

## WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU LOSE YOUR MOTIVATION

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Discouragement and burn out are deadly enemies to the man of God. Many a preacher has hit a low, suffered a mental slump or just become weary in well doing. The battle rages, sometimes he seems to lose and the pressure cooker becomes unbearable. At such times the thrill and purpose of the ministry fades, overshadowed by problems, schedules, responsibilities and other ministerial cares. Quick steps are needed to rekindle the flame, reclaim the pastor and revive the ministry.

Such a pastor must first **RECALL**. Seek out a quiet place, get down on your knees and relive the time God called you to preach. Rethink the miracle of a Holy God reaching down to touch and call you to His service. Remember *"the gifts and calling of God are without repentance"* Rom 12:29. Once called, no other course will bring you happiness and fulfillment. Your acceptance of the call must be kept, enlarged upon and cherished. Take time to reconsider the marvel; God called me!

Then, **REPENT**. Honestly seek out the cause of your drop in spiritual metabolism. Are you a victim of personal neglect as you have struggled to meet the needs of others? Have your prayer time and devotions slipped? Your individual needs will never be met seeking sermons for others. Have you fallen into wasting hours before the TV or too much time on the inter net? The man of God can be too busy, just like his congregation, and miss out on the best from God. Worldly things can dull the ardor of the preacher and weaken his ministry. Paul said *"I keep under my body and*

*bring it unto subjection, lest by any means when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway"* I Cor. 9:27. Relentless abandonment of every immoral thought and action must be sought in this age of sensual involvement.

Another good step for a pastor is to **REMEMBER**. It is so easy to forget all the blessings and victories of the past when the storm clouds of present problems whirl about in endless array. Why not refocus on the blessings and victories of the past. Surely, God has been very good to you. He has never failed you and He never will. The Ephesus church was told to *"remember ,therefore, from whence thou hast fallen and repent and do the first works"* Rev. 2:5. The memory of past victories can help lift your tired arms to new challenges.

Now you are ready to **RENEW**. Seek out immediately the closer walk that will result in a new closeness to Christ. Take time to sit again at His feet, meditate on His word and grow to be like Him. Paul's hunger was *"that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His suffering, being conformable to His death"* Phil. 3:10. Be sure you allow nothing further to cloud your relationship with your Master. Rekindle the flame of love and appreciation that was once yours in former days. Refocus and recharge your spiritual batteries and seek to follow His daily direction.

Having taken these steps you are ready to **REGROUP**. As you revamp your plans you should expect success and press for victory. Follow the rule; if it works, don't fix it, if it failed then seek a better way. Eliminate and create. Find out what works with your church and enlarge upon it. Bathe the planning sessions with prayer. Major in the old proven

values and try new things if they do not violate the principles of the Bible. Seek to be "*steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord*" I Cor. 15:58. Gather your helpers, assemble the workers and prepare to do battle. Remember in every situation you and God are a majority.

Lastly, **REDEPLOY**. There are more lost and needy people than ever before. Satan is having a field day because so many believers have been neutered, battered, and discouraged. Gather the troops and rearm them with prayer. Remind them "*if God be for us, who can be against us*" Rom. 8:31. Assign them to their positions in battle, and prove you believe "*in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us*" Rom. 8:37.

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It is high time to lift up tired hands and sagging spirits. There is no greater call than that of being a man of God. It will be worth it all when we report to our Commander in Chief, Jesus Christ.