AN OVERVIEW OF REVITALIZATION

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Defining Church Revitalization

Church Revitalization is a **movement** within the greater evangelical church which emphasizes the **missional** work of turning a **plateaued** or **rapidly declining** church and moving it back toward **health**, **vitality**, **and growth**.

I. The Phases of Church Revitalization - Blueprint

- **<u>Refocusing</u>** For a church that is growing but needs to set new challenges and look for opportunities to expand their Gospel witness in their target area.
- **<u>Revisioning</u>** For a church that was once alive and vital but is on the verge of losing its focus and drive for the mission of Jesus.
- **<u>Renewal</u>** For a church that needs to get back on track. It needs a spiritual jump start.
- **<u>Reinvention</u>** For a church that needs new tools and techniques to help it adapt to a changing community or to a general societal shift. New experiences must replace old experiences. New practices must replace old practices.
- <u>**Restoration**</u> For a church that needs a fresh understanding of the new future, it must meet needs in order to give it a restored place in community.
- **<u>Resurrection</u>** For a church that must face the challenge that it has waited too long to enter into revitalization. This church has been flatlined and hanging on by means of its legacy and the faithful few who are attending.

Revitalization is a **<u>necessary</u>** and important aspect of the life of a church.

Every church will need seasons of intentional revitalization if it is to maintain spiritual vitality, freshness, and missional effectiveness.

The impact of the **<u>decision</u>** a church and its leadership make regarding revitalization will impact future generations.

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II. Priority of Revitalization - Biblical

- Church revitalization is an **apostolic priority**.
- The Acts of the Apostles emphasizes the expansion of the Gospel throughout the Roman Empire (and beyond) through <u>church planting</u>.
- The Epistles emphasized <u>church health</u> and <u>church</u> <u>revitalization</u>.

Some examples:

- 1 & 2 Corinthians
- Galatians
- 1 & 2 Timothy
- Titus
- 1 & 2 Peter
- 1, 2, & 3 John

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Jesus demonstrated his passion for the revitalization of the Seven Churches in Asia Minor (Revelation 2-3).

III. The Pastor and Revitalization - Behavior

Pastoral leadership is **<u>crucial</u>** to church revitalization.

Ten Characteristics of Effective Revitalization Pastors...

- 1. They are **visionary**.
- 2. They skillfully instill a sense of **urgency**.
- 3. They are willing to take **<u>risks</u>**.
- 4. They lean into **conflict**.
- 5. They persevere.
- 6. They accept **<u>responsibility</u>**.
- 7. They lead the church to celebrate <u>"wins."</u>
- 8. They demonstrate <u>dependence on</u> God.
- 9. They are *lifetime learners*.
- 10. They are confidently **<u>humble</u>**.