

**Beulah Baptist Association Churches**

**Antioch Baptist Church**  
**Berry's Grove Baptist Church**  
**Bethany Baptist Church**  
**Bethel Hill Baptist Church**  
**Beulah Baptist Church**  
**Blanch Baptist Church**  
**Calvary Baptist Church**  
**Cavel Baptist Church**  
**Clement Baptist Church**  
**East Rock Community Church**  
**Ekklesia Baptist Church**  
**Ephesus Baptist Church**  
**FIT Community Church**  
**Florence Avenue Baptist Church**  
**High View Baptist Church**  
**La Familia De Dios**  
**Lea Bethel Baptist Church**  
**Hope-Mill Creek Baptist Church**

**Beulah Baptist Association Churches**

**Milton Baptist Church**  
**Montwood Baptist Church**  
**Mt. Harmony Baptist Church**  
**North Roxboro Baptist Church**  
**Old Lea Bethel Baptist Church**  
**Olive Branch Baptist Church**  
**Providence Baptist Church (Caswell County)**  
**Providence Baptist Church (Person County)**  
**Rock Grove Baptist Church**  
**Roxboro Baptist Church**  
**Semora Baptist Church**  
**Shiloh Baptist Church**  
**Somerset Baptist Church**  
**Theresa Baptist Church**  
**Timberlake Baptist Church**  
**Triple Springs Baptist Church**  
**West Wood Baptist Church**  
**First Baptist Church - Yanceyville**

## **Day 1 – The Tragedy of Unbelief**

Read Matthew 13:53-58

Focal Verse: *“And He did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief”* Matthew 13:58 (KJV)

This is one of the saddest verses in the Bible. It is the account of Jesus going to His hometown to teach. When people heard Him, they were astonished. However, their astonishment did not lead them to respond to His teaching in obedience and faith. Their lives could have been radically changed for the better. Their community could have been radically changed for the better. However, no positive changes occurred in the people or the town of Nazareth. Why? Scripture says, “Because of their unbelief.”

Unbelief shuts the door on the transformational power of Jesus. Faith opens the floodgates to that same power. In contrast to this passage are countless others where Jesus worked miracles in response to the faith present in the lives of people. (Read Matthew 9:2; 9:22; 15:28; Mark 10:52; Luke 8:48)

When Jesus looks at our lives what does He find? A robust faith? or unbelief? Do we believe Jesus can work renewal and revitalization in hurting church? Do we believe He will? Are we praying for Jesus to bring renewal to churches?

Prayer

Let us confess doubts and unbelief. Ask God to strengthen our faith in Him. Pray for revitalized and growing churches locally and worldwide. (Mark 9:24)

Thought: Do you know of a declining church you can personally pray for the next 40 days?

## **Day 2 – Remember God’s Power**

Read Jeremiah 32:17-44

Focal Verse *“Ah Lord God! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee:”* Jeremiah 32:17 (KJV)

Sometimes we forget how powerful God is. We forget the great things He has done in the past. We often allow the immensity of our own problems and challenges to overshadow His greatness. Our view of God impacts our belief in His power to revitalize churches.

In order to build a case for the greatness and power of God, Jeremiah reminds us of what God has done in the past. He reminds us that God “made the heavens and the earth.” What a display of power! God spoke, and the world came into existence. Only God could do that. Creation itself is a testimony to the truth that God can do anything. Creation was just the beginning of God’s mighty display of power. Jeremiah reminds us that this same God led His people out of Egypt with signs and wonders (verse 21). Scripture reminds us that this same God sent Jesus to be born of a virgin, live a sinless life, die on a cross for our sins, and be raised to life on the third day. Only God could do that! The death, burial and resurrection of Jesus is a reminder that God’s power is limitless.

Today, let us recall the many great things God has done as recorded in Scripture, remember the great things He has done in our lives, and remember the great things He has done in our church.

Prayer

Ask God to do a work of revitalization in churches in a mighty way, so He gets all Glory. Ask Him to move in our church and other churches today, so more come to Jesus.

### **Day 3 – Confess Pride/Embrace Humility**

Read Luke 18:9-14

Focal Verse *“I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.”* Luke 18:14 (KJV)

Pride is a subtle sin. It’s not always easy to detect in our own lives. Jesus understood this, so He gave us a picture of what pride and humility look like through the two characters in this parable. The Pharisee is an example of how pride behaves. Pride has an eagle eye for other people’s sins. The Pharisee said, “I thank You that I am not like those other people who are greedy, unrighteous adulterers.” Pride refuses to admit it has a need. Not once did the Pharisee admit he had a need.

Humility, on the other hand, readily admits it has a need. The tax collector is an example of how humility behaves, pounding his chest and admitting he needed forgiveness as a sinner. Humility sees its own sin. The tax collector declared, “God turn Your wrath from me, a sinner.”

The main concern for pride is “what do other people think of me”? Humility’s main concern is “what does God think about me”?

Prayer

Let us pray that God will reveal any areas of pride in our lives and show us His way to true humility. Pray that God gives us eyes to see, ears to hear His plans for our church and churches surrounding us.

~~Matthew 5:8 (KJV)~~ blessed. for they will see God.”

### **Day 4 – Purify Your Heart**

Read Matthew 5:8

Focal Verse *“Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.”* Matthew 5:8 (KJV)

I love to watch the snow fall and accumulate on the ground. However, once the snow has fallen it begins to lose that pure white color because of dirt. After that beautiful snow falls on the roads and vehicles begin to move about, the snow changes to an ugly brown.

