

16 Fundamental Truths for Understanding the Bible and reaching the world with the Gospel

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[with the Gospel of Jesus Christ](#)

The Assemblies of God: 85 Million adherents strong

I love being a part of a movement of God that is so large and diverse.

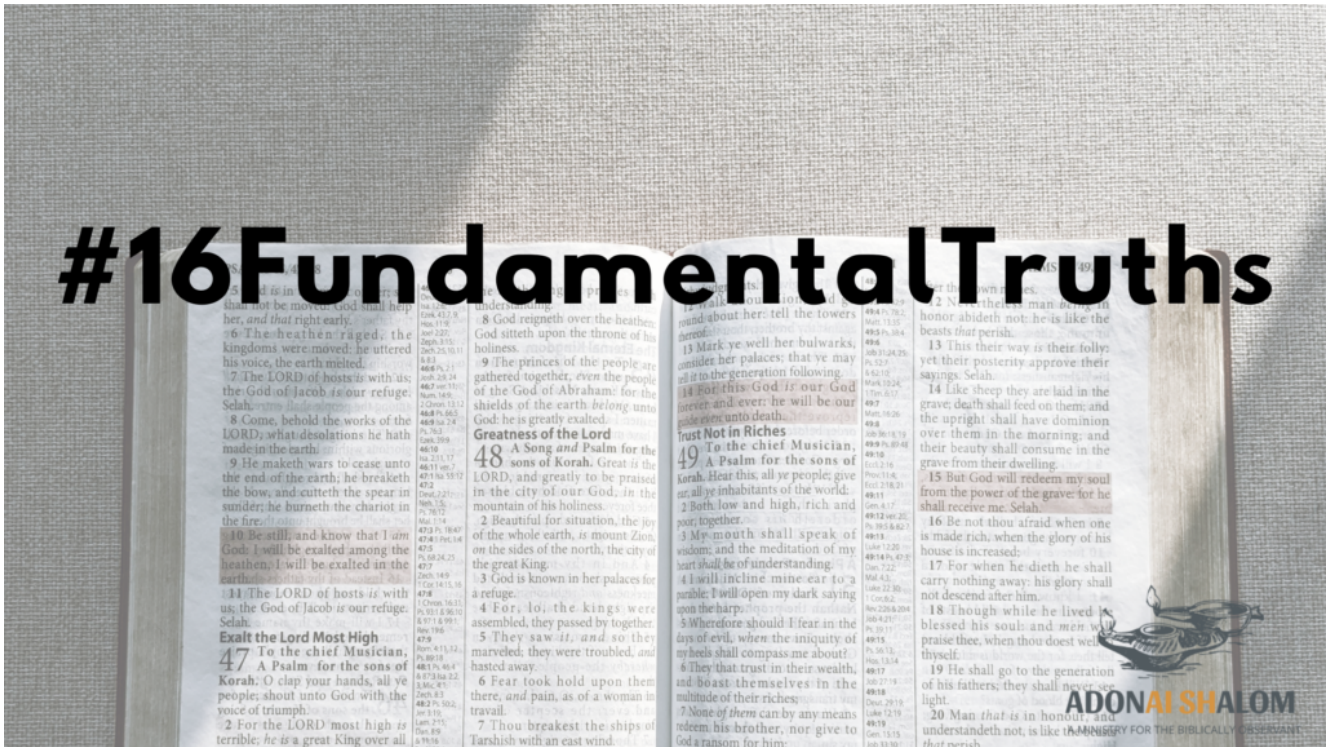
The Assemblies of God (AG) has over 85 million (yes, MILLION) adherents worldwide and continues to grow and flourish because of the ongoing ministry of the Holy Spirit through Jesus' servants all over the world. 85 million is a glorious testimony of the wonderful work pastors and missionaries are doing to reach the lost for the sake of the Gospel.

The Assemblies of God operates under the anointing of the Holy Spirit and a firm understanding of 16 Fundamental Truths that are entirely Biblical based.

These 16 Fundamental Truths unite believers all around the world.

More on that in a moment. First, let me tell you a funny story.

#16 Fundamental Truths



The Assemblies of God and church planting (a humorous story!)

I had a humorous conversation the other day when I took my sons to their swimming lessons.

A fellow homeschool mom found out that I had graduated from Divinity School and eagerly asked me to consider planting a church in her area. She said there was only one evangelical church near her rural home and felt another was needed.

The humorous part of this occurred when she went on to describe that evangelical church:

“It’s Assembly of God.”

