5 SIGNS YOUR CHURCH MAY BE STUCK

AND WHAT TO DO NEXT

Every church has seasons of change. Some are marked by growth and vitality, while others appear stagnant or declining. No matter the season, if you're sensing something isn't quite right, there are a few warning signs you should look for to help you discern the best steps to take to get unstuck.

1. Lack of Clear Vision or Direction

People are perpetually in a state of busyness without any balance. This busyness causes ministry to feel more like survival than mission. Proverbs 29:18 reminds us, "Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he." This verse teaches that when God's Word and guidance are absent, people drift into disorder because they depend on their own strength and capabilities instead of the Lord's, giving way to disorder, chaos, and stress.

A church without a clear, Scripture-rooted vision may quickly lose its sense of direction and mission. So, start from the beginning and get back to your 'Why." Seek clarity from the Lord through His Word, make your vision and purpose clear with the people around you, and then lead them and serve alongside them in obedience.

2. Worship Feels Mechanical or Empty

If you have to stir and motivate people to worship, you'll have to manufacture that same desire and joy every single time to keep them engaged. Matthew 15:8 warns, "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me." So, for our hearts to not be far from the Lord, we must all stir ourselves to worship Him daily in private with our obedience and love. Then our public worship will not be contrived but an outpouring. Reignite authentic worship, testimony, and passion within your church.

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3. Experiencing No New Growth

As Christians, we are commissioned to bring the Good News to the world through evangelism. We don't control when and how someone receives their salvation or subsequent baptism, but a lack of new growth in your church can indicate that it is stuck. Acts 2:47 speaks of daily additions. Start with your vision and purpose. Then, refocus your church's methods on evangelism for church growth.

4. Leadership Fatigue or Conflict

Fatigue caused by overwork and stress is a real symptom that church leaders experience. Juggling the obligations of leading the congregation, engaging with and serving the community, and spending time with their families causes leaders to get tired. After all, they are only human. This fatigue and stress can lead to conflict with others in the church, borne only out of frustration and exhaustion. Galatians 6:2 calls us to bear one another's burdens. Practice giving your church leaders and congregation the gift of rest, understanding, and grace. Also, practice having clear boundaries and expectations where you communicate your needs and sometimes say no.

5. Disconnected from Community

One of the church's most pertinent obligations and expectations is to evangelize to the world—our neighbors close and far. This command is imperative. Yet, when a church gets comfortable with the weekly mundane practices, it is disconnected from its community. A church must be active and engaging in the community. Matthew 5:14 says, "You are the light of the world." Get involved outside the church walls.

If you have related to any of these five signs, your church doesn't have to remain stuck. There is hope in the Lord, and there is always hope for His church.

CHURCH HEALTH ASSESSMENT

Use this tool to assess key areas of your church that would benefit from improvement. Rate each statement from 1 (Not true) to 5 (Very true). Total each section.

1: Vision & Mission

- ☐ 1. We have a clearly communicated vision.
- ☐ 2. Leaders can explain our mission clearly.
- ☐ 3. Our activities align with the mission.
- ☐ 4. People know why we exist.
- ☐ 5. We evaluate and adjust our direction.

2: Worship & Spiritual Vitality

- ☐ 1. Worship is Spirit-led and joyful.
- ☐ 2. Messages are biblical and transformative.
- ☐ 3. Prayer is a core part of our church.
- ☐ 4. Spiritual growth is evident.
- ☐ 5. People are equipped on Sundays and inspired to follow Christ.

3: Outreach & Evangelism

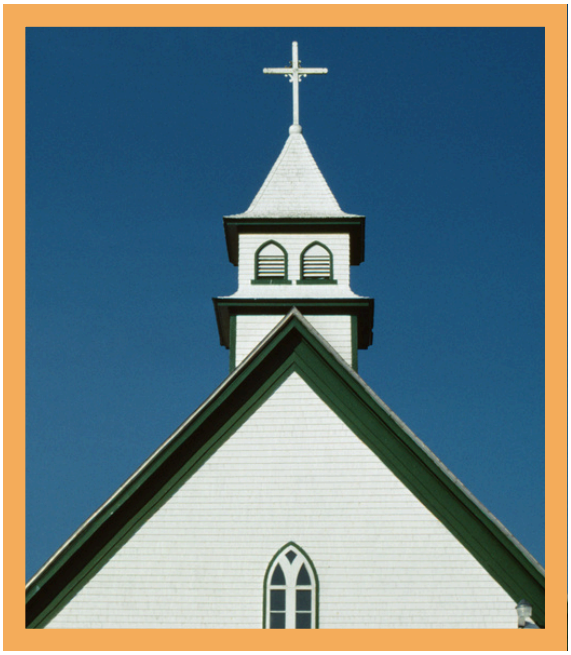
- [ ] 1. New believers are joining our church.
- [ ] 2. Evangelism is actively encouraged and practiced.
- [ ] 3. We serve the community regularly.
- [ ] 4. Our church calendar reflects outreach.
- [ ] 5. Invitations and hospitality are common.

4: Leadership Health

- [ ] 1. Leaders are spiritually healthy and supported.
- [ ] 2. Volunteers serve without burnout.
- [ ] 3. We develop and train new leaders (the next generation).
- [ ] 4. Conflict is resolved biblically.
- [ ] 5. We celebrate wins and support each other.

5: Community Connection

- [ ] 1. Our church is known in the neighborhood.
- [ ] 2. We partner with local schools or leaders.
- [ ] 3. We are known for our sincerity and generosity.
- [ ] 4. People trust our word and presence in the community.
- [ ] 5. We have ongoing ministries outside our walls.



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