

Quick Win: When Your Church Stops Growing

In this Quick Win, I want to show you six things you can do when your church stops growing.

So where is the win, what is the win in this? Well, I think every church goes through seasons where there is no numerical growth and that is what I am talking about here, so it is important to understand what you can do in those seasons that can be quite disappointing for pastors and church leaders alike.

First let me say that churches are like t-shirts, we need all sizes. Don't wrap all your significance, value and sense of importance as a church leader, in the size of your church. Whether, you are a small church, medium or large or mega church, you are valuable, you are significant, you are important.

Now that I've got that out of the way, here are the six things.

1. Pray

First, pray! Seek the Lord. Continue your prayer life through seasons where your church is not growing or even declining, seems to be going backwards. Continue to have an encounter with the Lord at a personal level where you are waiting on the Lord, you are seeking Him, you are calling out to Him.

It'll sustain you through the season that you'd rather not be going through. We'd all rather be in seasons of growth, but when you are in a season of just plateau, of things just not going as you want, continue to seek the Lord.

2. Enjoy the exploits of Christ

The second thing is enjoy the exploits of Christ. Look around and see what Jesus is doing in your own life and in the people around you. Learn to roll out that question, what has Jesus been doing in your life in recent times and that can go back six months, twelve months.

But explore with people, when you have a chance over coffee after church or before church, explore with them, what Jesus is doing. When you go to visit a small group in your church just go around the room and say hey everyone tell us something that the Lord is doing.

It does not have to be big and kind of fireworks level it can just be a small thing, an important thing, a significant thing, but maybe not a large thing and I think feast on those exploits of what Jesus is doing in the heart of your church.

Because trust me, Jesus is working in your church.

3. Refresh your visitor pathway

Have a look from the digital door of your website and your Facebook and Instagram accounts right through to the physical door, parking for visitors. Have look inside the hub here of the visitor roadmap that “Growing your Church through Visitors” roadmap.

Kind of do a refresher of the visitor’s pathway and think through what’s the situation and what is the vibe and the feeling like for a visitor. Because the truth is without visitors, your church will not grow.

Have a look at the information you gather from visitors, how you gather that information, what you do with it, how you process it, how you follow up visitors, how you connect with them, how many are coming back. Look at your data.

Get all over the visitor pathway and refresh it. It'll be good for you to look at that because you may find that you are not doing enough with your visitors to actually get them back for the second and third visit.

4. Slay the comparison giant

I love the story in John 21 when the Lord is talking to Peter about how he is going to die and Peter turns around and says they, what about him? The Lord says, if I want him to live forever, if I want him to live until the kingdom comes, what is that to you?

In other words Peter if I bless the beloved disciple in different ways to how I bless you, what is that to you?

When you compare yourself with other churches, you are going to find other churches doing worse and doing better than you so slay that giant by just saying you know what, I am going to focus on what the Lord is doing in my church not in the church down the road.

Maybe you’ve got a church down the road that is booming, that is growing, and you think well, I am just not cutting it and I am not the guy or the woman for this situation. You know what, slay

those sort of thoughts. Decide you are not going to do the comparison game, you are going to look at what Jesus is doing.

You've got to focus on the Lord's exploits and how you are working and leading in your church in that manner and I think that will help you.

The comparison giant is alive and well in all of our hearts and minds, it's in my heart and mind, and every now and again you have to pull out the sword and run it through get rid of that beast.

5. Develop leaders

If your church is not growing that is not an excuse to sit back and just bemoan it and hope things get better. Pour your attention into some of your established and emerging leaders. Meet with them.

You can find various information, in fact under the whole element of I want to develop leaders, you will find that on the dashboard. I've got various things in there that will help you develop emerging and establish leaders.

Run a small group with emerging leaders. You can have a look at the Quick Win on that, or in the roadmap on that, you will find all sorts of information.

But the basic thought is get people together. Read or listen to something together or before you turn up and then discuss it over food and coffee.

Relate to people, connect with people, sow into people's lives, develop leaders. I know it is an up-and-down experience where some go on and some don't. But hey, over the years it'll bear you great fruit.

Never allow your discouragement to stop you from developing the leaders that God has put into your midst.

6. Take some small steps

What should you change today that you can have control over that will help your church get through this season? What can you fix today that is kind of not working that well?

What is working well that you could throw some petrol onto that fire and make it burn brighter? What is the step you need to take today to get you through this season?



MEMBER'S HUB

Okay that is been a real Quick Win, short and sweet to the point of six things you can do when your church is not growing.

Why don't you put something in the comments and tell me what do you think you could also do on top of my comments.

God bless you, thanks for joining me.