

# Symptoms of a Dying Church - Part 1

by Sam Ketcher

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*The sermon emphasizes the need for revival and renewal in churches, highlighting the importance of preaching the whole counsel of God and prioritizing holiness over numbers.*

**Duration:** 46:41

**Scripture:** 2 Peter 1:2

**Topics:** "Revival"

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## Description

In this sermon, the speaker emphasizes the importance of older generations reaching out to the younger generation. He challenges the notion that older people are disconnected from young people and asserts that God can use anyone to reach them. The speaker urges churches to prioritize sharing the Word of God with young people instead of merely entertaining them. He references the book of Malachi, highlighting the prophecy of a messenger who will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and vice versa. The speaker encourages the congregation to pray for God to move in their hearts and in the hearts of preachers, emphasizing the power of prayer and the importance of spiritual transformation.

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## Transcript

Here we're getting to read about the prophet Samuel. Maybe you all remember the story of Samuel. He was a prophet of God.

Basically, he was a miracle child. He was born to a mother that was barren, and God blessed her and gave her a miracle by the name of Samuel. He was more than just a son, he was a prophet, amen? He was a prophet of God that God sent in an hour when Israel needed a prophet the most.

When Israel needed to hear the word of the Lord the most, God raised one up. And at the time whenever Samuel was weaned, Samuel's mother took him to the tabernacle and lent him to the Lord so that he may serve the Lord all the days of his life. Wouldn't it be nice to have parents that did that today, amen? That would raise their children up to be holy men of God.

And now Samuel is in the tabernacle, and he is working, and he is serving the Lord, and he is serving a lukewarm priest. But nevertheless, God has placed Samuel there for a reason, amen? When all hope seemed lost and when everything seemed dark, God had a light and a fire. But it says here in 1 Samuel chapter 3, And the child Samuel ministered unto the Lord before Eli.

And the word of the Lord was precious in those days. There was no open vision. And it came to pass at that time when Eli was laid down in his place, and his eyes began to wax dim, he could not see.

And there the lamp of God went out in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was, and Samuel was laid down to sleep. But the Lord called Samuel and answered, Here am I. And he ran to Eli and said, Here am I, for thou callest me. And he said, I called not.

Lie down again. And he went and lay down. And the Lord called yet again Samuel.

And Samuel rose and went to Eli and said, Here am I, for thou didst call me. And he answered, I called not, my son, lie down again. Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, neither was the word of the Lord yet revealed unto him.

And my friends, there are many people in our churches today that do not yet know the Lord because God has not been revealed unto them yet. But we must pray for the lost that even sit in our pews. Amen? But it says, And the Lord called Samuel again the third time.

And he arose and went to Eli and said, Here am I, for thou didst call me. And Eli perceived that the Lord had called the child. And therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go lie down, and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, Lord, for thy servant heareth.

So Samuel went and lay down in his place. And the Lord came and stood and called, as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak, for thy servant heareth.

And the Lord spoke unto Samuel the words which he wanted him to declare to Eli. If you would bow your heads, please. Dear Heavenly Father, I just pray that your Word would speak just here this morning, that your Word would get inside of us, that your fire would get inside of us, that your Holy Spirit would get inside of us, and that you would set us on fire.

You would give us that boldness that we need to proclaim your Word. Heavenly Father, we need a revival today in our churches. We need a revival of your power and your Word.

Lord, we need to see men's souls saved. Dear Heavenly Father, you did it once and we know you can do it again. And Lord, I pray that you would raise up Samuel.

I pray that you would raise up prophets of God to proclaim your Word, like on the day of Pentecost, dear Lord. This is what we need in our churches, especially in our free will Baptist churches across America, but especially in Oklahoma. Heavenly Father, forgive us when we fail you.

Lord, as we come before your presence right now, I pray that we lift up our hearts to you. If there be anything unclean in us, that you would sift it out and apply the blood. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord God.

Amen. Well, as I mentioned here, as Samuel is serving the Lord, there's something that catches my attention. First of all, it says there is no open vision.

In other words, the Lord was not speaking through any prophets. He wasn't speaking through the high priest because the high priest had stopped preaching the Word. And it says, And it came to pass at that time when Eli was laid down in his place, his eyes began to wax dim and that he could not see.

And in chapter 4 it says that Eli, he had gotten old and he was blind. He couldn't see. And I believe that that could describe today's churches.

Many of us today in our churches are walking blindly. Amen. And we need God to apply some eye salve on our eyes so we may see clearly.