I chuckled. “Oh, you’re not into the Assemblies of God?”

She looked at me with wide eyes and shook her head, vehemently, “no.”

“They are the crazy ones, right?”

She started to backpedal. "Well, um, yeah, kinda. Well, I don't mean they are that bad..."

I smiled and told her very matter-of-factly, "I'm an Assembly of God pastor! Nice to meet you!"

I went on to gently tell her that not all of us are crazy:

Pentecostal churches can get a bad rap. So much so that even Pentecostals tend to describe themselves as simply, "Spirit-filled" to distance themselves from 1) the true crazies and 2) oneness sects. I am adamant that we need to reclaim the term because there is absolutely nothing wrong with being 100% Trinitarian Pentecostal.

There are healthy Pentecostal churches just as there are unhealthy ones.

I know plenty about it because I just spent a full year in a declining church that refuses to acknowledge its pending demise. It is like a hospice for churches, and that is just plain sad. Churches should be full of life, intergenerational, and reaching the community. Churches should be teaching sound doctrine (such as these 16 Fundamental Truths) and reminding people of why they believe as they do so that they will be encouraged and equipped to reach more people in the community with the Good News.

I encouraged this mom to try another AG church sometime. I also invited her to our church plant which is launching soon.

The Assemblies of God is very intentional about church planting because it is a Biblical model that works. People get excited about being part of something new.

16 Fundamental Truths based

entirely on Biblical Principles

Many many years ago, the Spirit of the LORD inspired our forefathers and foremothers to write down 16 Fundamental Truths – quite nearly non-negotiables about the Scriptures. There are 4 Cardinal Doctrines which are absolutely non-negotiable. Those include Salvation, the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, Divine Healing, and the Second Coming of Christ because they are essential to the core of the Gospel and the church's mission.

Anyone who learns these basic 16 fundamental principles will acquire at least a basic understanding of the overall picture of God's plan for the salvation of humanity for those who will believe and trust in His Son Jesus (Messiah Yeshua).

The AG's 16 Fundamental Truths are considered non-negotiable because each of them are completely and firmly rooted in Scriptural evidence, and Scriptural verses are provided with each one.

I caution seekers to always check an organization's list of doctrine and ensure that it is entirely Scriptural because otherwise it is very easy for people to be taught incorrectly and led astray by the winds of false doctrine and heresy.

If a church (even an AG one!) falls into the "crazy" category, they may need to be reminded of the Biblical Fundamental Truths because the Bible will not lead us astray, but man's emotions sure can. We must pray for all Christian churches (both AG and non-AG), that they will follow sound Biblical doctrine.

I invite you to read the Assemblies of God Statement of 16 Fundamental Truths for yourself.

Then you will see, we are not so crazy after all! ☐

And if you really love them, there's even a [song](#)! (Hint: its

extremely useful if you are studying for AG credential exams!)

I also have a [free PDF printable for Bible memory verses](#) for children based on these 16 Fundamental Truths. You can find that [here](#).

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD STATEMENT OF 16 FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS



The Bible is our all-sufficient rule for faith and practice. This Statement of 16 Fundamental Truths is intended simply as a basis of fellowship among us (i.e., that we all speak the same thing, 1 Corinthians 1:10 [[KJV/NIV](#)]; Acts 2:42 [[KJV/NIV](#)]). The phraseology employed in this Statement is not inspired nor contended for, but the truth set forth is held to be essential to a full-gospel ministry. No claim is made that it covers all Biblical truth, only that it covers our need as to these fundamental doctrines.

1. [The Scriptures Inspired](#)
2. [The One True God](#)
3. [The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ](#)

4. [The Fall of Man](#)
 5. [The Salvation of Man](#)
 6. [The Ordinances of the Church](#)
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 14. [The Millennial Reign of Christ](#)
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1. THE SCRIPTURES INSPIRED

The Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments, are verbally inspired of God and are the revelation of God to man, the infallible, authoritative rule of faith and conduct.

- 2 Timothy 3:15-17 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- 1 Thessalonians 2:13 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- 2 Peter 1:21 [[KJV/NIV](#)]

#16 Fundamental Truths

2. THE ONE TRUE GOD

The one true God has revealed Himself as the eternally self-existent "I AM," the Creator of heaven and earth and the Redeemer of mankind. He has further revealed Himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association as

Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

- Deuteronomy 6:4 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Isaiah 43:10,11 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Matthew 28:19 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Luke 3:22 [[KJV/NIV](#)]

#16 Fundamental Truths

THE ADORABLE GODHEAD

a. Terms Defined

The terms “Trinity” and “persons” as related to the Godhead, while not found in the Scriptures, are words in harmony with Scripture, whereby we may convey to others our immediate understanding of the doctrine of Christ respecting the Being of God, as distinguished from “gods many and lords many.” We therefore may speak with propriety of the Lord our God who is One Lord, as a trinity or as one Being of three persons, and still be absolutely scriptural.

