

Chapter 1 : Fire in the Pulpit! - Christ Life Ministries

Fire in Your Pulpit was what I expected after reading the title. The author addresses common issues in preaching and the recurring setbacks found among preachers. He deals with topics such as sermon planning, preparation, and execution.

We can accept no substitute. How many of you want to see people saved at GBC? How many of you have to see people saved here? Well, it was a dead church, and no one cared—except for 1 man, and it was not the pastor. It was a blacksmith. He was not much of a talker—he stuttered so badly it was painful to hear him speak. But he had a heart for God, and wanted revival fire again. He was so burdened for the fire, that one day, he closed the doors of his shop, and went home and prayed the rest of the day. The next day he approached the pastor. Can we schedule some kind of a meeting, some kind of a revival. He stood up to preach as always, but he felt very different. The power of God was so strong in that place that everyone could feel it. Dozens of people were saved that week—the fire was reignited. It was because somebody prayed. Prayer will lead to growth of some kind. Moody visited a large but dead church in London. He preached, and later said that they were so unresponsive, it was all he could do to get thru the morning message. He dreaded it all afternoon! But behind the scenes, something was going on. An elderly woman that morning went home to her invalid sister, and told her about Moody being there. Her eyes lit up, for she had been praying that God would send Moody to England. Moody said he stood up that night before the people, and he could tell something was different. He preached with unexplained liberty, gave the invitation to rise if they wanted to be saved. Shocked, he thought maybe they had misunderstood. It was the beginning of what became one of the greatest revivals that ever swept England. Souls will be saved at least 8, in Jerusalem when this happened in Acts 2. Worship services will be inspiring, the music will be uplifting Eph. Wanna add life to our song service? World outreach missions program will be divinely directed by God Write these ref. Divine wisdom will accompany all our church decisions Acts The result is always the same: Your fire will dwindle to a flickering flame—a small spark, and eventually be snuffed out, unless somebody fans the coals, and, on their knees, searches for some kindling! This is how we must serve God:

Chapter 2 : How to Fire a Minister “ and Have Him Like It!

Note: Citations are based on reference standards. However, formatting rules can vary widely between applications and fields of interest or study. The specific requirements or preferences of your reviewing publisher, classroom teacher, institution or organization should be applied.

An article by Lee Grady, used by permission. Visiting ministers can be a great blessing to any church. A friend of mine recently told me that the leaders of a ministry invited a prominent American preacher to speak at a conference. He needed his privacy. If I had been on the other end of the telephone conversation that day, I would have offered this reply: A childish rock star might be expected to ask for these luxuries, but such behavior is reprehensible for a minister of the gospel. We need to hand them a pink slip. I recommend these safeguards: Investigate before you invite. There are many wonderful traveling ministers who carry genuine anointings and can bring great blessing to churches and ministry events. They have been called by God as evangelists, prophets, teachers and apostolic leaders”and those who walk in the anointing of the Holy Spirit will produce fruit wherever they go. But there are also imposters on the preaching circuit. Always find out who they are accountable to. If they have no relationships, no oversight or no reference board, you are taking a great risk by having them in your church. Slam the door on egotism. The celebrity syndrome is easy to detect. Or does he come across as cocky and unapproachable? Any man or woman engaged in ministry should have the attitude of Jesus, who was willing to ride a donkey into Jerusalem and wash the feet of His disciples. If you allow a prideful, unbroken preacher in your pulpit, you are giving a spirit of Lucifer the opportunity to infect your congregation. Every traveling minister appreciates a gracious host. You show honor when you provide him or her with a nice hotel room, meals and transportation during their stay. But you should be alarmed if a preacher demands celebrity treatment. I have heard horror stories of ministers who required their hosts to provide shopping money, certain types of exotic bottled water, limousines and manicurists. One preacher who recently ministered in Australia demanded a certain type of steak that had to be flown across the Pacific Ocean from the United States! I know of an American minister who traveled to a church in Canada and insisted that the pastor rent a civic auditorium that seated more than a thousand people. In the end, the evangelist canceled the trip because not enough people registered for the conference”and the pastor was left holding the bag. His church went bankrupt. A true minister of the gospel would never push a church to go into debt just to satisfy his or her egotistical need for a big crowd. If you fall into the numbers trap you will be sorry. Also, a shepherd who cares about his or her flock will never allow a visiting preacher to manipulate a congregation financially. Beware of strange fire. A minister imparts his life, not just the words of his sermons. That is why it is so important for preachers of the gospel to walk in humility, sexual purity and financial integrity. If a minister has allowed compromise in any of those areas, his anointing will be hindered and he may pollute your pulpit and leave a toxic environment in your church. I talked to one pastor in California who had invited a speaker to his annual conference. But before the speaker arrived, the pastor learned that this man often used drug imagery in his sermons and even compared the Holy Spirit to marijuana. When he asked the speaker to refrain from such references, the man arrogantly refused. Thankfully the pastor did the right thing: Please heed the warnings, inspect the fruit and be willing to disinvite.