But it says here, And the lamp of God went out in the temple of the Lord where the ark of God was, and Samuel was laid down to sleep as well. And you notice here it says, The lamp of God had went out, the fire of God had went out in the tabernacle. And the fire of God represented God's presence.

Amen. And it had gone out in the tabernacle. You see, it was an evidence that God's presence had left because of the sins of Israel.

But you better believe when God removes His presence, His manifestation of His presence, you better believe that God will raise somebody up to be a standard. We're looking at the church today and we're saying how awful it is and how bad it is. And look what all the young people are doing.

My friends, I must tell you the gates of hell will not prevail against God's church. Amen. And God will raise up a standard because my Bible tells me so.

And the time has come for us to stop sitting down and sitting back and licking our wounds and saying, Woe is us, it's as good as it gets. And we get on our knees and start praying that God would send a revival and raise up young people to preach the word of God once again. Amen.

You see, I look at the churches today, and I've traveled to many of them and I've grown up in churches and it seems like there's something missing in a lot of our churches. It's called the power of God, the fire of God. I remember growing up and going to church and I'd read the miraculous and mighty stories in the Bible of how God moved and how God moved in His people.

And I would go to church and go to Sunday school and sit through the services and there was something missing, the power and the presence of the Almighty God. And as a young person, I would read the Bible and I would say, God, you did this back then, why is it we don't see it today? Why is it that all we see is fighting and hate and discord in the church? Why is it that all we see is sin and adultery and theft in the church? Why is it? It's because the fire of God has departed because we refuse not just to preach His Word, but to stand on His Word and believe His Word and live His Word. This is the problem.

Amen. Not the style of music. Not the way the preacher looks.

It's the Word of God is not being preached. Now, you all may be thinking that I am just a young guy and what do I know about a lot of the church history? But I do know this from what I have read, that the old time Baptists used to be known as shouting Baptists. They used to be known as ones that were on fire.

Amen. But nowadays, we don't even like for our preachers to get loud anymore. Why? Because He may wake us up.

Amen. Because we want to sleep on. Don't we? I am amazed that our young people, they like to go to concerts and they like to hear singers yelling and screaming at them, but when they hear a preacher get loud and shout, they get offended.

Oh, he's just angry. He's mean. He's yelling at me.

Isn't it something that we can handle a coach yelling at us or a singer yelling at us, but when a man gets on fire for the Word of God and God is exploding through him, we don't want to hear it. My friends, the only thing that's going to turn our churches around today is the power of God. Paul said, I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ for it is the power and the salvation.

And there's many a man today behind our pulpits that are not preaching the Gospel anymore. All they're telling you is what you want to hear. All they're telling you is, you want to be happy? You want your best life now? You want to find purpose and meaning? Well, come to God.

He's your genie. He'll give you whatever you want. And we wonder why we don't see the power of God.

We wonder why we don't see people getting saved anymore. It's because the Word of God is being preached. You notice Paul said that the Gospel is the power in itself.

It's not gimmicks. It's not bribing people to come to church. It's not getting some cool hip pastor that can talk the lingo of the young people that'll get people saved.

It's the Word of God. And if we get back to preaching the Word of God, and if we would get back to standing on that and living it, I believe we would see revival come again. Amen? We need the fire of God.

I remember, I've read some history on the Oklahoma Free Will Baptist churches and how many of them began, and especially some of them in the 30s and the 40s, and they were born in revival. God laid upon the hearts of working men, on farmers and carpenters, and God got ahold of them and set them on fire, and they began preaching out in the country, preaching in the rural churches, and people were getting saved. But now we have educated God right out of it.

Now we want educated men that have good resumes, that can talk the talk, that have the gift of gab, that can tell you funny stories. But we don't have too many men that are on fire for the Lord that actually preach the Word of God. Amen? And that's what we need today.

At every church I go to, I warn the people that the judgment of God is coming to America because of our sins. But the Word of God says that judgment first begins in the house of the Lord. My friends, I'm convinced that if you want to get a true sense of what the church in America looks like, you should look at the small churches.

Not the big mega churches, but the small ones. If you want to see what the church of Christ really looks like. Because most of the time at these small churches you will find there is a core group of people that stand for the Word of God and they will not compromise for anything.

Amen? And they're the ones that's holding it together even though the other ones are laughing at them and say, oh, look at you. How many of you have insurance? How many of you had coming to your social gatherings? My friends, we know this. It's not about numbers, is it? It's not about how many people you can trick by sleight of hand or smoking mirrors to come to church.

