



Have you ever felt lost in the problems change can cause?

Four Dangers of Rapid Church Growth:

- **Uncertainty of** _____
- **Fuzzy** _____
- **Tendency toward** _____
- **Loss of** _____

What was the problem?

- _____ **needs** Acts 6:1 (NIV)
In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.
- _____ **priorities** Acts 6:2 (NIV)
So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables..."

What was the solution?

- _____ Acts 6:3–4 (NIV)
"...³ Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them⁴ and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."

What was the outcome?

- **The** _____ **grew** _____ Acts 6:5–7 (NIV)
⁵ *This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism.* ⁶ *They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.* ⁷ *So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.*

THERE IS _____ IN YOUR _____.

How can you see the potential in your problem?

1. By _____ problems as _____. John 16:33 (NIV)

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

2. By _____ to _____ well. James 1:19b, 22, 27 (NIV)

¹⁹ Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry... ²² Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. ... ²⁷ Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

3. By _____ into your _____. Proverbs 3:5–6 (ESV)

⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

DRAWING NEAR TO GOD IS THE POTENTIAL IN YOUR PROBLEM.

ANSWER KEY:

Four dangers:

- Uncertain PURPOSE
- Fuzzy PRIORITIES
- PROFESSIONALISM
- Loss of SIGNIFICANCE

The problem:

- UNFULFILLED needs
- CONFLICTING priorities

The solution: SHARING RESPONSIBILITY

The outcome: CHURCH grew STRONGER

There is POTENTIAL in your PROBLEM.

How to see potential:

1. ACCEPTING problems as INEVITABLE
2. LEARNING to LISTEN
3. INVITING JESUS into your PROBLEM



DOGGY BAG

Something to take home and chew on!

- 1. Do you see problems as a challenge Christ has already overcome, or do you often feel depressed or overcome by them? Has the way you've viewed problems changed as you've drawn closer to Jesus? How so?**
- 2. How can we encourage one another to persevere when we encounter the problems that change can introduce to our lives?**
- 3. Have you really considered your priorities? What would it look like to rearrange them appropriately? What forms of accountability can you adopt to prevent compromising what is most important?**
- 4. Can you share a story of how God has used a problem in your life or the life of someone close to you to draw you nearer to Jesus?**
- 5. What are some techniques that have worked for you in seeking to become a better listener?**
- 6. Have you ever resisted bringing God or other people into your problems? Why do you think that is? What might help you to overcome this tendency towards self-reliance?**