- Matthew 28:19 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- 2 Corinthians 13:14 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- John 14:16-17 [[KJV/NIV](#)]

b. Distinction and Relationship in the Godhead

Christ taught a distinction of Persons in the Godhead which He expressed in specific terms of relationship, as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, but that this distinction and relationship, as to its mode is inscrutable and incomprehensible, because unexplained.

- Luke 1:35 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- 1 Corinthians 1:24 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Matthew 11:25-27 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Matthew 28:19 [[KJV/NIV](#)]

- 2 Corinthians 13:14 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- 1 John 1:3-4 [[KJV/NIV](#)])

c. Unity of the One Being of Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Accordingly, therefore, there is that in the Father which constitutes him the Father and not the Son; there is that in the Son which constitutes Him the Son and not the Father; and there is that in the Holy Spirit which constitutes Him the Holy Spirit and not either the Father or the Son. Wherefore the Father is the Begetter, the Son is the Begotten, and the Holy Spirit is the one proceeding from the Father and the Son. Therefore, because these three persons in the Godhead are in a state of unity, there is but one Lord God Almighty and His name one.

- John 1:18 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- John 15:26 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- John 17:11 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- John 17:21 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Zechariah 14:9 [[KJV/NIV](#)]

d. Identity and Cooperation in the Godhead

The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are never identical as to Person; nor confused as to relation; nor divided in respect to the Godhead; nor opposed as to cooperation.

The Son is in the Father and the Father is in the Son as to relationship.

The Son is with the Father and the Father is with the Son, as to fellowship. The Father is not from the Son, but the Son is from the Father, as to authority.

The Holy Spirit is from the Father and the Son proceeding, as to nature, relationship, cooperation and authority. Hence, neither Person in the Godhead either exists or works separately or independently of the others.

- John 5:17-30 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- John 5:32 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- John 5:37 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- John 8:17,18 [[KJV/NIV](#)]

#16 Fundamental Truths

e. The Title, Lord Jesus Christ

The appellation, “Lord Jesus Christ,” is a proper name. It is never applied in the New Testament, either to the Father or to the Holy Spirit. It therefore belongs exclusively to the Son of God.

- Romans 1:1-3,7 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- 2 John 3 [[KJV/NIV](#)]

f. The Lord Jesus Christ, God with Us

The Lord Jesus Christ, as to His divine and eternal nature, is the proper and only Begotten of the Father, but as to His human nature, He is the proper Son of Man. He is therefore, acknowledged to be both God and man; who because He is God and man is “Immanuel,” God with us.

- Matthew 1:23 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- 1 John 4:2 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- 1 John 4:10 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- 1 John 4:14 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Revelation 1:13 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Revelation 1:17 [[KJV/NIV](#)]

g. The Title, Son of God

Since the name “Immanuel” embraces both God and man in the one Person, our Lord Jesus Christ, it follows that the title, Son of God, describes His proper deity, and the title, Son of Man, His proper humanity. Therefore, the title Son of God, belongs to the order of eternity, and the title, Son of Man, to the

order of time.

- Matthew 1:21-23 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- 2 John 1:3 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- 1 John 3:8 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Hebrews 7:3 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Hebrews 1:1-13 [[KJV/NIV](#)]

h. Transgression of the Doctrine of Christ

Wherefore, it is a transgression of the Doctrine of Christ to say that Jesus Christ derived the title, Son of God, solely from the fact of the incarnation, or because of His relation to the economy of redemption.

Therefore, to deny that the Father is a real and eternal Father, and that the Son is a real and eternal Son, is a denial of the distinction and relationship in the Being of God; a denial of the Father, and the Son; and a displacement of the truth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh.

- 2 John 9 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- John 1:1 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- John 1:2 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- John 1:14 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- John 1:18 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- John 1:29 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- John 1:49 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- 1 John 2:22,23 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- 1 John 4:1-5 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Hebrews 12:2 [[KJV/NIV](#)]

i. Exaltation of Jesus Christ as Lord

The Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, having by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; angels and principalities and powers having been made subject unto Him.