Jesus teaches that the pure in heart are blessed. To see God is an awesome promise. We can never see the wonder of God’s presence until we have a pure heart, cleansed by the blood of Jesus. Satan wants us filthy and dirty. As a result, our hearts can begin to look more like day-old snow. To seek and pursue God in the midst of our evil world draws our hearts nearer to Him.

As we read this verse today, is our heart pure? Are we focused on seeing God with a pure heart? Are we pursuing Him or the world? Revitalization requires that we be men and women after God’s own heart, as King David is described.

Churches need people seeking God in purity of heart. With eyes seeing His blessings, we see Him working in our church. Pray for members of all churches to seek God in purity. Pray that God will stoke the fires of revitalization and growth locally and worldwide.

Prayer

Pray that God will show us areas where our hearts and motives are not pure. Pray that God will change His people and give us all strength and passion for His Kingdom.

### **Day 5 – Search Me, O God**

Read Psalm 139:23-24

Focal Verse “*Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts.*” Psalm 139:23 (KJV)

Many go to God with requests for worldly things such as big houses, new cars, different jobs, or a nice raise in pay. When was the last time we asked the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to search our hearts and test our thoughts? God is all-knowing, all-powerful, and ever-present. He knows His children better than we know ourselves. Nothing catches Him off guard.

Health experts tell us that annual physical exams are wise and necessary. Early detection can be a key to physical health and personal longevity.

Spiritual health requires periodic exams, too. All Christians must make time for uninterrupted prayer and meditation. Solitude with God can reveal the unseen things. We can be transparent with God in the stillness. We hear His still small voice best when we talk less and listen more. God searches and knows our hearts. He sees if Jesus is still our first Love.

Are we guilty of simply going through the motions of worship and church attendance? Do we truly love people? Are we flirting with temptation? Do we lead with an attitude of humility? Solitude and transparency with God can lead to personal revitalization.

Prayer

Make an intentional time, in a secure place, to have solitude with God. This takes practice and a willingness to invest. Ask God to reveal our hearts to us. Do we still have a passion for Christ and His Kingdom? Ask Him to bring other churches back to their first Love as well.

### **Day 6- He Must Become Greater**

Read John 3:30

Focal Verse “*He must increase, but I must decrease.*” John 3:30 (KJV)

Ministry involvement isn’t immune from dangers. Satan loves to see Christians disobey God, dividing churches, and destroying ministries. Satan uses lust and pride as tools to tempt Christians to go astray. As Proverbs 16:18 reads, “Pride comes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.” John the Baptist’s heart was in the right place. He desired to see people focus on Jesus, the Son of God and the Savior of the world. John wanted the world to remember and glorify Jesus and not him.

Trouble comes when “self” refuses to decrease and give way to the Spirit, as John demonstrates. God longs for His Son to increase and for self to decrease. Jesus increases when He becomes the “thread” of every sermon, Bible Study, prayer, and activity of the church. Jesus increases when He receives the glory and honor due the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. Jesus increases when His grace is received and shared with others. Jesus increases when He is followed with heartfelt devotion and surrender.

As we reflect on our lives and work in the church, are we following John’s example? Is the spotlight of our every work trained on Jesus, giving Him all glory and honor?

Prayer

Pray that Jesus will increase, and that self will decrease. We must be about the Father’s business in order to lead revitalization in our church ministries. Pray that all churches will follow Him with heartfelt devotion and complete surrender, as we seek new life in churches locally and worldwide.

### **Day 7 – Take a Soil Test**

Read Matthew 13:1-9

Focal Verse “*But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.*” Matthew 13:8 (KJV)

Jesus addressed a large crowd of people, telling a parable to reveal the human heart. As the farmer scattered seed, it fell along the path, on rocky ground, among thorns, and on good soil. Jesus desires for His followers to have hearts (soil) that yield a harvest. In the parable, Jesus talks about four kinds of soil (hearts):

- (1) A calloused heart. This person lacks spiritual and ministerial expectations, goes through the motions, and relates to God with a selfish agenda.
- (2) A shallow heart. This person is immature in the faith, but may be quite busy in ministry.
- (3) A distracted heart. This person battles the worries of life and the deceitfulness of wealth.
- (4) A productive heart. This person lives his or her life to fulfill God’s mission.

In order to plant a garden, the ground (soil), must first be broken. When we desire to yield a spiritual harvest, we must first be broken hearted for the Kingdom.

Are we willing to be broken for God’s glory? What is currently breaking our hearts and spirits? What is the state of our soil by the four examples above?

Prayer

Pray that God will reveal the state of our hearts. Pray that the Lord will change the heart of every Christian to a productive heart – seeking to love Him, build His church, and expand His Kingdom.

### **Day 8 – Ask, Seek, Knock**

Read Matthew 7:7-12

Focal Verse “*Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.*” Matthew 7:7 (KJV)

The Bible is clear that God answers the fervent prayers of His people according to His will, and we know it is His will for His Church to be revitalized and healthy. Fervent prayer means passionate and persistent prayers for God’s Kingdom to come and His Will to be done.

A small girl watched as her mother smeared cold cream on her face. She asked, “Mommy, why are you doing that?” “To make myself beautiful,” the mother replied. In a few moments, as the mother started wiping off the cream, the child asked, “Are you giving up already?”

Never give up in prayer as we ask God to revitalize our churches, locally and worldwide. Pray regularly and intensely until the answer comes. The verbs “ask, seek, and knock” are expressed in a form that denotes continuous action. Jesus is literally saying, “Ask, and keep on asking. Seek, and keep on seeking. Knock and keep on knocking.”

Do we pray regularly and intensely, believing that God will revitalize churches? Do we ask, seek, and knock not only for ourselves, but for other churches?

