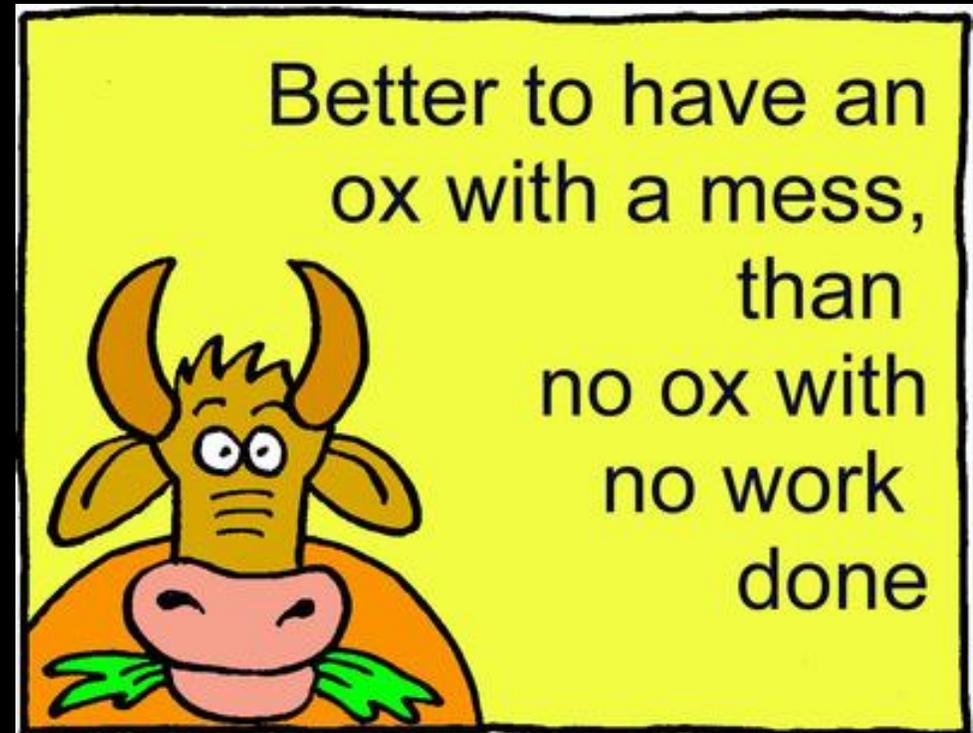
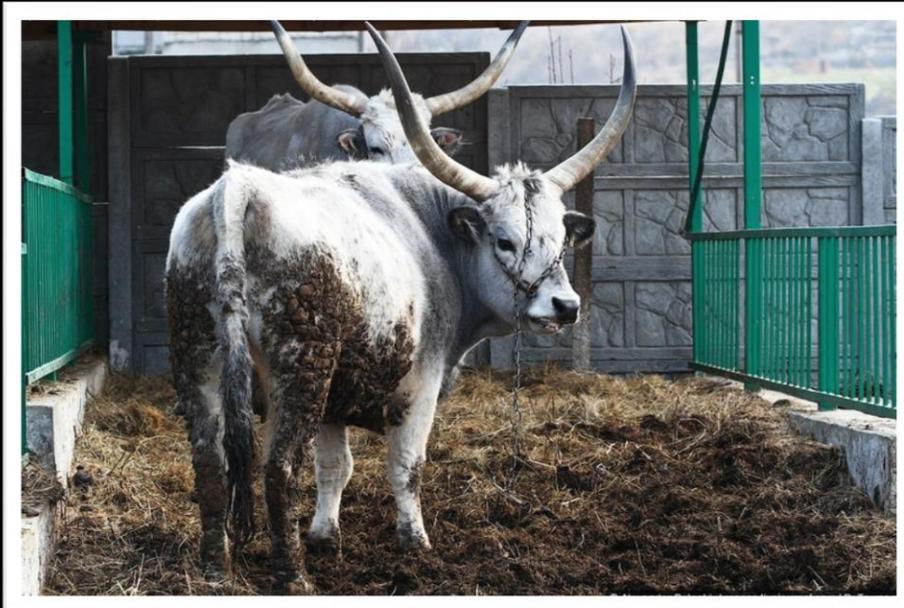


**THE PATH TO
GROWTH IS
THROUGH STRUGGLE!**

WHICH IS BETTER?

Proverbs 14:4

⁴ Where there are no oxen, the manger is clean, but abundant crops come by the strength of the ox.



VICTORY ON THE OTHER SIDE

The church discovered early on that growth, victory, and breakthrough are on the other side of the struggle. And only in pressing through the discomfort of the struggle can we experience God's best for our lives.