And having been made both Lord and Christ, He sent the Holy Spirit that we, in the name of Jesus, might bow our knees and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father until the end, when the Son shall become subject to the Father that God may be all in all.

- Hebrews 1:3 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- 1 Peter 3:22 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Acts 2:32-36 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Romans 14:11 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- 1 Corinthians 15:24-28 [[KJV/NIV](#)]

j. Equal Honor to the Father and to the Son

Wherefore, since the Father has delivered all judgment unto the Son,

it is not only the express duty of all in heaven and on earth to bow the knee,

but it is an unspeakable joy in the Holy Spirit to ascribe unto the Son all the attributes of Deity, and to give Him all honor and the glory contained in all the names and titles of the Godhead except those which express relationship

(see Distinction and Relationship in the Godhead, Unity of the One Being of Father, Son and Holy Spirit , and Identity and Cooperation in the Godhead) and thus honor the Son even as we honor the Father.

- John 5:22,23 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- 1 Peter 1:8 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Revelation 5:6-14 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Philippians 2:8,9 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Revelation 7:9-10 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Revelation 4:8-11 [[KJV/NIV](#)]

3. THE DEITY OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

The Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. The Scriptures declare:

His virgin birth,

- Matthew 1:23 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Luke 1:31 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Luke 1:35 [[KJV/NIV](#)]

His sinless life,

- Hebrews 7:26 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- 1 Peter 2:22 [[KJV/NIV](#)]

His miracles,

- Acts 2:22 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Acts 10:38 [[KJV/NIV](#)]

His substitutionary work on the cross,

- 1 Corinthians 15:3 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- 2 Corinthians 5:21 [[KJV/NIV](#)]

His bodily resurrection from the dead,

- Matthew 28:6 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Luke 24:39 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- 1 Corinthians 15:4 [[KJV/NIV](#)]

His exaltation to the right hand of God.

- Acts 1:9 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Acts 1:11 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Acts 2:33 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Philippians 2:9-11 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Hebrews 1:3 [[KJV/NIV](#)]

#16 Fundamental Truths

4. THE FALL OF MAN

Man was created good and upright; for God said, "Let us make man in our own image, after our likeness." However, man by voluntary transgression fell and thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death, which is separation from God.

- Genesis 1:26,27 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Genesis 2:17 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Genesis 3:6 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Romans 5:12-19 [[KJV/NIV](#)]

#16 Fundamental Truths

5. THE SALVATION OF MAN

Man's only hope of redemption is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

Conditions to Salvation

Salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. By the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, being justified by grace through faith, man becomes an heir of God, according to the

hope of eternal life.

- Luke 24:47 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- John 3:3 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Romans 10:13-15 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Ephesians 2:8 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Titus 2:11 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Titus 3:5-7 [[KJV/NIV](#)]

The Evidence of Salvation

The inward evidence of salvation is the direct witness of the Spirit.

- Romans 8:16 [[KJV/NIV](#)]

The outward evidence to all men is a life of righteousness and true holiness.

- Ephesians 4:24 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Titus 2:12 [[KJV/NIV](#)]

#16 Fundamental Truths

16 Fundamental Truths:

6. THE ORDINANCES OF THE CHURCH

BAPTISM IN WATER

The ordinance of baptism by immersion is commanded by the Scriptures. All who repent and believe on Christ as Saviour and Lord are to be baptized. Thus they declare to the world that they have died with Christ and that they also have been raised with Him to walk in newness of life.

- Matthew 28:19 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Mark 16:16 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Acts 10:47,48 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Romans 6:4 [[KJV/NIV](#)]

HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements –bread and the fruit of the vine– is the symbol expressing our sharing the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:4 [[KJV/NIV](#)]), a memorial of his suffering and death (1 Corinthians 11:26 [[KJV/NIV](#)]), and a prophecy of His second coming (1 Corinthians 11:26 [[KJV/NIV](#)]), and is enjoined on all believers “till He come!”

#16 Fundamental Truths

7. THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Spirit and fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This was the normal experience of all in the early Christian Church. With it comes the enduement of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry.

- Luke 24:49 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Acts 1:4 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Acts 1:8 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- 1 Corinthians 12:1-31 [[KJV/NIV](#)]

This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth.