It is about who you have there that is truly born again and speaking the faith of God. Amen? You see, we have flipped things around. We think the church house here where we come to worship God and praise God and hear His Word.

We think the church has now become the mission field. Now we are making the church to look like the world in order to get people to come in. But my friends, the church was meant for the people of God to come and worship and praise God and hear the Word of God and be instructed and go out into the world and lead people to Christ.

But now we have advocated that mission and we just leave it up to one man, the preacher. We say, hey, won't you come to church sometime? See, we won't actually talk to people about the Lord. We just say, hey, come to church.

It's a lot easier, isn't it? We'll let the preacher make them mad because we sure don't want to. Isn't that right? The church was never meant to be the mission field. The mission field is out there.

And yes, we will have lost people come in. They will be drawn in not because we look like them. Not because we bring in rock bands and we try to look like the world and act like the world.

But because they're drawn in because they feel the presence of God and they know there's something there. Amen? We've got it totally backwards. I remember reading about revivals that happened of old and people, whenever the sinners began to hear about it breaking loose in the church that they would hang outside the church doors and just listen.

They were too afraid to go in, but they would listen. And before too long of gospel, they were so convicted by the Holy Spirit they would go in and they would cry out for mercy because the church house was supposed to be where God's spirit can move. Amen? Where we can come and be instructed and hear the word of the Lord and have God speak to us.

And then we go out to a lost and dying world. See, we don't want to do it outside. So we expect it to be done here.

And now we're living in the days when we don't want to do it in here anymore because it's too offensive, we think. I'm saddened and appalled at the lack of word of God that's being preached from the pulpits and I'm also appalled that there isn't hardly any preaching taking place behind the pulpits. Now they want to be known as communicators.

Now they want to be known as life coaches. Now they want it to be known as we're just having a conversation. My friends, the Apostle Paul said that the preaching of the cross was foolishness to those that are perishing.

But to us that are saved, it is the power of God. We don't hear the preaching of the cross anymore. We don't hear about the blood of Jesus Christ anymore.

We don't hear about the sacrifice anymore. Because we only want to hear that which our ears want to hear to entertain us and to tickle us. And we wonder why the power of God has gone.

We wonder why that people that come in and say they get saved and why before too long they go right back out the door living the same way that they were before. It's because they're not hearing the whole wise counsel of God. I believe that if we get back into our churches and start preaching and teaching the word of God precept upon precept line upon line, we will see a transformation which will lead to revival and then a revolution in our churches.

Amen. But here it says that the fire of God had went out when both Samuel and Eli had laid down to go to sleep. And as I looked at the church today I could see a church that is sleeping.

Now many people, it's hard to tell when a church is actually dead. I believe a church is actually dead whenever they close their doors and no longer have church. Amen.

That's when it's dead. But as long as there is still one person there who has a heart for God and crying out to God that church is not dead. Remember the parable of the ten virgins, the five wise and the five foolish.

They both were sleeping. Amen. And Jesus said this is what the kingdom of God will look like when he returns.

Both will be sleeping but the five wise will have oil in their lamps and the five foolish will not. And it says that the five foolish will wake up and say hey can we have some of your oil because ours has burned out. Our lamps have gone out.

Now if you notice it says that their lamps burn out. It wasn't that they never had oil, they never had fire but they let it burn out. Amen.

At one time they were saved and they had the Holy Spirit but they sat back and they became lukewarm and drifted away from God and made shipwrecks of their faith. They refused to endure and persevere. They put their Bibles away because they didn't want to hear it anymore.

All they wanted to do was be sung asleep. But whenever the bridegroom comes and they hear the shout, all of them wake up and there's going to come a time in the history of the church when Christ comes back and we're going to hear a shout and we're all going to wake up and there'll be many of the church that we've sent in churches for years, they're going to find themselves locked out because they don't have no oil in their lamps and they have not the Holy Spirit because they have grieved the Holy Spirit and it'll be too late. My friends, I can look at the churches today and many of them are sleeping.

Many of them do not know the dangers that are coming and many of them do not know the dangers that we face in the church today. And I've grown up in small churches, sometimes we can feel like outsiders and we do not know really what's going on in the other churches especially the big churches. But my friends, there are heresies that are flooding into the churches especially the free will baptist churches that we need to arm ourselves against and stand up and preach the word of God because they're leading our young people to hell.

And if we don't stand up and do something right now it's going to be very very very hard to undo the damage that has been done. For far too long we have been fighting in our churches fighting over the color of the carpet or what we should set the thermostat on fighting over should we have pews or should we have chairs, fighting over should we have traditional music or contemporary music and what we should be fighting for is the word of God. Amen.

