

1  **"The Church Gathered "**

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As we step out into the future as a Church:

How do we know what we are supposed to do?

3 

Four models:

- a. Maintain the status quo.
- b. Follow our instincts.
- c. Copy other successful models.
- d. Observe Scriptural comments on  
"the Kingdom ".

Matt 6:25-30

Mark 4:26-29\*

Mark 4:30-32

4 

Look also at the nature of the Church:

"What, after all is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe – as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but GOD MADE IT GROW. So neither he who plants, nor he who waters is anything, but only God who makes things grow....." 1 Cor 3:5-9

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THE PRINCIPLE IS THIS:

"God gives the growth, we human beings tend the organism"

There are also two sub Principles;

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A. "Every organism that God has created, has implanted in it by God, the natural tendency to grow and reproduce."

■  
B. "There are optimum conditions for any organism to grow "all by itself".  
(see particularly Mark 4:26-29)

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THEREFORE:

In our church – our role – to release the life principles God has placed in the church by recognising:

- \* Diseases infecting the church.  
e.g.
- \* Characteristics of church health.

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Three sources help us recognise the Characteristics of church health.

1. Scriptural teaching.
2. Following the Biblical injunction to observe the natural development of God's organism.
3. Research of growing and non growing churches and identifying characteristics of health.

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■ The key question:

"Are there distinctive quality characteristics which are more developed in growing churches than in those which are not growing???"

10 

**What are the vital signs of a healthy Church?  
(the research: Christian Scharz, Germany)**

**QUALITY CHARACTERISTICS OF HEALTHY CHURCHES**

- \* Empowering leadership.
- \* Gift oriented ministry
- \* Passionate spirituality

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- \* Functional structures
- \* Inspiring worship services
- \* Holistic small groups
- \* Need-oriented evangelism
- \* Loving relationships

**In consequence:**

- \* A Godly Church is a giving Church

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