- Acts 8:12-17 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Acts 10:44-46 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Acts 11:14-16 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Acts 15:7-9 [[KJV/NIV](#)]

With the baptism in the Holy Spirit come such experiences as:

- an overflowing fullness of the Spirit, John 7:37-39 [[KJV/NIV](#)], Acts 4:8 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- a deepened reverence for God, Acts 2:43 [[KJV/NIV](#)], Hebrews 12:28 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- an intensified consecration to God and dedication to His work, Acts 2:42 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- and a more active love for Christ, for His Word and for the lost, Mark 16:20 [[KJV/NIV](#)]

#16 Fundamental Truths

8. THE INITIAL PHYSICAL EVIDENCE OF THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

The baptism of believers in the Holy Spirit is witnessed by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives them utterance.

- Acts 2:4 [[KJV/NIV](#)]

The speaking in tongues in this instance is the same in essence as the gift of tongues, but is different in purpose and use.

- 1 Corinthians 12:4-10 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- 1 Corinthians 12:28 [[KJV/NIV](#)]

9. SANCTIFICATION

Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil, and of dedication unto God.

- Romans 12:1,2 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- 1 Thessalonians 5:23 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Hebrews 13:12 [[KJV/NIV](#)]

The Scriptures teach a life of “holiness without which no man shall see the Lord.”

- Hebrews 12:14 [[KJV/NIV](#)]

By the power of the Holy Spirit we are able to obey the command: “Be ye holy, for I am holy.”

- 1 Peter 1:15,16 [[KJV/NIV](#)]

Sanctification is realized in the believer by recognizing his identification with Christ in His death and resurrection, and by the faith reckoning daily upon the fact of that union, and by offering every faculty continually to the dominion of the Holy Spirit.

- Romans 6:1-11 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Romans 6:13 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Romans 8:1,2 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Romans 8:13 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Galatians 2:20 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Philippians 2:12,13 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- 1 Peter 1:5 [[KJV/NIV](#)]

10. THE CHURCH AND ITS MISSION

The Church is the Body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of her great commission. Each believer, born of the Spirit, is an integral part of the General Assembly and Church of the Firstborn, which are written in heaven.

- Ephesians 1:22,23 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Ephesians 2:22 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Hebrews 12:23 [[KJV/NIV](#)]

Since God's purpose concerning man is to seek and to save that which is lost, to be worshipped by man, to build a body of believers in the image of His Son, and to demonstrate His love and compassion for all the world, the priority reason for being of the Assemblies of God as part of the Church is:

1. To be an agency of God for evangelizing the world.
2. To be a corporate body in which man may worship God.
3. To be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son.
4. To be a people who demonstrate God's love and compassion for all the world.

The Assemblies of God exists expressly to give continuing emphasis to this reason for being in the New Testament apostolic pattern by teaching and encouraging believers to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. This experience:

1. Enables them to evangelize in the power of the Spirit with accompanying supernatural signs.

2. Adds a necessary dimension to worshipful relationship with God.
3. Enables them to respond to the full working of the Holy Spirit in expression of fruit and gifts and ministries as in New Testament times for the edifying of the body of Christ and care for the poor and needy of the world.

#16 Fundamental Truths

11. THE MINISTRY

A divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for the fourfold purpose of leading the Church in:

Evangelization of the world.

- Mark 16:15-20 [[KJV](#)/[NIV](#)]

Worship of God.

- John 4:23,24 [[KJV](#)/[NIV](#)]

Building a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son.

- Ephesians 4:11-16 [[KJV](#)/[NIV](#)]

Meeting human need with ministries of love and compassion.

- Psalms 112:9 [[KJV](#)/[NIV](#)]
- Galatians 2:10; 6:10 [[KJV](#)/[NIV](#)]
- James 1:27 [[KJV](#)/[NIV](#)]

12. DIVINE HEALING

Divine healing is an integral part of the gospel. Deliverance from sickness is provided for in the atonement, and is the privilege of all believers.

- Isaiah 53:4,5 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Matthew 8:16,17 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- James 5:14-16 [[KJV/NIV](#)]

13. THE BLESSED HOPE

The resurrection of those who have fallen asleep in Christ and their translation together with those who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord is the imminent and blessed hope of the church.

- 1 Thessalonians 4:16,17 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Romans 8:23 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Titus 2:13 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- 1 Corinthians 15:51,52 [[KJV/NIV](#)]

14. THE MILLENNIAL REIGN OF CHRIST

The second coming of Christ includes the rapture of the

saints, which is our blessed hope, followed by the visible return of Christ with His saints to reign on earth for one thousand years.