Prayer

Pray for God to bring revitalization beginning in each heart. Give us a passion to help other churches and excite God’s people for the Kingdom. God will answer in His time.

### **Day 9 – Value His Name**

Read 1 Samuel 12:20-22

Focal Verse “*And Samuel said unto the people, Fear not: ye have done all this wickedness: yet turn not aside from following the Lord, but serve the Lord with all your heart; 21 And turn ye not aside: for then should ye go after vain things, which cannot profit nor deliver; for they are vain. 22 For the Lord will not forsake his people for his great name's sake: because it hath pleased the Lord to make you his people.*” 1 Samuel 12:20-22 (KJV)

The year 2008 changed the value of many things: houses, retirement accounts, salaries, etc. There has been a long-lasting impact on companies and individuals. Value changes. Imagine what it would be like if something of great value never changed? Priceless remains priceless throughout all eternity. We have a priceless Savior!

These verses in 1 Samuel remind us that even during times when we have sinned against the Lord, we must not turn from Him. The name of the Lord is priceless to us. He never leaves us nor forsakes us. This is priceless. We don't offer that kind of value. Jesus values us because of Who He Is, not because of what we have to offer.

Do we need to be reminded of the priceless value of the Name of Jesus? Do our lives reflect how priceless He is to us?

Prayer

Pray acknowledging the pricelessness of Jesus. Praise God for the value of His Name, the Name above all names. Pray that all churches will magnify the most Priceless Name, Jesus Christ.

### **Day 10 – Bear the Fruit of the Holy Spirit**

Read Galatians 5:22-26

Focal Verse “*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*” Galatians 5:22-23 (KJV)

As followers of Jesus, we must daily yield to the control of the Holy Spirit. Verse 25 encourages us to “live by the Spirit” and “follow the Spirit.” Tangible evidence that the Holy Spirit is in control of an individual's life is Spiritual fruit.

Just as an apple is the outward evidence of the reality of an apple tree, so the fruit of the Holy Spirit is the outward evidence that the Holy Spirit dwelling is inside us.

When the Holy Spirit is in control, our lives will be characterized by love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, faith, gentleness, and self-control. God's plan is to produce these qualities in us as we yield to Him. When the Holy Spirit is not in control of our lives, we are unloving, joyless, restless, impatient, unkind, and out of control.

How would those closest to us describe our fruit? Would they describe us as loving, characterized by joy and peace? Would they refer to us as patient, kind, faithful, gentle, and self-controlled?

Prayer

Pray that God will help us, and all His children yield to the work of the Holy Spirit. Pray He will help us yield to the work of revitalization locally and worldwide. Pray that God will produce in us the fruit of His Spirit.

### **Day 11 – Forfeit My Agenda**

Read Luke 22:39-46

Focal Verse *“Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.”*  
Luke 22:42 (KJV)

Jesus was fully God and fully man.

In this passage we see the humanity of Jesus as He struggles with the Will of the Father in light of His imminent suffering and death. Jesus realized that in a few short hours He would bear the weight of the world’s sin in His body. 2 Corinthians 5:21 puts it this way: *“For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”*

As Jesus prayed in Gethsemane, He prayed with such intensity that His “sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.” (v. 44) On one hand, He wanted the Father to remove the cup of suffering. On the other hand, He realized that suffering and death were necessary for the Salvation of precious souls and the fulfillment of the Father’s plan. Therefore, He prayed, “Not My Will but Yours be done.”

Above all, Jesus wanted the Will of the Father to be done.

Prayer

Pray that we will be willing to lay down our own plans, preferences, and agendas for our churches in order that the plan of God might be carried out. Let’s pray as Jesus prayed, “Not My Will but Yours be done.”

### **Day 12 – Be Controlled by the Spirit**

Read Romans 8:5

Focal Verse *“For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.”* Romans 8:5 (KJV)

I love to sit on the couch with my remote-control flipping television channels. There are several buttons on my remote: one for the cable box, some for the TV, and a few for an audio system. Sometimes while I am watching cable, I will accidentally hit the audio system buttons and the remote won’t control the cable box. It takes me a moment to understand that I’ve touched the wrong button.

The text in Romans 8:5 reminds us that by nature we are controlled by sinful desires. It also tells us that those controlled by the Spirit respond in a spiritual way. In a normal day as things happen around us, how we respond to these events reveals what controls us - our sinful nature or our Spiritual nature. We must choose which will control us.

How is life different when we allow the Spirit to be in control? How are churches different when we allow the Spirit of God to be in control?

Prayer

Pray that God will lead and guide all of His churches to revitalization, through the Holy Spirit. Pray that we choose His Wisdom and Counsel over our sinful desires.

### **Day 13 – Forgive One Another**

Read Ephesians 4:25-32

Focal Verse “*And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*” Ephesians 4:32 (KJV)

We have all been hurt by other people. Others have said or done things that have hurt us. Sometimes, we're hurt when someone fails to say or do something. As we all have this in common, the question is “how will we respond when others hurt us?”

Today's Scripture cites several responses that often accompany the hurt we encounter: anger (verse 26), bitterness, wrath, malice (verse 31). When we identify these things in our hearts, we are challenged to “remove” or “put away” these things. In place of these responses, we're called to forgive.

Forgiveness is the way God relates to us and commands us to relate to one other. Forgiveness means we treat the person in the future as if he or she never hurt us in the past. Forgiveness involves refusing to relate to the person with anger and bitterness. Forgiveness means extending grace to the person that hurt us.

How do we handle feelings of anger, bitterness, wrath, or malice toward others? Take time today to confess any hurt feelings being held onto or any ill feelings being harbored against another. Seek God's grace to forgive others as we are forgiven.

