



Evaluating the Health of Your Church

Setting the Stage for God to Work



I. It takes FOCUS



START of Jesus' Ministry

START of Jesus' Ministry

MATTHEW 4:19

*Follow me,” he told them, “and
I will make you fish for people.”*



MIDDLE of Jesus' Ministry

MIDDLE of Jesus' Ministry

LUKE 19:10

“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost.”



END of Jesus' Ministry

END of Jesus' Ministry

MATTHEW 28:19a

*“Go, therefore, and make
disciples of all nations . . .”*



*“ . . . you will be my witnesses in
Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria,
and to the ends of the earth.”*

ACTS 1:8b



CATCHING people

SEEKING people

SAVING people

MAKING DISCIPLES of people

WITNESSING further and farther to people



II. It takes FAITH



¹⁴ I am obligated both to Greeks and barbarians, both to the wise and the foolish. ¹⁵ So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.

ROMANS 1:14-16

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek.

ROMANS 1:14-16



“ . . . I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.”

MATTHEW 16:18b



“No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him . . .”

JOHN 6:44a



¹⁸ Jesus came near and said to them, “All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth.”

¹⁹ Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you.

MATTHEW 28:18-20

And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

MATTHEW 28:18-20



BOOK END #1

- You have His Absolute Authority!
- RELY on it!


BOOK END #2

- You have His Personal Presence!
- REALIZE it!



III. It takes FORTITUDE





*“Champions aren’t made in the ring they
are merely recognized there.
What you cheat on in the early light of
morning will show up in the ring
under the bright lights.”*

JOE FRAZIER



The plans of the diligent certainly lead to profit, but anyone who is reckless certainly becomes poor.

PROVERBS 21:5



. . . do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

2 TIMOTHY 4:5b



Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the Lord's work, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:58



IV. It takes FUNDS



¹ Afterward he was traveling from one town and village to another, preaching and telling the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him . . . and many others who were supporting them from their possessions.

LUKE 8:1, 3b



V. It takes FREEDOM







⁶ He answered them, “Isaiah prophesied correctly about you hypocrites, as it is written: This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. ⁷ They worship me in vain, teaching as doctrines human commands. ⁸ Abandoning the command of God, you hold on to human tradition.”

MARK 7:6-8





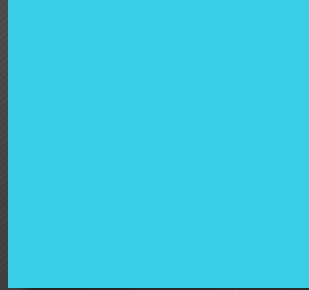
7 LAST WORDS OF A DYING CHURCH

“We never did it that way before.”

RALPH WEBSTER NEIGHBOUR



THINK OUTSIDE the BOX
BUT INSIDE the BIBLE





19 Although I am free from all and not anyone's slave, I have made myself a slave to everyone, in order to win more people. 20 To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win Jews; to those under the law, like one under the law—though I myself am not under the law—to win those under the law.

1 CORINTHIANS 9:19-22

21 To those who are without the law, like one without the law—though I am not without God's law but under the law of Christ—to win those without the law.

22 To the weak I became weak, in order to win the weak. I have become all things to all people, so that I may by every possible means save some.”

1 CORINTHIANS 9:19-22









WHEN HUDSON TAYLOR DIED

18,000 converts
traced to his China
Inland Mission

300 stations of
work, 20 in
unevangelized areas

700 Chinese
workers taking the
gospel

125 schools started


849 missionaries in
all 18 provinces, up
from a few dozen

*Underground
Chinese Church is
Thriving today!!



IV. It takes FEARLESSNESS






*“Only person who likes change is
a wet baby.”*

MARK TWAIN





*“There is no job quite like the pastorate
where you can displease so many of
God’s people while pleasing Him.”*

JIM LYTLE



The fear of mankind is a snare, but the one who trusts in the LORD is protected.

PROVERBS 29:25



For it is said, “His letters are weighty and powerful, but his physical presence is weak and his public speaking amounts to nothing.”

