**Harvest Sunday – Acts 9:31**

**The Book of Acts provides church growth reports throughout the book**

2:41; 4:4; 5:14; 6:1, 7 ;9:31, 35, 42 ;11:21, 24 ;14:1, 21;16:5 ;17:12

**Church growth is numerical** – *it continued to increase, 9:35 – they turned to the Lord, 9:42 – many believed in the Lord*

***Church growth is spiritual*** *– grow in the grace & knowledge of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ*

**Today we come to celebrate God’s blessing of growth on FBCD & celebrate the harvest of souls we have enjoyed this past year!**

*2 Pet. 3:18*

**Focal Truth: God grows the church**

**Observations**

1. **A growing church enjoys the peace of God**

*The church throughout all Judea & Galilee & Samaria enjoyed peace*

1. The church = ecclesia – the called out – gathered assembly of believers
2. Enjoyed = possessed
3. Peace = harmony, tranquility
4. The growing church enjoys peace with God – by justification by faith R. 5:1
5. The growing church enjoys peace of God from the presence of the Holy Spirit
6. The growing church enjoys the bond of peace with believer with believer E. 4:3
7. **A growing church gains strength from God & one another**

*Being built up….*

1. Being built up = building from the foundation up
2. A growing church is being built & established on God’s truth & the Lord Jesus Christ

Col.2:7

Eph. 2:20

1. A growing church is being built into a spiritual house for believer priests to worship God

1 Pet. 2: 4 – 10 – *being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood to offer sacrifices accepted to God through Jesus Christ*

Eph. 2:22 – being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit

1. **A growing church lives in the fear of God**

going on in the fear of the Lord

1. going on = leading a life
2. fear of God
3. **A growing church rests in the comfort of the Holy Spirit**

*In the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase*

1. Comfort = encouragement
2. A growing church experiences the God of all comfort the Father of mercies 2 C. 1:3
3. A growing church experiences the mutual comfort of believer for believer 2 C. 1:4
4. A growing church lives in the continued comfort & encouragement of the Holy Spirit

Rom. 5 – H.S. pours out the love of God in our hearts