Chapter 3 : When to Fire a Church Worker: 7 Questions to Ask

Se ilden lyse (Fire in Your Heart) - Wikipedia *Se ilden lyse (in English: Fire in Your Heart) is a single from Norwegian singer Sissel KyrkjebÅfÅ. It is the official song of the Winter Olympics in Lillehammer, Norway.*

As the incoming pastor, I asked the church committee not to terminate Manley, a staff member whose chief failing was that he was ineffective. The committee was willing to cut him loose before I arrived to save me the trouble. A year later, after finding him lazy and incapable of doing the work his position required and with no other spot on the church staff suitable for him, I released him. He was so angry at me. That evening, I was complaining to my wife about the unfairness of his criticism. You want to fire a man and have him like it. His anger made me feel that I had failed him in some way, even though the personnel committee met with Manley that very evening to assure him the decision was unanimous. That helped me a little, but not much. Manley moved away and soon got on with a smaller church across the state line. Is there a way to terminate a minister senior pastor, associate, staffer, etc and have him like it? Only yesterday, a friend called to say their bishop had just terminated their pastor. The firing was abrupt and effective immediately, with the congregation receiving no explanation or advance warning. The minister is gone and Sunday they will have a substitute in the pulpit. Everyone is left to wonder what went on, what the pastor did or did not do, and what they are not being told. Now, if he was indeed guilty of something immoral or illegal, unscriptural or unethical, he should leave the pulpit immediately. Otherwise, his dismissal could have been handled more gracefully so as to bless the congregation and to leave intact his future ministry in another church. As it stands now, the congregation is stunned and angry, the pastor is left with no income to provide for his family, and the future of his service in the denomination is in doubt. We cannot stress too strongly that if the pastor has done something illegal e. Everyone has a lot at stake in this matter. The church must not be seen as running off a minister who was doing a good job. Later, when they go seeking the next pastor, he will be impressed by the maturity with which they dealt with this difficult matter and not fearful concerning his own future with the people. The denomination has a lot at stake. When these things are poorly handled, churches have been known to withhold contributions to the national body and even to leave the denomination. If he walks away with grace and the blessing of everyone involved, other churches looking for pastors will be encouraged to approach him as a candidate for their opening. If his work is unsatisfactory, the appropriate person or committee should work with him to make improvements. If one or two leaders in the church force the pastor outâ€”even with justificationâ€”their action will appear high-handed and many in the congregation will turn against them. The well-being and harmony of the membership should be uppermost in the minds of everyone. This must be done quietly since other churches will shy away from a minister being terminated by his present church. Bring in someone from outside the church in the denomination with excellent counseling skills to meet with the minister. Anything this consultant can do to prepare him for the transition will be beneficial. If he lives in church-owned housing, how long will he be allowed to stay? Be as generous as possible. He will need money to tide his family over until he finds another place of service. He will need health care, and possibly office help. I know several ministers who give thanks for the day they were terminated. The daily pressure was instantly gone, and with continued support from their previous church, they had time to rest and put their efforts into finding another position. That is to say, if he goes down the street and starts a competing church, the support from his former church ends immediately. If he is badmouthing the leadership of the former church and creating unrest in the membership, the support is terminated. Someone may criticize this agreement as buying his silence, and on the surface it may appear to be so, but no church should go on funding the activities of one who is stirring up dissension. This should be a no-brainer. Probably not at first. Only after he finds the next assignment to be a better match than the former will he begin to see the hand of the Lord in this and give thanks. After helping lead that church through a healing time 18 months before I arrived, the church had split over the antics of a pastor , we ended up with a healthy and loving congregation where I remained for nearly 14 years. When I left, it was to become the leader of the churches of our denomination in metro New Orleans. A little over a year after we took the position, Hurricane Katrina blew through and