Prayer

Ask God to identify any unforgiveness in our hearts. Ask God to produce in our lives humility that honors Him as we extend mercy and grace to one another. Pray that any unforgiving spirits hindering revitalization will pass away, to be replaced with forgiveness, love, and understanding.

### **Day 14 Raise Up New Leaders. Spiritual Renewal Begins with Me.**

Read II Timothy 2:1-2

Focal Verse “*And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.*” 2 Timothy 2:2 (KJV)

The church needs Godly leaders in all positions. This is no secret. We need people to lead children's programs, to work with youth, to do outreach, to give financially, and the list goes on. But where will these leaders come from?

Paul gives Timothy the answer: raise them up. Christian leaders are made, not born, and 2 Timothy 2:2 tells how to make one. Mature Christian leaders are to teach and train faithful people who can become leaders who then teach and train others.

Are we submissive to God's call to lead? Are we enthusiastically seeking God's call to ministries both inside and outside our church? Are we discipling and training leaders for the future with an eye toward sustaining the work of Christ long after we've gone on to our Heavenly home?

Prayer

Pray that God will raise up leaders and teach us to train these leaders. Pray that God will raise up leaders in all churches and that these leaders will possess a passion for growing and revitalizing God's churches locally and worldwide.



### **Day 15 – Teach Me to Love**

Read I Thessalonians 4:9-12

Focal Verse “*But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another.*” I Thessalonians 4:9 (KJV)

Many problems in a church can be overcome by love. Love covers a multitude of sins. Love causes dissensions to be settled. Love prompts Christians to serve the poor. Love moves us to do missions and evangelism. Love leads us to give financially, work with children, paint the nursery walls, or build a new church building. Love is the greatest motivator to church service of all types.

1 Thessalonians 4:9 gives hope to those of us who come up a little short in the love department. It reveals that God can teach us to love. Love is not an emotion to be experienced, but an action to be taken. The greatest act of love in history was Christ on the cross. The good news for us is that the One who called Jesus to the Cross can teach us to love people in our churches and communities. Love really does change everything and is the real key to church revitalization.

Prayer

Ask God how we can love more fully. Consider praying a prayer like this: Dear God, teach me to love. If there is any group or person I am not loving fully, reveal this to me I pray. Help me to love as Jesus loves me. Thank You for hearing my prayer. It's in Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

### **Day 16 – Be a Peacemaker**

Read Matthew 5:9

Focal Verse “*Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.*” Matthew 5:9 (KJV)

We see so much unrest and conflict in our world today. When conflict erupts, hate wins. Sides are chosen and people are placed into two or more groups. When conflict permeates a society, trust is broken, and lives are negatively affected.

We see the same thing in churches. People choose sides and conflict impacts the church. When conflict happens in churches, Satan is the only winner. Most church conflict has little to do with Biblical issues and more to do with individual choices.

The actions of a few can cause the church to lose its witness in the community. Conflict divides families, friends and neighborhoods. Conflict brings bondage, but Peace brings freedom.

Jesus teaches us that peacemakers are needed. Those with the gift of peacemaking find ways to resolve conflict, bring unity, and help the church find peace. Blessed are the peacemakers.

For churches to experience revitalization there must be peace in the body. We must each ask ourselves – Am I an instrument of peace in the Body of Christ?

Prayer

Pray that God will bring peace into all churches. Pray that God will provide peacemakers, willing to work for the unity and revitalization of churches, both locally and worldwide.

### **Day 17 – Be a Servant**

Read Mark 10:42-45

Focal Verse “*And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all.*” Mark 10:44 (KJV)

In one of the churches I’ve been a member of there was a lady named Ruth who was a remarkable servant. Not many people knew her name and simply called her the “tea lady.” She served drinks at every church social. Ruth’s smile was remarkable and her heart to serve others was equally remarkable. The church is made up of many different types of individuals. Servants, such as Ruth, are the bedrock of all churches. Her smile and her work serving drinks made a huge impact on the lives she touched.

Jesus tells us that many want to control others, but He calls us to be “ministers” (KJV) or “servants.” For church revitalization to take root, servants are needed. Servants give of their time to impact others. Servanthood is critical to the process of revitalization. Christ calls us to be servant leaders, as He was a Servant Leader.

#### Prayer

Each of us is called to serve our church. Ministries are a gift from God. If you are not already serving, pray that God will reveal His special ministry for you. Pray - “How might I serve Your Kingdom Lord?” and then look for opportunities in the church and the community. Let’s serve as the hands and feet of Christ in our homes, churches, and communities.

### **Day 18 Begin with Brokenness**

Read Nehemiah 1:1-11

Focal Verse “*And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven.*” Nehemiah 1:4 (KJV)

God often uses brokenness to reveal vision. Nehemiah serves as an example of a leader who was broken over a city and its people. Enemies destroyed the wall around Jerusalem, leaving the city in a vulnerable position. The people were in great trouble and disgrace. Nehemiah sought God’s heart and followed His leadership. He made himself available for God to use.

Are we broken over the current reality of churches? Does our heart break for the lost and the lonely? Do we see situations in the family of Christ that are heartbreaking and brings us boldly to the Throne of God, praying for His intervention? These situations can be local, but they don’t have to be.

#### Prayer

Pray that God will give us eyes to see and hears to hear when viewing the world and how churches relate. Pray for all churches to have Godly Wisdom and Discernment. Pray that God makes us bold to seek His heart and follow His leadership. Pray He will make us eager to serve His plan in revitalizing His churches.

