



Preaching for Revitalization

Preaching for revitalization requires us to be intentional about the priority of the mission of the church. Preaching for a life change requires us to do more than just share information in our sermons. The status quo will not do. We want to see people have a personal relationship with Jesus and to be transformed daily because of the Word preached.

God's answer to dilapidation is renovation, his answer to decline is revitalization. Resurrection is the process by which we follow the plan of God for his creation. Giving birth (starting new churches) and revitalizing are both the work of the Holy Spirit. Tell the stories of the widow of Nain's son, Jairus's daughter, Lazarus, Tabitha, Eutychus or Jesus. God makes all things new (Rev. 21:5), "Across a Christian landscape that looks and feels like a desert of decline, new oases of life are springing forth." (pg.37 *Deep Roots Wild Branches*)

Here are some go-to Bible books that can help you preach for revitalization:

- Ezekiel's vision of dry bones—a literal revitalization
- Haggai contains a message of returning to the work God calls us to do
- In the New Testament, the admonition of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane speaks to our prayerlessness
- The Second and Third Missionary journeys of Paul illustrate the need to strengthen existing churches
- Ephesians calls us to believe and live according to the plan of God
- Galatians addresses errant theology that leads to church problems. We believed God to save us now we should equally believe that the goodness of God releases us to live in the freedom of Christ, too
- The Corinthian correspondence answers specific instances in the fellowship of the church, including theological issues, ecclesiological issues and moral issues
- Jude urges believers to contend for the faith, to reject immorality and to submit to spiritual authorities, all huge issues for the church today
- Hebrews offers encouragement for those who are about to give up

For more assistance with your church's revitalization, please contact:

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