

Be Fruitful, Multiply and Fill the Earth

2019 Vision Series

“Be Fruitful, Multiply and Fill the Earth” - is woven into the fabric of creation **Multiplication of plants - the seed holds the promise of fruitfulness and multiplication**

- Gen 1:11 KJV And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding **seed**, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose **seed is in itself**, upon the earth: and it was so.

Multiplication of animals

- Genesis 1:21-22 ESV So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. (22) And God blessed them, saying, "**Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.**" **Multiplication of mankind**
 - Genesis 1:27-28 ESV 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 over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

The Seed God created plants and animals and humans with a reproductive system that has the capability to reproduce indefinitely, **because “the seed is in itself”**. You can count the seeds in an apple, but only God can count the number of apples in a seed.

The seed is also how God has chosen to spread His Kingdom - **Spiritual SEED The word of God is called SEED**

- Luke 8:11 ESV Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.
- 1 Corinthians 3:6 ESV I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.
- 1 Pe 1:23 KJV Being born again, **not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible**, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever. **God’s SEED lives in us when we are born again**
- 1 John 3:8-9 ESV Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. (9) No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for **God’s seed abides in him**, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God. **We ourselves are seed**
- Matthew 13:37-38 ESV [*explaining the parable of the sower and the seed*, 37) He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. (38) The field is the world, and the good seed is the **sons of the kingdom**. The weeds are the sons of the evil one **Jesus the greatest seed**

- Joh 12:23-24 ESV And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 24 Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a ***grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.***

1

The idea of multiplying seed is one reason we are starting a new church
Jesus gave us His COMMISSION - it sounds alot like be fruitful, multiply and fill the earth

- Mat 28:18-20 ESV And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." **CANTON CROSS CONNECTION - The creation of churches is the natural outcome of fulfilling the great commision - those who would be saved would be added to a community of other believers**

- Act 2:41-47 ESV So those who received his word were baptized, ***and there were added that day about three thousand souls.*** 42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. ***And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. There was also a geographical component - that is "multiply and FILL THE EARTH"***

- Act 1:8 ESV But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in **Jerusalem** and in all **Judea** and **Samaria**, and to the **end of the earth.**"

Be Fruitful, multiply and fill the earth is a simple process

1. We are born again with the seed of God's word - the seed carries the DNA
2. God's seed lives in us and makes us a new creation - producing a changed life
3. God's word is what we sow - with the hope that seed will find root in the hearts of others
4. We are willing to be planted or die in a sense so we can bear much fruit

Four Generations of spiritual seed - Paul --> Timothy --> Faithful Men --> Others 2 Timothy 2:2
 ESV and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

- You are here today because of spiritual multiplication
- You are here today because someone did this for you

- You are here today because of a church plant
- You are here today because those men and women who were part of the first church were willing to fall into the ground and die and produce fruit

Disciples were added

- Act 2:46-47 ESV And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. **And the Lord added to their number** day by day those who were being saved.

2

The word of God Increased and the number of disciples multiplied

- Act 6:1-7 ESV Now in these days when **the disciples were increasing [KJV was multiplied] in number** ... 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.

Churches were finally spreading albeit through persecution and were multiplied

- Act 9:1 ESV But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest
- Act 9:31 KJV Then had the churches rest throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, **were multiplied.**

There is a time for everything Ecc 3:1-2 ESV **For everything there is a season**, and a time for every matter under heaven: 2 a time to be born, and a time to die; **a time to plant**, and **a time to pluck up what is planted**;

When a son or daughter leaves your house to get married, it is happy and sad - just like the planting of Canton Cross Connection - it is HAPPY and SAD)

When the son or daughter get married it is happy

again

When the son or daughter have children it is even happier
still

Be fruitful and multiply is how my small family of 6 (my family) ended up with a family portrait of 30

I believe the same thing will happen at
ACC

- Some will leave to be planted - and there will be a harvest (not leaving, more multiply where they live - and we who live HERE need to do the same
 - More than being planted we are asking people to reproduce where they live (Canton and Alliance)
- ACC as a pruned plant will bear more fruit (how many are new to ACC in the last 4 years?)
- ACC and Cross Connection will both bear fruit
- Comunidad de Vida - is a Mission - a church plant as well, were we hope to see many come to Christ

When we think of planting a church - let's not think of it as transplanting a church service to a new city. Instead let's think of it as "**we are sending seed that will reproduce and multiply**" - good seed that will produce a harvest.