

Pray Like Your Ministry Depends On It

When 2020 dawned I bet you had a lot of plans and ideas on how this year would go, both personally and for your church. Yeah, me too. Funny how God uses a pandemic to change our plans. But we're here. If I haven't lost you yet, and you're willing to keep reading a little further, I believe you'll be encouraged and refreshed! So, come along for a minute. Silence your phone. Inhale. Exhale. Let's go!

First and foremost, pray. Pray like your ministry depends on it (because it does). Prayer is not something we simply do in the battle, prayer *is* the battle. Pray. God loves His church, and God wants to use you in the place He has you to lead His people to spiritual health and maturity. You have been good at praying, don't stop now! Pray, make plans, and be flexible.



Second, focus on what really matters. Church is not the building, church is the people. It's about us leading people to love God, love people and make disciples - that's what matters. God has made this very clear in our church coming *into* this current season and has given clarity *in* this season that this is what really matters.

I, like you, get questions like: is this the end of the world? Is Jesus coming back? Why are we obeying our authorities? My answers: I don't know. I know He will. Because we're commanded to. What God has shown us is that no matter the season, no matter the pandemic, no matter if Christianity is outlawed - nothing changes. Our call remains the same: we love God, love people and make disciples. This has brought a lot of clarity to our ministry and helps to answer questions about... everything.

The third thing, and this is important to remember, I believe you're doing better than you think at leading through this season. Remember, none of us has lead through a pandemic before. We all feel like we're shooting at a moving target. There are loud voices on all sides of the social and political issues. It's ok. Keep leading people to focus on what really matters. Stay flexible. Pray.

I know church doesn't look the same, but maybe that's a good thing. Maybe we shouldn't try to *do* church like we have been. I believe God is leading His church to a place of transformation. For us, church has been about building community and engagement online. We prayed together for 74 nights in a row and had high engagement. Even now, meeting both online and in person, we continue to do all that we can to create an environment or people to connect and build community. Leverage the technology available to you to make an impact in people's lives. Stay flexible. Keep praying.

Finally, know that you're not alone. There are many other pastors with the same concerns, worries (am I allowed to say that?) and hopes for the future. Pray. Stay flexible. Focus on what really matters. Lead people to do the same. Then, no matter the season, you and I will stand strong in Christ, for His glory.

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