flooded most of the city and destroyed many of our churches. The rest of my five-years in that position were devoted to helping our churches rebuild and our pastors resume their ministries. To this day, I thank the Father for trusting me with that assignment. I suspectâ€”knowing a little of how He operatesâ€”had we not been faithful when the previous church cut us loose, He would not have entrusted us with the privilege of serving Him in such a crucial, meaningful way as this. Sometimes, being terminated is the best thing that ever happened to you. Some years ago, our former staffer Manley saw an article I had written about my difficult experience in the church he and I had served, and he contacted me. We re-established a relationship of brothers, and within a couple of years, he had passed away. His attitude of kindness was a gift from the Lord to me, and I will always be grateful.

Chapter 4 : How to Ignite a Fire in Your Soul

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He was not interested in church and there was only 1 in the area. It was cold and dead—a social club, with no decisions being made. One day the church building caught on fire, and the whole town ran toward it to help extinguish the flames—including the village atheist! May GBC be that church! Most of us have had the sad experience of being in a cold, dead church, with no fire. Ever visited a church like that? Ever been a member? Jesus threatened the church at Ephesus in Rev. The attitude seems prevalent in the city as I hear about how things used to be. I toured Caterpillar and heard about how many workers they used to have, and heard about the Firestone plant that used to be here—I know, I know, and we used to be the home of the Chicago Bears! Whether good or bad, focusing on the past ruins the present and destroys the future! No, what you need is some fire, and there will be people converted! God told Abraham to take his son, Isaac to the mountains to become a human sacrifice. They arrived at the location, and Isaac still did not realize that HE was going to be the sacrifice. Isaac knew there had to be 3 things to have a sacrifice: And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: According to statistics, it takes 40 Baptists, on average, 1 year, to win 1 person to Christ! A lack of fire: So, what are the characteristics of a church on fire for God? A church on fire is: I Endued with power v. We can accept no substitute.

Chapter 5 : Fire in your pulpit (Book,) [blog.quintoapp.com]

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And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thy sin purged. Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, here am I; send me. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. In the front of my Bible I keep a list of the number of preachers who hear me in every service across the country. Every time I preach, I write down the number of preachers in the audience. I always want to preach to preachers. No one in America needs loving like the preacher does. Let me say this: The greatest thing in this world is to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. There are some preachers in this service whose hearts are broken. In this conference one preacher said to me, "Pray for me. One of these days Jack Hyles and some others who have preached here will step aside for some of you fellows who have had smaller crowds but who have dared to stand true; who have lost your job, and lost your church because you have dared stand for God. I love the men of God. A few years ago I was in Winston-Salem in one of these conferences. Rice was preaching and I was sitting on the front row. Bud Lyles was leading the singing. Bud asked the preachers to sit in the choir. About 45 preachers came. But I love the men of God who stand for the Bible. I wish the Lord tonight would let me skin some of you old preacher-killers so you would ask God to forgive your sins and keep that Hell-fire-and -brimstone preacher behind your pulpit. I wish God would same some preacher tonight from a wicked and untoward congregation, and if need be, save a church tonight. When I looked at those preachers in the choir, I said, "God bless them. Seven out of 45 had on green ties with navy blue suits! Praise the Lord for them. God bless the preachers! Let me say this too: The problems in this country could be solved with preaching. The only vocation in the world that has a large segment of our people listening to them every week is the ministry. There is nothing in the world this country needs more than a generation of Elijahs and Isaiahhs to preach the truth to our people. In this same Winston-Salem conference we were having testimonies one afternoon. One lady jumped up and said, crying, "I want to thank God. I guess I am the only lady here who was saved under her own preaching. Rice looked up rather startled, and all of us were waiting to see what would happen. She said, "I used to play church when I was a little girl. One would lead singing, one would preach, and one would give the invitation. The next day we would change and do something different. One morning it was my time to preach. The only kind of preaching I: I stopped the preaching, went back to the back of the room, came down the aisle, and got converted under my own preaching! Now I believe you ought to teach. But brother, preaching is teaching with a tear in its eye. Listen, if the deeper life conferences would save America, we would be in the millennium right now! All some of you folks do is get the Bible and study it like a math book while the world goes to Hell. I like what the old Pentecostal preacher said down South. Instead of saying, "God called me to heal the sick, and raise the dead, and cast out devils," he got his tange all toungeled up and it came out, "God has called me to heal the dead, cast out the sick, and raise the Devil. If some of you preaches would raise more devil on Sunday morning, your deacons would raise less devil on Saturday night. We need some Elijahs who have been with God, and who will pray down fire from Heaven, who are on fire. We need some John Wesleys who will say, "I just set myself on fire and folks some to watch me while I burn. We need some Emmaus apostles who said, "Our hearts did burn within us while we walked with Him. What can I do? How many times have you preaches gone to your study, gotten on your face nobody knows how much a preacher who loves the Bible pours his soul out alone and said, "O God, do something for me. Do something for me. Do something for the people. Some are hoping you will get through right quick, and some are sound asleep. If you would set him on fire, if you would spend as much time praying for him as you do criticizing him and use the same amount of words, you would be surprised what it might do for him. People help make a preacher. Hershel Ford said that preaching is simply pouring back in a flood what you get from the people in a vapor. As I look back at my ministry, a great deal of what little success I have enjoyed I owe to those godly people who down through these almost seventeen years have stuck by this little preacher. I