2 CORINTHIANS 10:10



*For God has not given us a spirit of fear,
but one of power, love, and sound
judgment.*

2 TIMOTHY 1:7



VII. It takes FEEDING



Be diligent to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who doesn't need to be ashamed, correctly teaching the word of truth.

2 TIMOTHY 2:15



I solemnly charge you before God and Christ Jesus, who is going to judge the living and the dead, and because of his appearing and his kingdom: ²Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; correct, rebuke, and encourage with great patience and teaching.

2 TIMOTHY 4:1-2



VIII. It takes FAITHFULNESS



“Imitate me, as I also imitate Christ.”

1 CORINTHIANS 11:1



IX. It takes FELEGATION







CHARACTER --- Godly

COMPETENCY --- Gifted

COMMITMENT --- Guarantee Follow Through

CAPACITY --- Growth Potential

CHEMISTRY --- Great Fit

CALLING --- God's Hand Upon Them

COMMUNICATION --- Good With People

CALM

COMPASSION/CARE

CREATIVITY

COMEDY



¹¹ And he himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ . . .

EPHESIANS 4:11-12



*17 “What you’re doing is not good,”
Moses’s father-in-law said to him.*

*18 “You will certainly wear out both
yourself and these people who are with
you, because the task is too heavy for
you. You can’t do it alone.”*

EXODUS 18:17-18



X. It takes FELLOWSHIP



⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and signs were being performed through the apostles.

ACTS 2:42-45

44 Now all the believers were together and held all things in common. 45 They sold their possessions and property and distributed the proceeds to all, as any had need.

ACTS 2:42-45



³⁴ “I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

JOHN 13:34-35



*⁴⁶ Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple, and broke bread from house to house. They ate their food with joyful and sincere hearts,
⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. Every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.*

ACTS 2:46-47



²²But the fruit of the Spirit is . . . joy . . .

GALATIANS 5:22a



Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

PHILIPPIANS 4:4



“. . . Do not grieve, because the joy of the Lord is your strength.”

NEHEMIAH 8:10b



XI. It takes FIRST RATE



Whatever your hands find to do, do with all your strength, because there is no work, planning, knowledge, or wisdom in Sheol where you are going.

ECCLESIASTES 9:10



*And whatever you do, in word or in deed,
do everything in the name of the Lord
Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father
through him.*

COLOSSIANS 3:17



*²³ Whatever you do, do it from the heart,
as something done for the Lord and not for
people, ²⁴ knowing that you will receive
the reward of an inheritance from the
Lord. You serve the Lord Christ.*

COLOSSIANS 3:23-24



So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.

1 CORINTHIANS 10:31



*So to the best of my ability I've made
provision for the house of my God . . .*

1 CHRONICLES 29:2a



XII. It takes FERVENCY





WORK like EVERYTHING DEPENDS on
YOU

PRAY like EVERYTHING DEPENDS on
GOD



. . . The prayer of a righteous person is very powerful in its effect. ¹⁷ Elijah was a human being as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the land. ¹⁸ Then he prayed again, and the sky gave rain and the land produced its fruit.


JAMES 5:16b-18



¹⁹Pray also for me, that the message may be given to me when I open my mouth to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel . . . Pray that I might be bold enough to speak about it as I should.

EPHESIANS 6:19, 20b





“Satan dreads nothing but prayer. His one concern is to keep the saints from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work, prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, mocks our wisdom but he trembles when we pray.”

SAMUEL CHADWICK



EVALUATING THE HEALTH OF YOUR CHURCH

It takes . . .

FOCUS

FAITH

FORTITUDE

FUNDS

FREEDOM

FEARLESSNESS

FEEDING

FAITHFULNESS

FELEGATION

FELLOWSHIP

FIRST RATE

FERVENCY



Evaluating the Health of Your Church

Setting the Stage for God to Work



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What 2-3 points are your church's greatest strengths?
2. What 2-3 points are the greatest areas of weakness in your church and why?
3. What are some immediate things you can do to help your church be healthier?
4. Which of the points discussed is hardest for a church to implement or maintain and why?