I guarantee you when we start fighting over stuff we take our attention off of the word of God and that's exactly what the devil wants. Amen. But how in here in Samuel, how did it get to this point and how have we gotten to this point today in our churches?

Well if you look at the high priest Eli Eli had a problem it was a couple of his sons his sons were wicked, they were priests too and they were serving in the tabernacle too but they were wicked they refused to

obey God and they refused to preach His word they were stealing from God they were stealing from the sacrifice they were stealing from the offerings and get this they were even sleeping with women in the church now does that sound like today we have stealing rampant in the church we have adultery rampant in the church especially by preachers and we sit back and we just close our eyes and we sleep on oh well we'll get us another one hopefully he won't be like that one isn't that what we're doing my friends whenever it comes to that point in the church it is a sign that there is

something gravely off and that needs to be dealt with there needs to be a move of the Holy Spirit that comes through and purges our pulpits and our pews and brings back holiness in the church again amen, holiness you notice that the angels cry out holy, holy, holy why because he is a holy God but we cry out give me, give me, give me see God is a holy God and he wants a holy people we're too content of looking like holy people on the outside but yet being devils on the inside amen there needs to be a change but here's another problem that Eli had and why God was so angry with him and why God would eventually judge him and his sons his sons were rebelling against God they were bringing wickedness into the church they were causing Israel to sin not only were they sinning but they were

causing Israel to sin it reminds me of what I believe it's Jude that says they turned the grace of God into lasciviousness they turned the grace of God into a license to sin do we not see that today we do but here's the main thing whenever God rebukes Eli he said you have honored your sons above me you refused to restrain your sons now see if you go and look Eli whenever he heard the wicked things his son had done with sleeping with the women in the church Eli went to him and said hey guys you need to cut it out just stop I don't want to offend you but people are talking people are talking so let's just stop but guess what it didn't work and God rebukes him because he says you refused to restrain and now in our churches we have sin that is rampant we have heresies that are rampant and all

the good people all the ones that know the word of God are sitting in the pews and doing nothing and sleeping and they will not restrain them because they do not want to offend amen now see I do not like confrontation myself I don't like it but there comes a time when the word of God is not being preached whenever especially a preacher is not preaching the word of God and there has been times where I've had to go to them and ask them what are you doing because what is most important is the word of God and God's honor amen that is what is important we are too busy we want to become a seeker friendly church today all these mega churches are seeker friendly they want to appeal to everybody they want to give everybody what they want you want this type of service we'll give it to you you want

this type of service we'll give it to you you want this we'll tell you exactly we'll make you feel like you're part of a community but my friends instead of being seeker friendly we're supposed to be God friendly amen and whenever a church decides they're going to elevate the needs and the feelings of man above God's needs and feelings we are no longer a church we become apostate amen we're living in a day in our church where we have elevated the culture above God's word my friends God's word has always confronted man's culture and we are not to bow down to anything in the world but only God amen only God but we can see here that Eli refused to preach the word of God he had got to the point where he became his eyes God whacked him and he couldn't see and he let sin go on in the church and

my friends when you do that you begin to walk blind if you would turn to 2nd Peter chapter 1 2nd Peter chapter 1 and I want to read this to you starting in verse 2 it says grace and peace multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord according to his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness through the knowledge of him that hath called us into glory and

virtue isn't it something it says here way back here in Peter's time back then when they didn't have television when they didn't have the internet when they didn't have Christian bookstores to go and buy all these books and telling you how to live the perfect life but isn't it something that he says he has given you all things that pertain unto this life who Jesus Christ hath

and he says that pertain unto life and godliness through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature of holiness see we don't want to be holy anymore what are we doing we call that legalistic you know anything we don't like in the bible we call it legalistic don't we there came a time in the church history of America where people stopped preaching what was in the old testament because they say oh that's in the old testament I'm sick and tired of hearing people in our churches say well we don't preach out of the old testament my friends it's still the word of god we don't sacrifice like they did back then because Jesus Christ was our sacrifice but Jesus

preached the old testament he preached Isaiah he preached Psalms the apostles preached out of the old testament why because the old testament was prophesying and pointing to Christ and that's what they were telling them hey all these prophecies are pointing to Christ but we've thrown the old testament out and now we're living in a day and age where anything we don't like like in the new testament we say oh that's legalistic Jesus said take up your cross and follow me and if you do not you are not worthy of me what do you mean by take up your cross the cross is a place of sacrifice Jesus told every one of his followers take up your cross and follow me give up your life for me Paul said that we should offer up our hearts as a living sacrifice to the Lord and the cross is our place of