recall dear Sister Waldrop who used to sit over on the right, who sang so beautifully. She was almost four times my age. She used to call me and say, "Pastor, I need some advice. I thank God for those people. One accord--that will fire your preacher. In one place--that will fire your preacher. All doing the same thing--that will fire your preacher. We ought to be in one accord behind the preacher. Some folks say, "But Granddaddy is buried in the cemetery behind the church. I am sick in my soul of people dying in a cold, liberal, dead church because a tombstone is in the back yard. I have some statistics about preachers, put out by Mr. Only 24 per cent believe the miracles of the Bible. Only 26 per cent believe the Bible is the Word of God. Only 25 per cent believe in the virgin birth. Only 11 per cent of our young preachers believe in Heaven. Only 18 per cent of our young preachers believe in the literal resurrection of Christ. Only 13 per cent of our young preachers believe in the depravity of man. Only 21 per cent of our young preachers believe that God hears and answers prayer. Why could Peter stand up on Pentecost and preach in power? Because the people were in one accord. Stay behind your pastor in his preaching. They lifted up his hands and the battle was won. When they let down his hands, the battle was lost. If you have a preacher who preaches the truth of God every time he gets in the pulpit, when he walks out in the pulpit, you say, "Dear Lord, thank you that in my pulpit, preaching to my children, is a man who believes the Bible is the Word of God and fights sin and exalts Christ and wins souls to Christ. When I first started preaching down in East Texas, the chairman of my deacons was L. He would put that leg out ready to put it down when the preacher said something good. The first time I said something good, which was about 30 minutes after I started back in those days, he put that old foot down and shouted "AMEN. I almost did not get back on my subject. Revival broke out in that little country church. We only had seven prospects, but 27 consecutive Sundays folks were saved. One Sunday we had people saved and joined the church who lived 80 miles from each other. One lived 40 miles down this way on a little country road; the others lived 40 miles up this way. I was in Texas preaching, J. Combest preached more than I did. If he was hot, he would say more words in a sermon than I did! Hey, pull over and park there for a little while. Some of you fellows holler like Comanche Indians at a football game but sit like wooden Indians on Sunday morning. You say, "It just ruffles my nerves. One little fellow said to me when I when I first came to Hammond, "My wife cannot come to hear you preach.

Chapter 6 : The Pulpit and the Pew

Fire Safety - KidsHealth Take the time now to review fire safety facts and tips so your family will be prepared in the event of a fire emergency in your home. Fire Prevention Of course, the best way to practice fire safety is to make sure a fire doesn't break out in the first place.