Your victory is on the other side of your struggle!



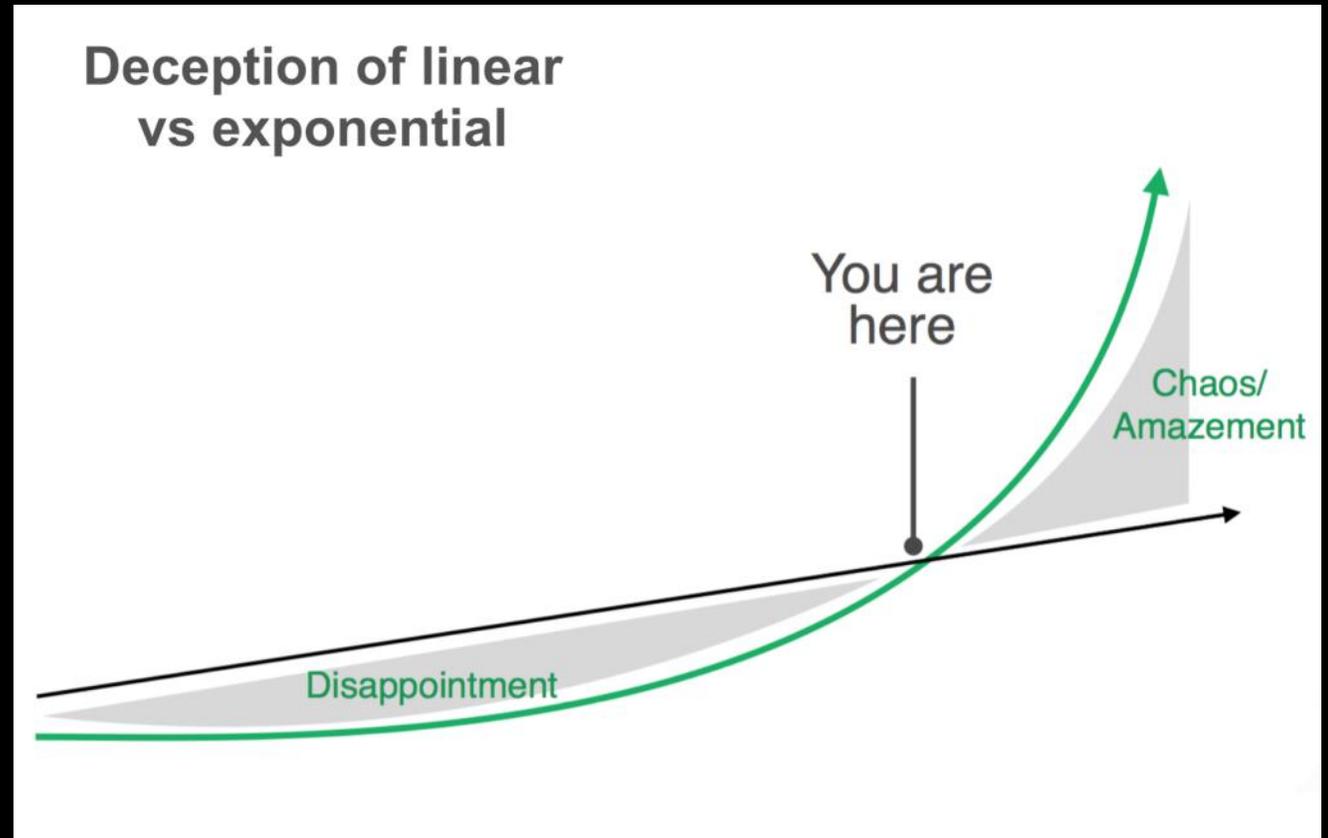
GROWTH

Chapter	Growth	Increase
2:47	And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.	Linear (+)
6:7	...and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.	Exponential (x)

EXPONENTIAL GROWTH

Exponential growth is explosive growth that happens with persistent effort and investment over time!

Exponential growth is not for the weak or faint of heart.



HUNGER FOR GROWTH

Genesis 1:27-28

²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸ And **God blessed them**. And God said to them, “**Be fruitful and multiply** and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion...





**GROWTH HAPPEN WHEN WE
LEARN FROM OUR
MISTAKES, PRESS THROUGH
OUR FRUSTRATIONS, AND
NEVER GIVE UP!**

REMEMBER...

2 Peter 3:18

18 but grow in the grace
and knowledge of
our Lord and Savior
Jesus Christ.

To Him *be* the glory
both now and forever.
Amen.