- Zechariah 14:5 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Matthew 24:27 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Matthew 24:30 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Revelation 1:7 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Revelation 19:11-14 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Revelation 20:1-6 [[KJV/NIV](#)]

This millennial reign will bring the salvation of national Israel,

- Ezekiel 37:21,22 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Zephaniah 3:19,20 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Romans 11:26,27 [[KJV/NIV](#)]

and the establishment of universal peace.

- Isaiah 11:6-9 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Psalms 72:3-8 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Micah 4:3,4 [[KJV/NIV](#)]

#16 Fundamental Truths

15. THE FINAL JUDGMENT

There will be a final judgment in which the wicked dead will be raised and judged according to their works. Whosoever is not found written in the Book of Life, together with the devil and his angels, the beast and the false prophet, will be consigned to the everlasting punishment in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.

- Matthew 25:46 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Mark 9:43-48 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Revelation 19:20 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Revelation 20:11-15 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Revelation 21:8 [[KJV/NIV](#)]

#16 Fundamental Truths

16. THE NEW HEAVENS AND THE NEW EARTH

“We, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness.”

- 2 Peter 3:13 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Revelation 21 [[KJV/NIV](#)]
- Revelation 22 [[KJV/NIV](#)]

#16 Fundamental Truths

Praying for a continued outpouring of the Holy Spirit as missionaries and pastors reach people around the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ

If you are a follower of Jesus, we pray for you and ask that you would pray for us and the continued work that God is doing. We must pray with urgency in these last days, that many more would come into a saving relationship with our LORD and Savior Jesus Christ (Yeshua haMashiach), the King of Israel and the King of the Universe.

The 16 Fundamental Truths are one way that God has united the Pentecostal movement of the Assemblies of God fellowship. We are excited about the future and all God will continue to do using men and women who are willing to step out in faith and preach the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

If you will join us in this effort, to pray continually, please leave a comment!

We love to hear from you and pray for you!

The 5 R's of Church Revitalization

20 Tevet 5784, B"H

- [The Need for Church Revitalization & Revival](#)
- [1. Revival Requires Repentance](#)
- [2. Revitalization is Restorative](#)
- [3. Recognition of what remains](#)
 - [A closer look at the Church in Sardis](#)
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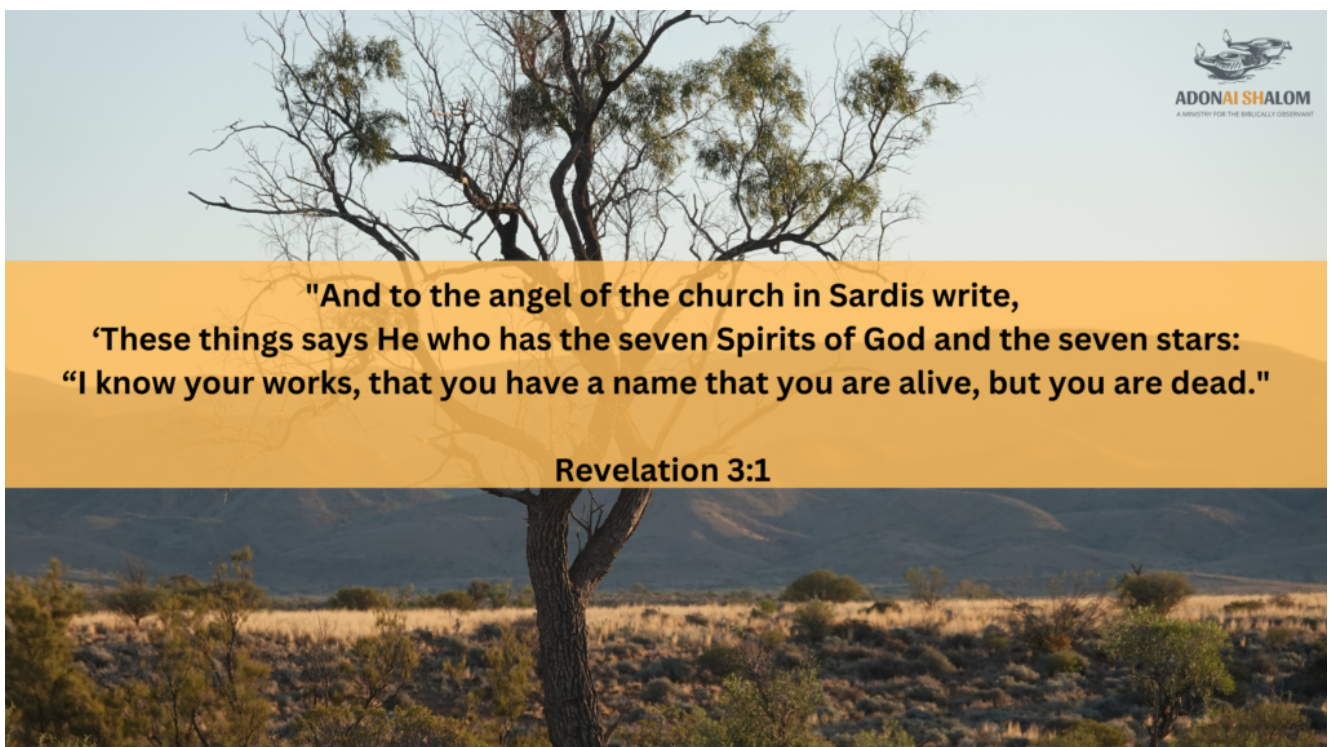
The Need for Church Revitalization