Keeping the fire burning Keeping the fire burning Leviticus 6: How do I stay on fire for God? I had a dream I was asking you about how to keep the fire burning all the time. Maybe you can explain me now outside of the dream? Maybe you remember how you were once on fire for God but now this seems such as a distant and foreign memory. You wonder if that fire can ever be rekindled that once burnt in you? Today, in modern society the work of keeping the house warm during the cold season has been simplified. Without any stress we program the desired temperature for the desired time on the thermostat and the house is warm through the night with the perfect temperature when we get up in the morning. In the past it was a different story! Fire was carefully tended to and wood or fuel supplies were under an observing eye because a lack of it could be fatal. I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. You need to keep the fire on the altar of your heart on all the time. Lukewarmness is rampant in the church today? How can we recognized lukewarmness in our lives? Lukewarmness is manifested as a lackadaisical attitude towards the things of God. While there may be more, allow me to reveal seven manifestations of lukewarmness, Lackadaisical attitude toward the Scriptures Appetite is a great sign of health. Lackadaisical attitude towards Supplication No zeal for a powerful prayer life. You go to church but your prayer life is virtually non existent. Lackadaisical attitude towards Sanctification What you would have never partook of years ago has become acceptable in your eyes all in the name of so called maturity and grace. It has made you indifferent about personal holiness. Lackadaisical attitude towards Soul-winning. The Great Commission which is the only reason why Jesus left us here for is no longer your heartbeat. The Great Commission is now the greatest omission in your life. You cannot remember the last time you led somebody to Christ. Soul-winning is no longer a passionate pursuit. Did Jesus hurt you? Then your excuse is not valid. The notion of sitting in church and do nothing is an indication that the fire has died on the altar. Lackadaisical attitude towards Singing and Shouting Your praise is not vibrant. There is no expression of gratitude and joy for your salvation. The singing is half hearted and the shouts of other saints are viewed as annoying, repulsive and a source of embarrassment for you. There is no support in tithing and offerings as well as any outreaches of your church. This indicates that your wood is wet and the fire truly died out. Now let me show you three simple ways you can rekindle the fire of God in your life. Muse upon the Word. Usually you will notice people who are no longer on fire for God do not have time for the Scriptures. They have lost their passion for the Word. Stay with the Word. Go to a church that preaches the Word- the uncompromizing Word. The two guys on the road to Emmaus gives us another piece of the puzzle, Luke Stay where the fire is This is a great story for illustration- A certain faithful believer was noted by the pastor to have been absent from many services. The pastor went to visit the individual and found him in a back room sitting before a roaring fireplace. The pastor sat side by side to the individual in an armchair for a while before the fireplace when suddenly, he reached over and pulled a red hot coal out of the fire and laid it on the hearth of the fireplace. In a little while, the red hot coal became a smoldering ember and eventually a cold white ember, emitting no heat. While both were sitting and observing what just transpired the individual looked at the pastor and said that he would be back in church. Fellowshiping with believers who love the Lord and are on fire God will keep you on fire. That is why you have to be careful as with who you hang around with. I am going to be as blunt as as I can. That is just dumb! No matter how small or big your church is, as long as they love the Lord, preach the Word and do not quench the Spirit then you should attend your church faithfully. Do not put out or extinguish the fire of the Holy Spirit. On the day of Pentecost, cloven tongues of fire sat upon the disciples and the spoke in tongues. In other parts of the book of Acts they spoke in tongues and prophesied. We must never suffocate the prophetic. The Holy Spirit wants to speak to you. Despise not prophecies and prophesying. Find a church that believes and practices the miraculous. Receive special offers and encouraging words in your inbox!

Chapter 7 : Keeping the fire burning | Glenn Arekion Ministries

Fire in the Pulpit! by Harold Vaughan " 9 years ago Characteristics of Revival Preaching Revival Preaching is Visionary. Revival men look beyond what is to what can be!