### **Day 19 – Be Salt**

Read Matthew 5:13-14

Focal Verse “*Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.*” Matthew 5:13 (KJV)

As followers of Jesus, we have potential to influence others for Christ. When lived for Christ, our lives can encourage others to glorify God (Matthew 5:16). We have potential to influence others in a negative way as well (Luke 17:1-3). To influence others for Christ is to be “salt.” To influence in negative ways is to be “salt that has lost its taste.”

When we face the extremes of warm summers and cold winters, we understand the importance of a thermostat. When a room is hot, we adjust the thermostat, and it works in connection with the air conditioner to regulate the temperature. We could say that the thermostat influences the room.

When we place a thermometer in that same room, the thermometer is influenced by the room’s temperature. If the room is warm, the reading on the thermometer adjusts to the surrounding temperature.

As the salt of the earth, we are called to influence the world for Christ not to be influenced by the world.

Prayer

Pray: Lord, reveal to me if my walk influences others or if I am influenced by others. May I have strength and wisdom to be a good influence for You. By my witness, may others see me as a servant and be motivated to serve.

### **Day 20 – Rely on God’s Power**

Read 1 Corinthians 4:16-20

Focal Verse “*For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power.*” 1 Corinthians 4:20 (KJV)

Some churches are praying churches. Some are giving churches. Some have great preachers. Some have great music. Some are welcoming and loving, like a family. Still, some are focused on worldly things. When we think of our church home, what immediately springs to mind?

The Word of God tells us that the Kingdom of God is not powered by words. We can use words to motivate people, but words without action are of no lasting value. Talk is cheap.

One of God’s greatest attributes is His omnipotence—He is all-powerful. For our churches to be revitalized we must plug into the power that comes only from God!

Throughout His Word, we find God using supernatural power to sustain His people, and He still does this today! Do we believe this?

We come to this Source of Power through prayer and meditation, not just when we need something, but in an ongoing relationship through Christ.

Prayer

Pray that God will make His Word known to us daily. Revitalization can only come when Christians, deep in the Word, pray for Divine leadership. Pray that God will move, and we will move with Him in obedience. He is the Power behind revitalization.

### **Day 21 – Strengthen Your Faith in the God Who Revives**

Read Ezekiel 37:1-14

Focal Verse *“Thus saith the Lord God unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live.”* Ezekiel 37:5 (KJV)

Parched and bleached by the sun, the brittle bones scattered across the valley presented a vision that summoned two words to the prophet’s mind—death and discouragement. The only thing more discouraging than the vision itself was the fact that God’s own people were represented by these abandoned bones. They had died, and their revitalization required significant intervention by God. This vision challenged Ezekiel’s faith. God asked him an unthinkable question, “Son of man, can these bones live?” He replied, “Lord God, only You know.” Ezekiel’s response revealed his thought, “If these dried bones live again, it will require a miracle from You, God.”

In the vision, God did what only He can do. As Ezekiel preached, the bones came together, wrapped by muscle and skin, and those corpses rose to life. The dry bones lived! Likewise, Israel was revived and restored.

This is an exciting lesson for us! God delights Himself in revitalizing that which seems to be dry and lifeless. Do we believe by faith that what God did in Ezekiel’s vision and for Israel, He can do for our churches, locally and worldwide?

Prayer

Pray that God will make us persistent in our prayers for revitalization. Pray that He will bring new life to the “dry and brittle bones” of His churches locally and worldwide.

### **Day 22 Discern God’s Plan**

Read Matthew 6:9-15

Focal Verse *“Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.”* Matthew 6:10 (KJV)

In this passage, Jesus teaches us how to pray. Each portion of His teaching gives us an important aspect of prayer. Verse 10 reminds us that God has a plan for His churches. Our church is a part of God’s kingdom. His desire is that His Kingdom penetrates neighborhoods, communities, cities, and ultimately the world with the Gospel. When we pray, “Your Kingdom come,” we are praying for God to work in and through churches to extend His Kingdom.

God sees the potential of all believers. In the mind of God, He envisions what Christ’s Bride can and should become in the future. We call that “God’s preferred future.” He loves the Church so much He doesn’t want it to remain where it is today.

When we pray, “Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven” we are asking God to reveal to us what He envisions for us. Through prayer and Biblical truth, we discern “next steps.” God’s voice must be our ultimate guide in all revitalization efforts.

Prayer

Pray that God will reveal to all churches His plan for the future. Pray that we will be faithful in carrying out the Great Commission. Pray that our church will be true to His every prompting.

### **Day 23 – Choose Your Side**

Read Joshua 5:13-15

Focal Verse “*And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the Lord am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my Lord unto his servant?*” Joshua 5:14 (KJV)

When Joshua, preparing for the heat of battle, saw a human figure with sword drawn, he went to the Man and asked if He was for them or against them. Joshua soon discovered the Man was an earthly appearance of Christ. The Man answered that He was neither for them nor against them, but instead the Captain of the Lord’s army. Joshua bowed down and worshipped Him.

During revitalization efforts, we must realize that God has the vision. We must prayerfully align with His vision. We are to submissively seek His Will, and not our own. We must seek unity with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Our actions must demonstrate the character of Christ in all our dealings. There is not my side and their side. There is either God’s side or the wrong side. Let us be about the Father’s business by prayerfully seeking His Will.

Prayer

Pray that God will bring us into perfect unity for His Church, locally and worldwide. Pray that God will make His desires known for our church, local churches, the community, and beyond.

### **Day 24 – Pursue the Keys to Healing**

Read 2 Chronicles 7:12-14

Focal Verse “*If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*” 2 Chronicles 7:14 (KJV)

In ancient Israel, excitement and optimism ruled the day. After seven years of construction, the Temple was built and dedicated. God’s presence manifested in an unusual way. Fire fell from heaven to consume the sacrifice and God’s glory filled the Temple.

