



Isaiah 40: 31

Eagle—Wings

Expressing All of God's Love to Everyone — While Implementing Necessary Growth Strategies

Church Growth Strategies

By CAA Ministries

Sunday School - Preparing for Personal Revival

It is only when a church is truly alive with the resurrection Life of our Lord Jesus that it can fulfill her scriptural mandate to become a channel of blessing and Life to the world. Sunday School and Small Group Ministries within the church should be organized and structured to assure this mandate is being taught and fulfilled. While the church may seek to offer many things that help people on a certain natural, human level....ONLY that which originates from the Spirit of God will bring genuine spiritual benefit and make an eternal impact on human hearts.

The church in our day **must** experience authentic, Biblical revival, or we will never be able to glorify God in obedience to the desires of HIS heart. Heaven sent revival is the great need of the hour in the churches! Evangelism through the church should be taught and experienced within the Sunday School Ministry. The teachings and Christian examples provided through growing Sunday School Ministries are very important in fulfilling the scriptural mandate found within "The Great Commission" (Matthew 28: 18-20). To say it another way... it is only as the church is set on fire by God's presence (*a glowing church*) that she can effectively fulfill her calling as an evangelistic body (*a going church*), and then see the results that come from the outflow of her obedience and discipleship (*a growing church*).

Revival is not just important...it is imperative! Surely it is the only hope for the church in North America. God is faithfully raising up a growing group of saints in the churches across our land who have a sense of urgency and passion for a fresh move of the Spirit of God. We must encourage each other, and set Christian examples to be sure that we are part of that group of intercessors who are longing for "times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord." Remember, no one wants to see a revived church more than our Lord Jesus!

While certain local churches, for many possible reasons, might not be willing to place themselves in the position to experience *corporate* revival, any individual believer may lay hold of the experience of *personal* revival if they are willing to face the conditions for such blessings honestly. Individual believers are a necessary part and always found in leadership positions within growing Sunday School classes.

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Here are some things gleaned from the writings of A.W. Tozer in regard to “preparing for personal revival.”

- Get thoroughly dissatisfied with yourself. A contented, passive soul is a stagnant soul. “Stir up the gift of God” and “press toward the mark.” The time has come for “judgment to begin at the house of God.” A broken and contrite heart God will not despise. “Blessed are the poor in spirit.”
- Set your whole being resolutely toward a sweeping transformation of your life; refuse to be a religious trifler. Make much time to “seek His face” with all your heart, and be determined to allow Him to change you. Learn to listen to His voice.
- Place yourself “in the way of blessing”. The paths leading to green pastures are clearly marked. Stop treating grace as if it were some form of magic. Get in the place of humble, believing prayer...and soak yourself in the scriptures. Our wish and our walk must agree (Acts 5:32).
- Do a thorough job of repenting; don’t rush. Let the consciousness of your personal need deepen “the fear of the Lord.” Do not tolerate conscious sin in your life. Honestly pray, “Search me, oh Lord.” And then remove all “doubtful things” from your life.
- Make restitution when it is in your power to do so. Make wrong things right...seek to mend relationships according to scriptural guidelines. If you owe a debt, pay it.
- Bring your life into accord with the Sermon on the Mount and other New Testament scriptures as are designed to instruct us in the way of righteousness. An honest man with a Bible will hear God’s Spirit! Not works...but faith as we examine ourselves on our knees.
- Be serious minded. Don’t allow yourself to be distracted or sidetracked. Break away from “the funny crowd” and avoid things that allow you to escape reality. Habits must change! Face the real issues!
- Deliberately narrow your interests. Prune, focus, distill, refine...and become a specialist in “Jesus only.” With a soldier mentality wean yourself from “this world’s dainties”.
- Begin to witness. Begin to be available to the Spirit to share Christ with others. As we focus on others it will get our focus off our own selves. Take the low place and ask God to make you the servant of all.
- Have faith in the Lord. Be expectant, and look to your Heavenly Father. Trust HIM! And as you follow the exhortation of Hebrews 11:6, realize that all of Heaven is on your side for revival.

May God give us the vision for what He longs for His church to be in these end times! We should all pray that the Lord Jesus Christ will be glorified in the churches that are known by His Name, and that His people will experience the great promise of the outpouring of His Life in revival. My we all catch the vision that the Sunday School Ministries exist to be the evangelistic arm of the church.