As they were talking about the events of His death and now the report that had come back from Mary, Martha, Peter, and John that Jesus was in fact alive, Jesus comes and joins them in the midst of this conversation. He then begins to explain to them from the Old Testament Scriptures the things concerning Him. As they came to the village Jesus indicated that He would have gone on but they convince Him to stay with them that night. There was something going on in the hearts of these two that was undeniable and they wanted to know more. As He then sat with them to eat He took the bread, blessed and broke it, and then gave it to them. Immediately their eyes were opened and they knew it was Jesus. He disappears and they then make this powerful statement in verse I hear many Christians say they want to get to know God intimately, but I find they are struggling in doing so. This is what God wants in the heart of every believer. If we are on fire and consumed with God we are going to have that intimate relationship He desires with us. The first of these two keys is that they having Him present with them and talking with them brought a stirring in their hearts. It goes without saying that when we spend quality time in the presence of the Lord we will get closer to Him. But the second point is often overlooked and is actually the easiest way to begin developing an intimate relationship with Jesus, and with the Father through the Holy Spirit. The Bible is an amazing book, and is supernatural in its origin. There is no other book in the world like it. In 2 Timothy 3: When God created man He breathed into man the breath of life. After the fall when Jesus was raised from the dead Jesus breathed on His disciples that breath of life once again and they received the Holy Spirit. God and His Word are one. The reason this is so important is because God has provided for us in the 66 books of the Bible the ability to get to know Him, intimately, and personally. In John chapter one we know that Jesus is considered the Word of God. As verse 14 states the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. As I have heard Kenneth E. Hagin say many times the written Word reveals to us the Living Word. This is important to understand because of two reasons. Many believers say they want to know God better, and all they have to do is open the Word of God to do so. I will explain more about the importance of how this is to be done in a minute. Some would argue that they can get to know God intimately without the Word, but this is what leads to error in our beliefs about God because people lack understanding of the Word. Secondly they had the Living Word Himself with them personally for 3 years. I like a quote I heard from Smith Wigglesworth who had a very close relationship with the Lord. It goes as follows: God is everything the Word says He is. We need to get acquainted with Him through the Word. How are you going to get to know God without being able to hear Him clearly? Learning about their character traits, what motivates them, what they enjoy doing, etc. So it is with God, but that is very difficult to do apart from His Word. Now back to my first point it is important how we approach the Word if we are to get to know God. What they did not do is come to the Scriptures with a focus not on self-righteousness, but instead getting to know the God who could make them righteous. They are not coming to the written Word to get to know the Living Word, but instead are just filling their heads with a lot of knowledge and they are missing the relationship that is offered. Such people begin to base their beliefs on their experiences and not on what Scripture says about God. This is only going to lead people into error. Jesus Himself states that we are to abide live in and by His Word, His teachings if we are truly His disciples. You cannot live in the Word only by listening to what a minister of the Word teaches. Jesus remember is the Word that became flesh and dwelt among us. We also know the Word of God is Truth. If you spend time abiding in the Word with a focus on getting to know Him, you will know Him for He is Truth, and He the Truth will help set you free from the things of this life trying to take you captive. One of the number one things that cause this is lies and deception. You have the opportunity to open the door allowing the Lord to fellowship with you. All you have to do is open the Word of God and read it as God speaking with you and too you. Allow Him to reveal who He is through His Word. I agree with something Kenneth E. Hagin also said that we should spend two-thirds of our time in the New Testament because this is our covenant with God. Then as you read the Old Testament you

can interpret it in light of the New Testament. As you open the Word it is more important that you hear what God is saying. It is quality time in the Word that counts, not reading the Bible just to say you read so many chapters today. As you open the Word and fellowship with the Lord your heart too will begin to be ablaze for more of Him!

Chapter 8 : 10 quick tips for churches to fire up their men's ministry! | United Methodist Communications

If your church does make the decision to fire your pastor, please be generous with severance and benefits. Don't treat your pastor like a secular organization might treat an employee. Show the world Christian compassion and generosity.