Later, God appeared to Solomon at night and told him that not every day would be like the day of dedication. There would be days when, in an effort to draw His sinful and errant people back to Himself, God would send drought and pestilence.

God told Solomon His people were to pursue four things that would bring healing: *humility, prayer, repentance, and seeking God’s face.*

We are God’s people. We are His church. These are reasons for optimism and excitement! God wants to do a work of revitalization among His people. He still calls for four things: *humility, prayer, repentance, and seeking God’s face.* He has not changed.

Prayer

Pray that God will help His Church to humbly depend on Him, repent of sin, and diligently seek His face. How exciting that our God is still working with His people!

### **Day 25 – Love Jesus above All**

Read Revelation 2:1-7

Focal Verse “*Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.*” Revelation 2:4 (KJV)

The final line of the refrain from my favorite childhood hymn is, “Oh, how I love Jesus, because He first loved me.” When sung from a true heart, it is a beautiful offering of worship to our Lord. Our love for Jesus should not only be hailed in our worship, but it should also be the motivating factor for everything we claim to do for Him.

The church at Ephesus outwardly appeared to be a wonderful congregation. Jesus Himself pointed out their hard work, faithful endurance, worthy walk, and doctrinal integrity. The problem was that these works were performed out of duty, rather than out of love for the Savior. Though they did not know it, the Ephesian Christians needed revival. They were running the risk of losing their light for the Lord.

Many believers are wearing themselves out with a manic schedule of church, while seeing few results. In their harried lifestyle of “Christian” activities, they do not spend time cultivating their love for Jesus. They need a revival of the heart. They need to heed the words of Christ, “Remember then how far you have fallen; repent and do the works you did at first” (Rev. 2:5a).

Prayer

Pray telling Jesus how much you love Him. Thank God for His Son and for sending the Holy Spirit. Pray that all hearts will be reignited for Christ.

### **Day 26 – Seek God First**

Read Matthew 6:33

Focal Verse “*But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*” Matthew 6:33 (KJV)

A bank statement, a day planner, a church calendar, or a hospital stay often reveals our priorities. Misplaced priorities generally lead to hurt and confusion in our lives, marriages, families, and churches. Jesus gave His followers a simple and conditional promise. If believers would make the Father’s Kingdom a priority, then they would lack for nothing in life. That’s a priceless guarantee!

Seeking God first demonstrates that we recognize our dependence on Him, that we’re desperate for Him, and that we’re dedicated to Him. This is a great way to live and serve in all areas of ministry.

Unmet needs may be an indication that our priorities are out of order. We grow frustrated when our priorities grow misaligned with God’s priorities.

Prayer

Let’s pray seeking the Father first. Let’s ask God to direct us in service. Let’s ask Him to be in control of life, marriage, family, and ministry. Let’s pray for our priorities to be revitalized and realigned with Him.

### **Day 27 – Consider What Others Think**

Read Romans 15:1-3

Focal Verse “*Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification.*” Romans 15:2 (KJV)

A church is a family made up of people who belong to God through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ. Each person in the church has an opinion. Trouble arises when those opinions clash and some seemingly “get their way”, while others do not.

Romans 15:2 tells us to make it our aim to please others in the church. Trouble decreases when the members seek to join together around a mission and vision rather than each one pursuing his or her own preferences. Peace in the family means esteeming others more highly than self.

In any family, times of disagreement will arise. How can we love one another through these times of disagreement? Truly considering others our “family” goes a long way. Most people will not desert family over differences of opinion, but seek reconciliation and points of agreement. So it must be in our church family as well.

Prayer

Let’s pray that God will give us love in our hearts. Pray that He will give us ears to hear and eyes to see. Pray that He will help us truly hear the ideas of others. Pray that He will bring agreement and unity in all churches, both locally and worldwide.

### **Day 28 – Pursue Church Unity**

Read Psalm 133:1-3

Focal Verse “*Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!*” Psalm 133:1 (KJV)

Few things are more discouraging and distasteful than a heated church business meeting over a trivial issue. In the moment, when tensions are high and voices raised, no issue seems trivial. But we must always be aware of the danger of damaging relationships permanently with our emotions and words.

Consider, on the other hand, the beautiful and pleasing atmosphere created in the vision of Psalm 133. When a congregation is unified around knowing and serving God in the fulfillment of His purpose and vision for His church, it’s a beautiful thing. Not only is God pleased with appropriate church unity, but the people of God are pleased and enabled to experience more of the Holy Spirit’s power in their work for the Lord.

Prayer

Let’s pray to always be the voice of unity and peace in our church. Let’s pray that points of agreement will be available for all of God’s people and that we will humbly seek peace and never allow emotion to be in control. Peace and cooperation are critical as God’s Church seeks revitalization. Pray that a spirit of Godly peace-making will settle on churches locally and worldwide.

### **Day 29 – Love Your Leaders, Don't Idolize Them**

Read 1 Corinthians 3:3-4

Focal Verse *“For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal?”* 1 Corinthians 3:4 (KJV)

Church members often remember prior church pastors and ministry leaders fondly. After all, pastors, teachers, and other ministry leaders can have profound influence in the life of a growing Christian. Remembering is not the same as comparing. Comparison can be discouraging and even prove damaging in the ministry of the leaders God has called into service to His church. God has a plan, and we humbly trust His plan for the good and growth of our church.

Paul found the Corinthian church divided because of the different leadership personalities God had used in the past. Members picked sides. This led to division. Paul pointed out their error and challenged the Corinthian church to put away carnal favoritism.

