



# Healthy Things Grow

## The Key to Creating and Sustaining Success

### **CORE VALUE: HEALTH**

### **Leadership Behavior: Leaders Make It Better**

We value health. Health is the result of living by honor, humility, hunger and holiness. Health leads to growth because healthy things grow. This is life in all its fullness. We believe God has given everything in Jesus to live healthy lives before him and that it is His desire that we prosper in everything we do (2 Peter 1:3; 3 John 2).

***“Blessed is the man who... is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.” Psalm 1:3 ESV***

### **First Things First: Growth is God’s Desire**

Growth is a kingdom principle, and not just little growth, but exponential growth. How do I know? The Lord’s first command to all living things is, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.” Jesus’ Great Commission was, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.” He compared the kingdom of heaven to a seed, that though small, when planted it grows up to become a large tree. In fact, fourteen of Jesus’ parables referenced growth.

### **Growth is hardwired into God’s creation**

It is not wrong, in fact it is good, to desire to see growth.

- Just as a mother wants to see their child grow and become strong.
- Just as a teacher wants to see her students grow and excel.
- Just as a farmer wants to see a great harvest.
- Just as an investor wants to see a great return.
- So should a kingdom leader desire to see growth.

Yes, this means we want to see our church grow. We want to see each person grow from the youngest to the oldest. We want to see our attendance grow. We want to see

our groups grow. We want to see our ministries grow. We want to see our missions and outreach grow. Growth is a good and kingdom minded desire.

Why? Because growth is hardwired into us. However, we cannot simply make growth itself our sole focus. Growth comes as a result of health.

## **The Leadership Lesson Of The Soils**

Jesus shows us this lesson in the Parable of the Sower. I want to take a look at this from a leadership perspective and ask some questions.

***A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled underfoot, and the birds of the air devoured it. <sup>6</sup> And some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. <sup>7</sup> And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up with it and choked it. <sup>8</sup> And some fell into good soil and grew and yielded a hundredfold.”(Luke 8:5–8)***

This parable could be summarized with the following equation:

**Good seed + Good soil + Good environment = Great Harvest**

The seed is the word of God. It is always good and perfect. It is the sole absolute in the equation. The soil is the life of the listener. It is their choice to receive or reject the seed. The environment speaks to the surroundings of the individual. The environment can restrict or release the seed to do its work within the soil.

Jesus’s parable tells us that if everything on the left side of the equation is good and healthy then a great harvest is guaranteed.

**Health = Harvest**

## **The Lesson Of The Hardened Soil**

This wasn’t a healthy place to sow as the seed had no place to take root. There was no soil or foundation for the seed to work.

What lays a good foundation?

Vision & Values - creates your culture and frames your mission

Systems & Structure - creates the way you get things done

## **The Stony Soil**

This wasn’t a healthy place to grow. Even though the seed found soil, it could not take deep root and therefore could not sustain growth.

What allows you to go deep?

Strong relationships built on trust and unity. When you build bonds with other believers and leaders you are able to accomplish exponentially more. It's true, we are better together!

## **The Thorns and Thistles**

This wasn't a healthy place to sow because of an unhealthy environment that ultimately destroyed what was growing.

What creates a bad environment?

- Unresolved conflict
- Unhealed hurts
- Unclear communication
- Unmet needs or expectations

## **The Good Soil**

This was the only healthy place the seed was sown. It is rare and doesn't happen by accident. It was prime for growth, and not just a little. It produced exponential growth.

To find this place one must heed the leadership lesson of the soils. If you desire to see growth, then a leader must:

- 1) Define the vision and values and create the systems and structure.
- 2) Disciple and deploy leaders.
- 3) Deal with the unresolved, unhealed, unclear and unmet issues.

Health comes as a result of doing the right things. When health is found, growth comes naturally.

**IF OUR VISION INCLUDES GROWTH, THEN OUR PURSUIT MUST BE HEALTH**

## **Questions:**

- 1) Where are areas in your life or leadership that you do not currently see the growth you expect? Write them down along with what you believe should be taking place. Remember, we will never do what we do not define.
- 2) What is missing from the equation? Is there a clearly defined vision? Are the values clearly taught and modeled? Is there a clear system in place and leadership

structure? Do you have the right healthy relationships? Have you developed deep relational connection with leaders and deployed them into the vision? Are there any unresolved, unhealed, unclear, or unmet issues that need to be dealt with?

- 3) What is your plan of action? For every unhealthy issue you identify, you will need to make a plan of action. There may be things you need to do, or things you need to delete. If you have several items listed, order the list by priority. What will you work on first?