& Revival

Many churches today are in great need of spiritual revitalization.

Extensive programming, elegant building layouts, and cinematic lighting will never bring revival to the church.

Some churches have become like the Church at Sardis, spoken of in the book of [Revelation](#):



"And to the angel of the church in Sardis write,
'These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars:
"I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead."

Revelation 3:1

["And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, 'These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: 'I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.'" Revelation 3:1 \(NKJV\) \(emphasis added\)](#)

Is there hope for a church like this?

Can a church that believes it is alive, but is actually dead, experience spiritual renewal, revival, and revitalization?

The answer is: yes!

There is **always** hope in Jesus our Messiah!

Let's examine some ways that established assemblies of believers can experience true church revitalization.

1. Revival Requires Repentance

Revival requires repentance – hungry hearts who long for a true, personal, and meaningful relationship with the Creator – with our Father who loves us and gave His Son to die on the cross for our sins.

I like the translation found in the NIV version of [Habakkuk 3:2](#). Here, the Prophet Habakkuk expresses a longing for revival:

“LORD, I have heard of your fame;
I stand in awe of your deeds, LORD.
Repeat them in our day,
in our time make them known;
in wrath remember mercy.”

[Habakkuk 3:2 \(NIV\)](#)



If a church genuinely wants to experience growth and a spiritual (and often, numerical!) turnaround, that entire

congregation needs to get on its knees.

Remember all that God has done in the past! Give thanks for the history of that church!

I always remind church leaders that they must be cautious to entrust the future of their church to God's Almighty plan, not to their own personal plans.

If we are sincere in our prayers that God will repeat in our day His awesome deeds, we must be willing to do things the way He leads us, not our own ways. When we are willing to obey Him and follow His leadership, we can experience a dramatic turnaround leading to noticeable church revitalization.

2. Revitalization is Restorative

Consider the etymology of the term, "revitalization."

See the "vital" in there.

Have you checked your spiritual vitals? How is your spiritual pulse doing? Is your church or spiritual life's heartbeat strong and life-giving?

To "re-vitalize" is "to give new life to" something again. Revitalization is life-giving.

Too many churches have settled in with their routine or their membership numbers. They are content because they make their budget every week, but is there truly "life?"

Life reproduces life. A healthy, life-giving church is full of people who have hearts for evangelism – reaching out to others in their community with the Gospel. Church revitalization occurs when a healthy church begins to see visitor numbers increase and overall enthusiasm increases among the church membership. This is very restorative and provides new hope across generations.

3. Recognition of what remains

Some churches will be beyond repair, in a sense.

Sometimes years of poor leadership, bad financial decisions, or a local crisis can cause a church to make the difficult decision to close its doors.

It can be quite the challenge to experience true church revitalization in a church that has become overly comfortable or unwilling to accept change. Nonetheless, restoration should always be the initial goal, with the acknowledgement/recognition that churches are imperfect human institutions that are not always ultimately viable despite our best efforts.

There are times when planting a new church altogether is a much better option.

The freshness of a new, exciting work led by the Holy Spirit can draw many new souls into a saving relationship with the LORD. Church planting can revitalize a community. If your church leadership is unsure whether or not to work toward church revitalization or scrap it and support the planting of a new church instead, there are church consultants who can help you discern some next steps.

Sometimes it seems we give up too soon on some of the established congregations. Seeking revival and revitalization in an already established church can also bring greater vitality to the surrounding community. However, this requires a great deal of patience and prayer so that the leadership as a whole will be open to the changes necessary to get back on track with outreach and ministry.

