

REVITALIZATION ESSENTIALS

These are the essentials for any church to have revitalization and have a real move of the Lord in their church. Each one of these is a part of a full sermon that I preach at revivals in with I would call "Revitalization Revivals". These are part of some articles that the Lord has allowed me to write each week for many years. I would pray that that could be of some help and encouragement to seek a refreshing in the churches and pastors that read them.

ESSENTIALS FOR CHURCH REVITALIZATION:

1. A HEART OF HUMILITY - Pro.16:18-19

Healthy churches have a large part of their membership that has a heart of humility. Churches will either fall and be destroyed by their pride or seek a heart of humility and be lifted up by God.

James 4:10 "Humble yourselves in the sight of The Lord, and He will lift you up."

2Chron. 7:14 "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves" this is one of our greatest needs of our churches and pastors today! Can we honestly and truthfully say that we are a humble people?

If a church is to be REVITALIZED it will have to truly humble its self unto God collectively. Each member will have to surrender their pride and seek The Lord in humility.

May we all seek to be more humble before God and others.

Praying that y'all would have a great and blessed Sunday!

ESSENTIALS FOR CHURCH REVITALIZATION:

2. A Devoted Prayer Life – Luke 11:1-13

Much has been written on the subject of prayer, yet we do little of it! If any church desires to be used of the Lord they must learn how to pray and that even more than they are doing. Most churches would like to see revival but many are not willing to spend the time in much prayer to ask for the Lord to revive them. Prayer is a must for any healthy church member! Prayer should precede every action, decision, work of a healthy church member.

Any thinking Christian would have to say that "prayer" is one of if not the most important work of a healthy church member! But why don't we pray and increase in our prayers? (It's work, takes time, humbling, heart searching, giving our best effort, involves others). There are no Healthy Churches, without healthy church members. And there will be no healthy church members without a **growing and faithful prayer life!** It is so simple but yet we don't apply the work and energy that is needed to have a growing prayer life.

ESSENTIALS FOR CHURCH REVITALIZATION:

3. HOLY SPIRIT FILLED MEMBERS - Acts 1:4-8 / Eph. 5:18 / Gal. 5:25

Many churches have services on Sunday but the Holy Spirit is not in charge! Healthy churches are Holy Spirit filled and that makes all the difference in the service. I've preached many times in lifeless, cold and dead churches that were not Holy Spirit filled. These churches had grieved or quenched the Holy Spirit so much that they don't even realize that His power is gone. Any church that wants Revitalization will seek and teach their members to be Holy Spirit filled. Anything less will be a church filled with the works of the flesh. A Holy Spirit filled church will glorify God and be a blessing to others around them. A Holy

Spirit filled church has a healthy, powerful, witnessing, bold, loving, caring, and faithful church membership. Are you and the members of your church Holy Spirit filled? May today we not only live in the Spirit, but be filled and walk in the Spirit. May God bless your Sunday. Praying for y'all!

ESSENTIALS FOR CHURCH REVITALIZATION:

4. Biblical Living - 2 Tim. 3:15 / Deut. 11:18-19

There are no healthy churches without a healthy Biblical living of its members learning and applying more of God's word to their everyday lives. Healthy church members have a good diet of God's word as part of their daily activity. How can we help our churches to become healthier in studying and living out the Word of God? May I say it's not with more programs and activities. But by taking more time to disciple our members and give them time to get alone with God. Many churches have their members "doing" so much, they can't spend any time in learning to "be" what God's word says. Healthy church members need to grow and then they will go! Healthy churches have a plan of discipleship before asking members to do all the work and service of the church. Asking and helping the church to spend more time with God and His word may be the best activity and program for the church. May God bless!

Have a great Sunday!