We first submit to Christ and worship Him. Then, we do well to honor and love our church leaders, both past and present, while remembering that a disciple is never above His Master. Christ must be above all.

Prayer

Let's pray for our pastors and leaders today especially. Pray that God will fill them with the Holy Spirit, restoring the joy of Salvation, affirming them in their callings, and refocusing them on His mission. Pray for all pastors and leaders, locally and worldwide, as they undertake the work of leading the revitalization of ministries.

### **Day 30 – Become a Church Cheerleader**

Read Hebrews 10:24-25

Focal Verse *“And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”* Hebrews 10:24-25 (KJV)

The job of a cheerleader is to support the team and call the fans to action. Fans at a sports event can really make a difference as they cheer their team to fight for victory.

In church, we're both teammates and cheerleaders. Sometimes we're in the game, other times we're cheering for those working hard for Christ's mission.

How can we cheer for one another? We cheer by affirming the way God is using one of our brothers or sisters in the work of ministry, by supporting the work financially, by participating joyfully in worship, by lovingly greeting one another, by engaging thoughtfully in the times of teaching and preaching, and by seeking to be part of business meetings and planning periods. God calls each of us to be a positive part of our church home and our wider church community.

Prayer

Let's pray for God to lead us to be encouraging voices in our church and our church community. Let's pray that God will remove any negativity or roots of bitterness, as we strive together for revitalization of all churches, beginning with ours.



### **Day 31 – Discover and Do Your Part**

Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-7

Focal Verse “*But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.*” 1 Corinthians. 12:7 (KJV)

Two essential truths must guide revitalization efforts: First, every person has a part. 1 Corinthians 12 teaches that God gives spiritual gifts to every member of His church. God indwells us through His Holy Spirit and empowers us to serve the body in some important way.

Second, one person really can make a difference. While church unity matters greatly, one person serving God wholeheartedly can become a catalyst for the unity we long for. Every great journey begins with one single step. One person witnessing, praying, giving, serving, loving, and living for Christ can inspire others to do the same. Unity is a group of individuals standing as one. We stand in the One, Christ Jesus.

Prayer

Let us offer ourselves to God. May each of us surrender to His leading, asking for His guidance in how to live in Christian service. May we seek our individual place in the work of revitalization, knowing that we each have gifts to offer the One that offered His Son for us.

### **Day 32 – Build Up The Church**

Read 1 Corinthians 14:6-12

Focal Verse “*Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.*” 1 Corinthians 14:12 (KJV)

Paul is here speaking to young Christians in Corinth. There’s some desire to have certain spiritual gifts. Paul reminds the people that spiritual gifts are used to build up the church.

The Bible teaches that God gives all Christians spiritual gifts to be used for the building up of the entire body. Romans 12:6-8, 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, and 1 Corinthians 12:28 give insight into the various spiritual gifts.

God gives the gifts as He chooses, but many have never taken the time to discover his or her gifts. A further problem is that, even when someone knows his or her gift(s), he or she will not use them for the glory of God in His house. Worldly distraction, doubt, and fear are most often to blame for spiritual gifts remaining unused and withering over time.

A work of revitalization and restoration in God’s Church requires that we all use our spiritual gifts to build up the body of the church and reach the community for Christ.

Prayer

Let’s pray that God will lead us to seek and find our spiritual gifts. Let’s pray that we will not be distracted, doubtful, or fearful. Pray that God will multiply and amplify our gifts for His Glory. May we reach far beyond the walls of our church.

### **Day 33 – Love One Another**

Read John 13:34-35

Focal Verse “*A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.*” John 13:34, (KJV)

In the Upper Room, Jesus gave some final instructions to His apostles whom He would soon leave. He began by challenging His disciples to love one another as He had loved them. The fact that He addressed this issue in the Upper Room speaks to the importance of it. We must love one another.

Love and unity in the church are critical to revitalization. Jesus stated that all people would know we are His disciples by our love for one another. Some churches lack genuine love for one another. This leads to disunity, decline, and eventually disintegration. A watching world wonders if it can be loved by a group of people who do not seem to love one another.

In “The Mark of the Christian”, Francis Schaffer states that the love of Christ in the lives of believers is what sets them apart from the world. He concludes that the world has a right to judge the authenticity of Christ’s claims to be the Messiah, the Savior, the Son of God, by what they see in the lives of His followers. Does Jesus change lives? Are the lives of His followers different than those of the world? Do they truly love one another in difficult times? Do they live in unity and love with other Christians?

Prayer

Ask God to help us love one another, as Christ loved us. “One another” includes all Christians, local and worldwide.

### **Day 34 – Schedule a Church Check-up**

Read Acts 11:19-30

Focal Verse “*And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord.*” Acts 11:21 (KJV)

The church in Antioch was healthy and strong. News about the church reached Jerusalem. Barnabas reported that he saw the “Grace of God” when he arrived in Antioch. What a statement! This must be the goal of every church – living such that the Grace of God is evident to all that see.

It’s a fact that people talk about the church (good or bad) today as well. News spreads when the Grace of God shows in a church.

What are 7 signs of a healthy church?

1. Follows God’s leadership, altering the church to bend to God... not altering God to bend to the church.
2. Witnesses for Jesus.
3. Committed members.
4. Service in Unity.
5. Discipling and Baptizing Believers.
6. Generously giving of money, talents, time, and love.
7. Committed leaders.

Of course, there are many more signs of a healthy church. These seven offer an outline of what a healthy and revitalized church looks like.

Prayer

Pray that God will bless our church with health. Pray that He will send His helpers into any unhealthy churches and transform them by the Grace of God..