By Aaron Buer on September 22, Subscribe! How do you know when you should fire someone. I just got a little sweaty even typing that. Most of us hate conflict, love people and just wish everyone would get along so the idea of firing an employee sounds awful. Sometimes letting an employee go is the best thing for the organization and even the best thing for the employee. Here are a series of questions to help you decide. Knowing what you know now, if you had a time machine, would you still hire this person? Perhaps you would answer yes because of the unbelievable strengths the person brings to the team. You need to let this person go. Suppose the person in question came into your office tomorrow morning and announced that they were resigning. What would you feel in that moment? Would you do this? Or would you feel this? Your answer to this scenario should give you the clarity you need to move forward. If you announced to your team that the person in question had decided to resign, what would their reaction be? Would morale go up or down? If you already know that the team would be relieved, then you probably need to let this person go. How well is your team performing? When everyone on the team is contributing their best, teams are agile and fast. When one team member is underperforming, it slows down the entire team. There are times when catering to an underperforming employee can cost you a high-performing employee. Underperformance is often an issue that can be corrected through confrontation and training. Dissension is something totally different. If you have an employee who is undermining your leadership and stirring up trouble, it is time to act. I would suggest one firm warning. Any further trouble should bring decisive action. As a leader or manager, the best thing you can do for a person who is behaving this way is to clearly articulate why you are firing them and encourage them to correct this behavior. They probably need the wakeup call. How does this person respond to feedback? Do they make up excuses? Do they blame you? These are clear signs that they lack humility. A person who constantly rejects constructive feedback will never improve. In my opinion, you cannot help an underperforming employee who refuses feedback. On the flipside, if you have an employee who is struggling but responds well to constructive feedback, I would suggest that you should invest in this person! A teachable person can develop the needed skills. Or, perhaps there is a role that better suits them somewhere else in the organization. A quick side note: Teachability is one of the key character traits I look for when hiring for any position. If a person is humble and teachable they will most likely make a great employee. A lack of humility is usually a sign of future trouble. If you want to avoid this topic of when to fire an employee all together, make a determined effort to only hire people who are teachable. This last question comes from a desire I have for my own church. This is only possible when we truly engage struggling employees and the issues. If a person is underperforming in your organization, do they know it? You must have that hard conversation. You simply cannot, in good conscience, fire a person without having this conversation. Secondly, after having this conversation, have you given this person clear steps on how to improve? If the issue is underperformance, have you provided ways for them to be trained in the areas that are lacking? In short, have you truly fought for them? We are the church. If you truly have fought for them, well, then I believe it is time to release the employee because it is the best thing for them, the organization, and you. Deciding to let an employee go is a complex and emotional issue. It can consume your days and keep you up nights. As you wrestle with this in your own church, I hope these questions have been helpful. Feel free to share your thoughts in the comments below. Simplify and streamline your church by subscribing below!

Fire In The Pulpit Depending On The Word And The Spirit Praying Through Your Sermon Every pastor longs for his sermons to have deep and lasting impact in the lives.

