**Series: Acts: Spirit. Mission. Drama.**

**Today: A Part of the Equation**Speaker: Kyle Strickland, Acapella & Adult Education Minister

**Colossians 1:6**

*… the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God’s grace.*

Paul and Timothy used two specific words to describe the impact of the gospel among the Colossians.

1. Bearing fruit
2. Growing

**“Bearing fruit”** is written in the original language in **the middle voice**. The gospel itself bore fruit.

The gospel has potential energy.

**“Growing”** is written in the original language in the **passive voice**. The gospel requires people to grow.

Capable people convert the gospel’s potential energy into kinetic energy.

**Colossians 1:6**

*… the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God’s grace.*

The gospel, plus a believer, is **synergy**.

**Acts 14:1-7**

*1 Now at Iconium [Paul and Barnabas] entered together into the Jewish synagogue and spoke in such a way that a great number of both Jews and Greeks believed. 2But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers. 3So [Paul and Barnabas] remained for a long time, speaking boldly for the Lord, who bore witness to the word of his grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands. 4But the people of the city were divided; some sided with the Jews and some with the apostles. 5When an attempt was made by both Gentiles and Jews, with their rulers, to mistreat them and to stone them, 6they learned of it and fled to Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and to the surrounding country, 7and there they continued to preach the gospel.*

The equation that capable believers convert the gospel from potential energy to kinetic energy gives us two solid, and very predictable outcomes.

The first outcome of this equation is belief.

***Acts 14:1***

*1 Now at Iconium [Paul and Barnabas] entered together into the Jewish synagogue and spoke in such a way that a great number of both Jews and Greeks believed.*

***Galatians 3:26-28***

*26For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. 27For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

The second outcome of this equation is fear.

***Acts 14:2-7***

*2But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers. 3So [Paul and Barnabas] remained for a long time, speaking boldly for the Lord, who bore witness to the word of his grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands. 4But the people of the city were divided; some sided with the Jews and some with the apostles. 5When an attempt was made by both Gentiles and Jews, with their rulers, to mistreat them and to stone them, 6they learned of it and fled … 7and there they continued to preach the gospel.*

Like these citizens of Iconium, we often allow sin to structure our own personalities.

***2 Timothy 2:1-2***

*1 You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.*

***1 Timothy 1:13-14***

*13Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. 14The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.*

The good news today is that you can become an integral part of Paul’s equation.