sacrifice but it says this having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust and besides this giving all diligence add to your faith virtue and to virtue knowledge and to knowledge temperance self control and to temperance patience and to patience godliness and to godliness brotherly kindness and to the brotherly kindness charity which is love for if these things be in you and abound they make you that you shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ but he that lacketh these things is blind and cannot see afar off and has forgotten that he was purged from his old sins what Peter is describing here is the fruits of the spirit and he says it says here if you lack these then you are blind and we can see here with Eli his eyes begin to wax

dim he was no longer walking with his Lord and in his spirit he had abandoned the word of God and God departed and if you look at many of our churches today there is no longer evidence that God's spirit is in them because the fruits of the spirit is just what we talked about here a church that is truly walking in the Lord and feel that their spirit is going to be a holy church they are going to be a loving church they are not going to be fighting and backbiting they are not going to be racist they are going to have the love of God in them and they are going to have the fire of God in them and when someone gets up and preaches something that is an error something inside of them will check and say that's not right that's not what my God said but nowadays we've all gone to sleep we don't

want to fight for anything we don't want to stand for anything and I think it's sad that when Jesus lied in the kingdom of God as unto ten people that are sleeping but thankfully be to God that when he comes back and before he comes back he's going to start waking up his servants I believe this he will he will not leave us comfortless or helpless if we have the Holy Spirit in us we will know the times in which we live we will know and we will sense the fire of God the spirit of God telling us wake up and warn the people amen if you notice here they both went to sleep Eli and Samuel and the fire of God has went out that God lit a fire

in a little boy named Samuel sometimes we can get so depressed when we look at how bad things are in the country and what's going on on a national level and

then we can see the same stuff that's ripping our churches about ripping them up the liberalism that's flooding into our churches where people no longer believe the word of God and they're sowing seeds of doubt and they're causing people to sin you notice how you don't hear preachers a lot of times preach against sin anymore have you noticed that especially on TV they will not preach against something that they ought to do they won't preach against sin because they're caught up in sin themselves they won't preach against adultery because many of them are adulterers themselves they won't preach about the Holy Spirit and being on fire for God because they are not on fire and they want to sleep and they want you to sleep as well but I'm here to tell you that whenever things look dark God

will raise up a standard and you may be thinking here this morning you're a small church and some of you may be thinking you're up there in years and what can I do my friends you can pray amen it doesn't take fundraisers you don't have to go earn money from walking to raise money for missions we can pray that God will begin to move in the hearts of the people and in our preachers and all of us Paul never had to go out and hold telethons did he the apostles never had to hold one telethon because what was in them was more powerful than anything on this earth amen here's Samuel his mother was barren for years and she was desperate for a child and what did she do she prayed and begged God time and time again for a son you see there was something inside of her she was needing to give birth to

something there was something that was driving her and it was a passion that was put there by God and what she was about to give birth to was a revival I'm telling you are we praying for our churches are we praying for our preachers I would encourage every one of you to start praying seriously that God would begin to raise up some mighty prophets of God in our churches we need to pray for that amen see here there's another problem that we have in the church and it's a problem that Eli had if you would turn to just in chapter 4 here in 1st Samuel starting in verse 14 actually in verse 13 it says and this is after they just got defeated by the Philistines it says that when he came a messenger came and when he came Eli sat upon the seat by the wayside watching for his heart trembled for the

ark of God and when the man came to the city and told it all the city cried out and Eli heard the noise of the crying and he said what meaneth the noise of this tumult and the man came and hastily and told Eli now Eli was 98 years old and his eyes were dim and he could not see and the man said to Eli I am he that come out of the army and I fled today out of the army and he said what is there done my son and the messenger answered and said Israel has fled before the Philistines and there hath been also a great slaughter among the people and my two sons also Hothni and Phineas are dead and the ark was taken so here Eli was just told that his two sons his two wicked sons that he refused to restrain were dead and that the ark of God was taken but notice that it says in verse 18 and it came to

pass when he made mention of the ark of God that he fell down or fell from off his seat backward by the side of the gate and his neck was broken and he died for he was an old man and heavy you notice when Eli heard about his two sons he did not cry he did not weep he did nothing he did not care he didn't care enough about it when they were alive to tell them to restrain them from their sins and from destroying God's church when he found out they were dead he did not care but when he found out that the ark of God was taken and stolen it so rocked him to the core he fell back and broke his neck he cared more about something than the presence of God had also left the ark of the covenant or else he would not have allowed the Philistines to take it amen he cared more about an item than he did

