

Church Health: Practically and Biblically – What It Looks Like, How to Get It, How to Maintain It

Help bring new life and vibrancy to your church by looking at important biblical principles to help set the stage for God to work. Regardless of your denomination, whether your church is small or large, rural or urban, declining or growing, these practical, biblical strategies will help you evaluate ways to overcome challenges to healthy church growth.

Scott Poling serves as Senior Pastor of Harvest New Beginnings Church located in the southwest suburbs of Chicago. He has served in ministry for 30 years at Harvest, seeing first-hand God’s work in the renewal of a dying church. He’s gained a unique perspective, understanding the pressures and trials of ministry while navigating the many changes that come with church revitalization. He received his B.S. degree from Cedarville University and his ThM from Dallas Theological Seminary, has 5 children with his wife of 34 years, Carla, and three grandchildren. His interests include trail running and visiting national parks.

Section #1 – Let’s Start at the Top- It all begins with a clear focus and balance between faith in God and diligence in ministry.

I. It takes FOCUS (Matthew 4:19, Luke 19:10, Matthew 28:19-20a, Acts 1:8b)

Evaluating your current ministry setting.

1. On a scale of 1 to 10 (with 10 being the best score) circle where you would rank you and/or your church presently on FOCUS?

_____1_____2_____3_____4_____5_____6_____7_____8_____9_____10_____

2. What immediate steps could you or your church take to improve in this area?

3. What are the biggest challenges or obstacles you face in improving in this area?

II. It takes FAITH (Romans 1:14-16, Matthew 16:18b, Matthew 28:18-20)

Evaluating your current ministry setting.

1. On a scale of 1 to 10 (with 10 being the best score) circle where you would rank you and/or your church presently on FAITH?

_____1_____2_____3_____4_____5_____6_____7_____8_____9_____10_____

2. What immediate steps could you or your church take to improve in this area?

3. What are the biggest challenges or obstacles you face in improving in this area?

III. It takes FORTITUDE (Ephesians 6:19-20, 1 Timothy 2:1-4, 2 Timothy 4:5b, 1 Corinthians 15:58, Luke 14:23)

Evaluating your current ministry setting.

Evaluating your current ministry setting.

1. On a scale of 1 to 10 (with 10 being the best score) circle where you would rank you and/or your church presently on FORTITUDE?

_____1_____2_____3_____4_____5_____6_____7_____8_____9_____10_____

2. What immediate steps could you or your church take to improve in this area?
3. What are the biggest challenges or obstacles you face in improving in this area?

Section #2 – Doing What it Takes - - We'll look at two areas of commitment needed by both the leadership and the people of the church for healthy growth and outreach.

IV. It takes FUNDS (Proverbs 3:9-10, Matthew 23:23, Mark 12:41-44, 2 Corinthians 9:6-8, 2 Corinthians 8:1-5, Luke 8:1-3)

Evaluating your current ministry setting.

1. On a scale of 1 to 10 (with 10 being the best score) circle where you would rank you and/or your church presently on FUNDS?

_____1_____2_____3_____4_____5_____6_____7_____8_____9_____10_____

2. What immediate steps could you or your church take to improve in this area?
3. What are the biggest challenges or obstacles you face in improving in this area?

V. It takes FREEDOM (Mark 7:6-8, 1 Corinthians 9:19-22)

Evaluating your current ministry setting.

1. On a scale of 1 to 10 (with 10 being the best score) circle where you would rank you and/or your church presently on FREEDOM?

_____1_____2_____3_____4_____5_____6_____7_____8_____9_____10_____

2. What immediate steps could you or your church take to improve in this area?
3. What are the biggest challenges or obstacles you face in improving in this area?

Section #3 – Everything Rises and Falls on Leadership - - We'll assess how we can take our primary responsibility of leadership to the next level as we allow God's word to develop key areas in our ministries.

VI. It takes FEARLESSNESS (Proverbs 29:25, 2 Corinthians 10:10,
2 Corinthians 11:23-28, 2 Timothy 1:7)

Evaluating your current ministry setting.

1. On a scale of 1 to 10 (with 10 being the best score) circle where you would rank you and/or your church presently on FEARLESSNESS?

_____1_____2_____3_____4_____5_____6_____7_____8_____9_____10_____

2. What immediate steps could you or your church take to improve in this area?
3. What are the biggest challenges or obstacles you face in improving in this area?

VII. It takes FEEDING (2 Timothy 4:1-2)

Evaluating your current ministry setting.

1. On a scale of 1 to 10 (with 10 being the best score) circle where you would rank you and/or your church presently on FEEDING?

_____1_____2_____3_____4_____5_____6_____7_____8_____9_____10_____

2. What immediate steps could you or your church take to improve in this area?
3. What are the biggest challenges or obstacles you face in improving in this area?

VIII. It takes FAITHFULNESS (1 Corinthians 11:1, 1 Timothy 3:1-7)

Evaluating your current ministry setting.

1. On a scale of 1 to 10 (with 10 being the best score) circle where you would rank you and/or your church presently on FAITHFULNESS?

_____1_____2_____3_____4_____5_____6_____7_____8_____9_____10_____

2. What immediate steps could you or your church take to improve in this area?
3. What are the biggest challenges or obstacles you face in improving in this area?

IX. It takes FELEGATION (Ephesians 4:11-12, Exodus 18:17-18)

Evaluating your current ministry setting.

1. On a scale of 1 to 10 (with 10 being the best score) circle where you would rank you and/or your church presently on FELEGATION?

_____1_____2_____3_____4_____5_____6_____7_____8_____9_____10_____

2. What immediate steps could you or your church take to improve in this area?
3. What are the biggest challenges or obstacles you face in improving in this area?

Section #4 – Maintaining Church Health - - This final section will help us evaluate ways both the leadership and the church community need to maintain a culture of Christian fellowship, excellence and dependence on seeking God.

X. It takes FELLOWSHIP (Acts 2:42-47, John 13:35, Philippians 4:4, Nehemiah 8:10)

Evaluating your current ministry setting.

1. On a scale of 1 to 10 (with 10 being the best score) circle where you would rank you and/or your church presently on FELLOWSHIP?

_____1_____2_____3_____4_____5_____6_____7_____8_____9_____10_____

2. What immediate steps could you or your church take to improve in this area?
3. What are the biggest challenges or obstacles you face in improving in this area?

XI. It takes FIRST-RATE (Ecclesiastes 9:10, Colossians 3:17, Colossians 3:23, 1 Corinthians 10:31, 1 Thessalonians 4:1, 1 Chronicles 29:2)

Evaluating your current ministry setting.

1. On a scale of 1 to 10 (with 10 being the best score) circle where you would rank you and/or your church presently on FIRST-RATE?

_____1_____2_____3_____4_____5_____6_____7_____8_____9_____10_____

2. What immediate steps could you or your church take to improve in this area?
3. What are the biggest challenges or obstacles you face in improving in this area?

XII. It takes FERVENCY (James 5:16, James 4:2-3, 1 Timothy 2:1-4, Mathew 9:37-38, Zechariah 4:6, Ephesians 6:19-20, James 1:5)

Evaluating your current ministry setting.

1. On a scale of 1 to 10 (with 10 being the best score) circle where you would rank you and/or your church presently on FERVENCY?

_____1_____2_____3_____4_____5_____6_____7_____8_____9_____10_____

2. What immediate steps could you or your church take to improve in this area?
3. What are the biggest challenges or obstacles you face in improving in this area?