

# SHIFT



## THE EARLY CHURCH: SHIFTING, PRIORITIZING AND ORGANIZING

Message by Paul Kiss



Shifting requires prioritizing and organizing. We're ready. Are you ready to jump in with us, with both feet?

■ Acts 6:1-7; 11:27-30

### The Vine and the Trellis

- An analogy for the Church. We need to think about how much time we are spending on the trellis (structures/systems) instead of the vine, (people, care, love, growth).
- The trellis is needed, but not at the expense of ignoring the vine.

### Shifting often requires organizing

■ Acts 6:1-7

- The early Church experienced times when what was or should have been wasn't. They shifted.
- Part of shifting was a willingness to prioritize and then organize accordingly.
- These are about tending to the vine. These are acts of love.

### Good systems are an act of love

■ Acts 11:27-30

- Having systems, is about tending to the trellis. The vine needs the trellis in order to flourish, but the temptation is to spend too much time tending to the trellis instead of the vine. Be careful! Having good systems (trellis) in place is an act of love.

## Shifting @ New Life

- We have been working hard at prioritizing and organizing for our New Normal.
- We want the vine to flourish.
- We're inviting you to take responsibility for your growth and for the growth of others. We are all branches together in the same Vine/Root, (Jesus).
- We are rethinking the trellis we use, (our building, our programs, our finances, our systems), in order to ensure that the vine continues to flourish. It's hard work and it's all new. We're not sure sometimes. Pray with us and bear with us along the way.

## A Big Ask

- How will you shift your plans to start preparing for regathering? Online or in-person, how will you help out? How can you be generous? Who can you serve and invite?
- Will you shift your life paradigms to prioritize Jesus and Kingdom living, over your own plans?

## NL@HOME

Here are some things to consider at home this week. Try them on your own or with those who are with you.

### KEY SCRIPTURE:

Acts 6:1-7 - read it, ponder it, ask the Spirit to teach you through it.

### A DAILY PRAYER:

"God, give me the courage to shift well, the wisdom to navigate life during this pandemic, and the opportunity to love others like you have loved us."

### CONSIDER THIS (FOR CONVERSATION IF HELPFUL):

1. How are you cultivating the vine of your spiritual growth? What does your trellis look like, (what system, practices, are you using to promote your own growth)?
2. What needs to change in your trellis to promote healthier growth?
3. How can you support your New Life family in our overall, communal growth, as we shift, to create our new normal?



Start praying for our ability to organize well for Sunday, Tuesday, Online and our outreach programs. Pray about how you can support this through presence, through serving, through prayer, through your generosity.



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