his own two sons and their souls and I can tell you this in the churches today in the name of not offending anybody in the name of being politically correct and not hurting anybody's feelings we are letting people die in their sins we are letting things be done so we do not offend and people are dying and going to hell because of it I know a lot of times it's tempting we can sit around and we can look at how bad the things are look at what the young people are doing but did you ever think that maybe you are the key that maybe God is wanting to use you to reach the young people see we are told hey you older people you old people you are so disconnected from the younger people you can't reach them oh really is your God that small that you can't reach the young people I don't think so in

closing if you would turn to Malachi in Malachi the last scriptures in the Old Testament it is in chapter 4 in chapter 3 he just talks about the coming of John the Baptist the messenger that will prepare the way of the Lord and then suddenly the Lord shall appear in his temple well it says in chapter 4 in verse 5 he says behold I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord and he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children and the heart of the children to their fathers lest I come and smite the earth with a curse notice he says before that great and terrible day of the Lord he will send a messenger a preacher a prophet to come and the words that he speaks will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and in doing so the hearts

of the children will be turned to the fathers see what had happened in Elias time his heart wasn't really towards his children and God came and smote them with a curse because they were wicked and they refused to repent but God says here in Malachi that he will send a prophet and he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children and the heart of the children to their fathers I think it's time in the churches today that all of us rise up in one accord and turn our hearts towards our young people and reaching out to him and not giving them some lukewarm soft sugar coated message but telling them and preaching the gospel that you must turn from your sins and turn from God this is your only way out seek him so you will live for far too long in the past 20 years in our youth groups we're

entertaining them with video games and all sorts of games and rock songs and television and with pizza hoping this will save them and let them see how much we love them but if we're not giving them the word of God they will die and go to hell it's been far too easy for us to show our young people out in a building hoping they get saved and letting some other young lukewarm person try to show them the way to heaven my friends it is up to every one of us and you grandparents you as well can reach your grandchildren if you would pray for them let them hear you pray for them pour out your soul to God cry out to God and say God send us a revival save our young people give us a revival or give us death we will give our lives for our young people we will give our lives for our churches wake up

amen wake up many of our altars are empty now in all of our churches many of our altars should be sold because we don't use them because no one feels the need to go to the altar anymore to pray about anything because we're all ok my friends we're not all ok and the church is not ok I cannot tell you how many people I've heard that have killed themselves within the past month people that were raised in church and went to church I can't tell you how many preachers that I know that have killed themselves I stood over a casket of a preacher that shot himself in the chest because he couldn't handle it anymore the stress of what was going on in the church the attacks he was getting and I was broken when I went to the visitation and I saw another lukewarm pastor over in the corner laughing my

friends even our preachers are dying the devil is even going after our preachers and destroying them and we're sitting back just asleep do you think Noah slept before the rains began 120 years he preached and it

says that he preached righteousness Peter said he was a preacher of righteousness he banged those hammers every day telling the lost and dying world turn from your sins and turn to God and then God told him to go into the ark and do you think he slept I don't think he did he knew what was coming and my friends we know what is coming don't we to this world John the Baptist said who has warned you to plead the wrath to come my friends today in our churches nobody is warning anybody about the wrath to come we're too busy telling people how to get money how to get rich how to have a

blessed life and happy life how to think happy thoughts when Jesus came to die for our sins and to save us from our sins to live and to Him to be partakers of the divine nature to walk in holy communion with our God we need to wake up and it can start I don't care how big your church is or how small your church is I don't care how old you think you are or how young you think you are God can use anybody who is willing who has humbled themselves God can use this may be a small church but I would encourage you not to give up and to begin and start to pray and I would suggest you pray for the preachers let's just keep it local here in Oklahoma pray for our preachers pray for all of them pray for those that are coming out of Hillsdale pray that God would get a hold of them and fill them and

set them on fire and then pray that God's Holy Spirit would begin to prepare the way and move in the hearts of people and we see revival again, Amen we need to wake up because the fire has gone out in our churches and we need God to light it again and it is possible and He will do it if we would humble ourselves and seek His face and turn from all wickedness Amen He will heal our churches if you would bow your heads please Dear Heavenly Father

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Audio: <https://sermonindex1.b-cdn.net/20/SID20046.mp3>

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