[“And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.” Galatians 6:9](#)



"And let us not grow weary while doing good,
for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart."

GALATIANS 6:9

Working toward church revitalization is a process that requires patience and endurance.

A closer look at the Church in Sardis

Consider the passage from [Revelation 3:1-6](#):

"And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, 'These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: "I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead."

Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.

You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I

[will confess his name before My Father and before His angels. "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." ' Revelation 3:1-6](#)

The command here is to ["be watchful" \(v.2\).](#)

Observation and Caring Analysis

Sometimes the first step is to simply observe what is going on in a congregation that needs revival. What has caused the lackluster feeling that seems to abound? Did the congregation abandon key components of a healthy doctrine? Did a tragedy occur that damaged the health of the church or community?

Be watchful, in love.

Check out the next part of that same verse. ["Strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die..." \(Rev.3:2\).](#)



"Strengthen what remains."

The Word of God doesn't say, "abandon the things which remain" nor does it say "quit now."

But the Word of God does acknowledge the life-cycle. That

certain things are “ready to die.”

Maybe a devotion to certain carpet colors needs to die.

Maybe an obsession with certain music styles needs to die.

Maybe an overall mindset within the church that is hindering the work also needs to die.

Strengthening what remains

Strengthen what remains – make sure there is sound doctrine being preached and love being demonstrated. Make sure that what remains is so very strengthened that it has the capacity to receive newcomers and reach out to the community to invite them into the church.

[“Remember therefore how you have received and heard . . .”](#)

[Revelation 3:3](#)



In order for a ministry to feel refreshed and truly become resurrected, that ministry needs to be standing on the firm foundation of the Word of God. Any deviation from that, and it will fall (and, in that case, probably should because any

disinterest in sound doctrine is disinterest in remaining a truly Biblical work). Slick marketing campaigns can't save a church, but God's Word sure can.

Doctrinal soundness and purpose

Remember therefore, how you have received and heard. The congregation must be reminded of all that is their legacy. They have received the inheritance of the Gospel and must once again find purpose in that. Intentional church revitalization is not only possible, but it is something that should be sought.

Reminder: repentance is key

["Hold fast and repent." Revelation 3:3](#)



See, there it is. Repentance really is key. In a declining church, something happened at some point that caused the downward turn. Without repentance and a renewed vision, the work cannot be restored. But with repentance and obedience to God's will and way, church revitalization is absolutely possible.

4. Reassurance for the Remnant

[“You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.” Revelation 3:4-5](#)

There often remains a remnant of faithful believers who find themselves attending a struggling church. These brothers and sisters in the LORD are charged with praying for church revitalization and remaining faithful wherever God has them.

[God’s Word](#) is ever filled with comforting reassurances for those who are truly a part of the remnant:

[“They shall walk with Me in white.” Revelation 3:4](#)



We shall walk with Jesus! Wearing white – blameless, for those who love the LORD have been declared worthy ([Rev.3:4](#)). Jesus (Yeshua) says that those who have been deemed faithful will not be blotted out from the Book of Life and He will confess our names before His Father and His angels ([Rev.3:5](#)).

Church leaders responsible to help an assembly in need of church revitalization should identify the true remnant in that place who have persisted faithfully. Establish consistent prayer meetings and pursue God for help in increasing the spiritual vitality of that local church body.

Signs of church revitalization

A church that is beginning to experience church revitalization will begin to reflect greater love toward one another and neighbors. It is important to pray against the spirit of spiritual apathy. A church that is making a positive turnaround will begin to truly love the community around them. You will notice greater warmth among the believers and heightened enthusiasm.

A healthy church is also multigenerational. If a church has become stagnant, this is often related to a lack of age diversity among the regular attendees. A sign that a church is experiencing revival or revitalization is the presence of many generations, worshipping together in unity. A vibrant church experiencing revival will naturally reach out to the wider community around them.

Churches experiencing revitalization will naturally grow. People will be attracted to the presence of the Spirit of the LORD among the people.

If your church is in need of restoration and revitalization, please let us know so we can be praying for you! Pray for the leaders involved with plans to revitalize ministries – for steadfastness and wisdom! It is exciting to walk with the LORD, and so rewarding as we see churches revitalized and restored!

But always remember – it is not we ourselves who can make these changes – we need the LORD who touches hearts and brings about the healing and restoration our churches need!