### **Day 35 – See The Power of Agreement**

Read Acts 6:1-7

Focal Verse *“And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.”*  
Acts 6:7 (KJV)

There is power in agreement.

In Acts 6:1-7, we witness a Godly mindset toward congregational decision-making and outcomes. The church needed help with its ministry to the congregation’s widows. Leadership proposed a solution and the proposal found favor with the congregation (6:5). The result was a unified church that continued to reach out with the Gospel and make more disciples.

Important decisions and difficult issues present opportunities. We have the opportunity to reflect the Godly mindset found in Acts 6 or a worldly mindset that divides people and leaves hurt feelings in its wake. Christ-focused decision-making leads to a unified church that continues to effectively reach others for the Gospel.

Prayer

Let’s pray that God will give wisdom to church leaders and church members alike with regards to His plan for church revitalization. May we pray that our plan perfectly aligns with His and we all rejoice in following His plan.

### **Day 36 – Look for God Among You**

Read 1 Corinthians 14:24-25

Focal Verse *“And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth.”* 1 Corinthians 14:25 (KJV)

Immanuel - God with us. Many church members highlight having spiritual, emotional, or relational needs met as the most important aspects of their church. Ministries that deepen relationship with God and strengthen fellowship with brothers and sisters are critical parts of a healthy and vibrant church.

What is most important in church? The answer is obvious. Immanuel. An unbeliever discovers the truth about the Savior, accepts Jesus as Savior, and announces to the church that he or she has “found God among us”. Immanuel. What a statement! Imagine our joy when this is said about every church, both locally and worldwide.

Prayer

Let us pray that God be the center of all in the church. Pray that every church will reflect His presence and that many souls will be saved because the truth of the Savior is found by a lost and hurting world. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

### **Day 37 Obey His Marching Orders**

Read Matthew 28:16-20

Focal Verse “*And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.*” Matthew 28:18 (KJV)

In military circles, when a high-ranking officer speaks, people listen and follow directions. Our Commander-in-Chief, Jesus Christ, has spoken and called His church to action. The Great Commission is not optional. Jesus expects His followers to obey His marching orders. Our marching orders begin at home and extend to the ends of the earth. The Great Commission is the mission mandate for every church, regardless of the church’s structure, size, or style.

In the act of carrying out this Great Commission, Jesus hasn’t called His people to merely record the decisions of people, but to make disciples. A disciple is a learner and follower of Christ. Christ promises that we will never be alone in the mission. Our Commander-in-Chief promises to always be with us.

We have been called and given our assignment. It is an assignment that can change lives, marriages, families, churches, and entire nations. We mustn’t delay. We mustn’t disobey. It is our Master’s call. How will we respond?

Prayer

Pray that we will respond quickly and enthusiastically to the Great Commission. May we allow ourselves to be used to impact our church, our community, our nation, and our world for His glory!

### **Day 38 – Raise the Temperature**

Read Revelation 3:14-22

Focal Verse “*So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.*” Revelation 3:16 (KJV)

As a result of a bad meal, a curvy road, or a contagious virus, we may begin to feel sick at the stomach. Feeling nauseated is uncomfortable.

Jesus challenged the Laodicean church on several points. The church’s real condition left Him nauseated. A lukewarm church makes Jesus sick to His stomach.

What led the Laodicean church to be lukewarm? God’s people thought they were self-sufficient. They thought that they didn’t need Jesus on a day-to-day basis.

This can become a reality in churches today as well. Many churches rely on worldly efforts, programs, staff, and marketing rather than relying on Jesus.

But there’s hope for a lukewarm church! Jesus gives His people an opportunity to repent and change directions.

Prayer

Let us pray that we are sensitive to what Christ sees when He looks upon us. May we be found relying on Him and not leaning unto our own understanding. He knocks on the heart of every individual. Will we hear His knock and receive Him in fellowship?

### **Day 39 – Strengthen What Remains**

Read Revelation 3:1-6

Focal Verse “*Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.*” Revelation 3:2 (KJV)

Jesus evaluated the church at Sardis and gave them His assessment. He then gave them His divine action plan. Christ said to, “Strengthen the things which remain.” It sounds as if there were some things in the church that were good and pleasing to God, but others needed attention before the church lost its vitality.

Most churches have one or more areas of strength. Some congregations are great mission churches which go on mission trips and give money to missions. Others are really good at welcoming outsiders in and making them feel loved and valued without feeling judged. Some are great worshipping congregations where folks are invited into the presence of God through singing and preaching.

Like Sardis though, all churches have areas that need attention. His plan – Strengthen the things which remain.

Prayer

Pray that God will raise up among His churches gifted people seeking to strengthen His churches. Ask that God will help build on areas of strength for His glory and strengthen any areas in need of attention.

### **Day 40 – Evaluate Your Church**

Read Revelation 3:1-6

Focal Verse “*And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.*” Revelation 3:1 (KJV)

Churches are always being evaluated. The first-time visitors have an opinion. The senior adults who attend have an opinion. The young families have opinions. The youth have opinions. The community has opinions too. Each opinion varies and carries merit.

The opinion that matters most is the opinion of Jesus. He is the Head of the church. The Church is His Bride.

We want to know Jesus’ opinions. They are sweet words of loving guidance and gentle rebuke. He knows the road to revitalization, both in our church and in all churches. With Him, our successful journey is assured! Without Him, we are hopelessly lost.

Prayer

Let’s pray that Christ will reveal His opinions. Pray that we have open eyes and listening ears, eager hearts to see His plan. Pray that we will follow Him in this journey of revitalization and faithfully pursue His goal of vibrant churches across our community. Lo, He is with us always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.