

## RESILIENT GROWTH

December 29, 2019 Acts 2:47 by Bob Branch  
Resilient Faith in a Hostile World, part 12

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**re-sil-ient**, /rə'zilyənt/ adj., able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions; able to recoil or spring back into shape after bending, stretching, or being compressed.

“The Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” **Acts 2:47**

“a wide door for effective work has opened to me, *and* there are many adversaries.” **1 Corinthians 16:9** ESV

**BIG IDEA:** Because God himself is always working, you, the church and God’s purposes will continue to thrive even under opposition, hostility and hardship.

### 1. Things grow because of God’s ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT.

- <sup>1</sup> **You.**  
“it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.” **Philippians 2:13** ESV
- <sup>2</sup> His **family**, the church—the community of faith.  
“we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ... as each part does its work.” **Ephesians 4:15-16**
- <sup>3</sup> His **larger purposes** of setting things right throughout the **world**.  
“God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ... and he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.” **2 Cor. 5:19-20**

### 2. God’s growth STRENGTHENS under hostility & pressure.

“In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” **John 16:33**

“They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.” **Acts 4:28-31**

### 3. Resilient growth is a COMMUNITY thing.

### 4. Resilient growth results from healthy spiritual NUTRITION.

“They **devoted** themselves to the **apostles’ teaching** and to the **shared-life**, to the **breaking of bread** and to the **prayers**. Everyone was filled with **awe** at the many wonders and signs [**Spirit’s power**] performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common... Every day they continued to **meet together** in the temple courts... **ate together** with glad and sincere hearts, **praising God**... and **the Lord added** to their number daily those who were being saved.” **Acts 2:42-47**

### REFLECTIONS:

- *Ask God to help you see his invisible hands at work.*
- *Can you see how God worked thru your past hardship?*
- *Are you alone in the struggle? Or in community?*
- *What are you feeding your faith?*