God told Ezekiel to preach to a valley of dry bones and they were very dry. He was more than an analyst, more than a diagnostician; he was a visionary. Jesus said, If thou canst believe, thou shalt see the glory of God. We must believe first. Then we shall see. Conservative Christianity is locked into a mentality of defeat. Few liberals are better at removing the miraculous element from present-day faith than many who boast of their undying allegiance to the Scriptures. Somebody has to move beyond the Natural and plug into the Supernatural. Unless you can hope for a better day there will be no better day. Someone penned these words, Hope is the companion of power, and the mother of all success. The time has come to stop limiting God by our unbelief. Unbelief binds the Holy Spirit, but all things are possible to him that believeth Mark 9: Your actions will follow your expectations. The time has come to move beyond our frame of reference and believe God to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Eph. Revival Preaching Yields to Holy Spirit Direction Revival preaching is more concerned about an outcome than an outline. The revival preacher is more aware of his text than the time. He is bent on pleasing the Lord rather than pleasing men. His ear is tuned to hear and heed the voice of God. Often it is the life application of truth which brings stunning conviction upon the listeners. A salient feature in many revival movements has been the use of personal testimony. Testimonies will never replace the exposition, illustration, and application of Scripture. He does not dictate to God the way things should go, but defers to the guidance of the Spirit. Revival services are unpredictable, and flexibility is required. Recently, I was privileged to be in a revival-ready church. Tenderness, tears, anticipation, and enthusiasm are words which fall short of adequately expressing the atmosphere of excitement. We hit the ground running, and around twenty people got saved that first Sunday morning. After the message Thursday evening, the pastor opened the floor for testimonies. Some shared about their new-found salvation, Christians related their victories, and others shared their overwhelming burdens. When individuals shared problems, the pastor asked for others to come and pray over them. Twenty to fifty people would be up front praying over someone while others were testifying. All this was happening, and yet everything seemed in order. The instrument in revival is compelled to speak the things he has seen, heard, and felt. A message prepared in the heart reaches the heart. And a message prepared in the life reaches other lives. Next he explained how he simply assigned himself a text and prepared his sermon for this conference. There we sat unmoved for the next hour listening to his cerebral ramblings. It has been said that all preaching should: The man who is compelled to speak is likely to compel his hearers to action. The revival preacher is not preaching about revival, he is preaching for revival! This maxim holds true in the realm of revival preaching as well as in politics. The aim of preaching in revival is heart-felt contrition, not consensus. Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins Isaiah. Isaiah was not commissioned to console the people of Israel in their sin, but rather to expose it. His goal was not to swell their heads, but to prick their hearts! They used the Sword of the Spirit to zero in on the consciences of men. In the white heat of revival people are stricken with conviction. The Spirit-empowered preaching in the early church was powerful: When they heard that, they were cut to the heart Acts 5: When the preacher is proclaiming to the ears, and the Holy Spirit is speaking to the heart, the Word of God reaches its mark. All revival men preach for a verdict. Any who are halting between two opinions are compelled to make a choice. People who sit under such anointed preaching respond in anguish or in anger. Jonah, the reluctant missionary, was sent to Nineveh to thunder out the righteous judgment of God against that wicked city. The king was so moved that he called all of his citizens to fasting and repentance. The threat of imminent judgment terrified the king. The king and his subjects chose to humble themselves, confess their sins, and turn from their wicked ways. By judging themselves they averted the judgment of God. On the Day of Pentecost, Peter was preaching in a super-charged atmosphere. Their ten day prayer meeting had paved the way for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. When Peter stood before that crowd,

his confrontational preaching staggered his audience. Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain. Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said. Men and brethren, what shall we do? The miracle working power of God enabled men to hear the truth in their own language. Some thought Peter and his cohorts were drunk, but they were wrong. These men were intoxicated with God! Jeremiah said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay Jer. Though temporarily discouraged, the weeping prophet had to utter the message God had burned into his heart. The revival preacher stands between time and eternity. He preaches as a dying man to dying men. He has so internalized the message that it becomes a part of him. In a sense, he becomes the incarnation of his message. He is possessed with the conviction that he has a word from God for the people. The things of earth take the backseat in periods of revival. Though a man of lofty intellect, he was utterly consumed with this word for the church. A man was preaching in the open air near a region called the Black Hills as Wales was ablaze with revival. He took as his text that quote from The Song of Solomon, The voice of my beloved! His message blazed with such reality that the people looked to the mountains to see if Jesus was literally descending upon them! Revival preaching brings eternity to bear upon time. It may not be word-perfect, but it carries a divine dimension. Somebody came to D. Moody after his message and told him he had made fifteen grammatical errors. All Biblical preaching is centered on Truth, but revival preaching is more than giving out additional information. Anointing is the divine element that makes preaching potent and transformational. Note the way Paul described it, For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost 1 Thes. It was the miraculous, dynamite power of God that made an indelible impression upon the people. Mere logic, giftedness, and style are not the determining factors in the times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord. As the Authorized Version puts it, it is the power of the Holy Ghost that makes the difference! Two ladies left their church service one Sunday morning and were walking home. Revival Preaching is Born in Prayer Peter, along with other repentant disciples, spent ten days praying in an upper room. With their flagrant denials of Christ still fresh on their minds, all confidence in the flesh had been decimated. Peter emerged from the upper room with holy fire burning in his soul. When he stood to preach on the day of Pentecost, three thousand were swept into the Kingdom! But God moved in, and on, His people prior to this massive harvest. Throughout history we see God always sets His people to praying prior to the mighty outpourings of the Holy Spirit. I have heard that before D. Moody preached he would get alone and pray.