ESSENTIALS FOR CHURCH REVITALIZATION:

5. COMMITMENT - (Rom.12:1-2)

Why are so many churches unhealthy, declining, closing, or just going nowhere? One main reason is a lack of commitment from its members; this could include pastor, staff, leadership, and all the membership. Most have made a "decision" for Christ, but not a "commitment" to Him for service. Healthy churches have "committed" members that are willing to give and serve through Christ in grace. Many times we try to get people to commit themselves without helping them through the first steps of Revitalization, (Prayer, Humility, Living Biblically and Holy Spirit Filled). These first steps will help in leading members to be willing to commit themselves as they grow in grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ and His love for them. Revitalization and healthy churches are a result of a true commitment that comes from a heart of for The Lord as we see His love for us, (Rom.11-12). A revitalization of commitment us from a willing heart, not a forced order from the church. May The Lord bless your Sunday!

ESSENTIALS FOR CHURCH REVITALIZATION:

6. SERVANT LEADERSHIP - Joshua 1:10-18

Everything rises or falls on leadership-what kind of leader are you? We are in the shape that we are in because of leadership, or the lack thereof in many churches. Most churches will not come to the realization that their ministries are stagnant or in decline because of its leadership.

This is not always the pastor's fault, at times it's the whole leadership within the church, but sad to say many times it's the lack of pastoral leadership in the church. Leadership is not only a gift but also a learned quality that requires a continuing education with practical experience. Leaders for ministry are not born; they are gifted by God through His grace for the equipping ministry of the church (Eph.4). Every pastor and church leader should be always looking for ways to improve their leadership skills.

We need godly leadership in our churches today if they are to see revival and have "Revitalization". The best example of servant leadership is Jesus (John 13:1-17).

Servant leadership is hard work and many are not willing to pay the price to be this kind of leader. Revitalization of a church requires strong servant leadership with humility and filling of the Holy Spirit. May God by His grace help us all to be the very best leader that we can be for His church.

"Servant leaders are lifetime disciples - lifetime learners." (Paul Chappell)

Please note that servant leadership only comes after the other five "Essentials for Church Revitalization".

ESSENTIALS FOR CHURCH REVITALIZATION:

7. Spirit Lead Change - Phil.3:1-16 (13-14) / 2Cor.5:17

Revitalization will not take place in any church without a Spirit Lead Change by God. A stagnant church is a dying church that needs to change. Change means growth and growth means change, you can't have one without the other. This change must be by the prompting of the Holy Spirit and not for just the latest fad or newest innovation from a church growth book. The message should never change but some of our methods must change for ministry sake. Life is full of changes, just living brings change. It's how we make or neglect our changes that will effect us in the future. To some there is only two ways of seeing change, acceptance of any and every change or resistance to any change at all. Healthy churches seek the right kind of change for the right time in their ministry. May The Lord help us to have discernment and balance in change. And may we use much grace and love with people that need the most change, (that may be us). Have a great Sunday!

Please don't take this as meaning worldly change.

ESSENTIALS FOR CHURCH REVITALIZATION

8. REAL PRAISE - PS. 33:1 / 111:1 / 147:1 / 149:1

God is honored and pleased with our praise unto Him and it's just the right and common thing for the Christian to do. In many churches there is no real praise unto God, but a ritualism, formalism, or some kind of mans traditionalism. Many services are done without the Holy Spirit's anointing or His presents even being known to the church.

When the church has a right heart for the things of God with a whole heart of submission and opened to the Holy Spirit's moving, then we will see church revitalization. Healthy churches are seeking God with a whole heart in humility and love for each other and others as well. Churches will have to deal with their pride in any form before God will bless their work and ministries. There will be true joy and praise in the church that will seek God with a real and true heart.

Praise will be the outcome of revitalization in a church that will submit its self unto God in (Prayer, Living Biblically, Humility, Filling if the Holy Spirit, Commitment, Leadership, and Change). These are the "Essentials of Church Revitalization" for any church to have an ongoing productive ministry for The Lord in their community and the world. Church revitalization is not a onetime meeting or conference, but a living out of these principles on a daily basis through a committed life unto Jesus Christ. May The Lord bless and give you a joyful and praised filled Sunday.