

Be The Church!

**When Doing Church Is Not
Enough**



Prayer Guide

INTRODUCTION

As a church, 2009 is a critical year for the ministry. On a church level, we are approaching 70 years of ministry in our community. Yet it is not uncommon to hear people in our town ask the question, "Curwensville Christian Church? Where's that?"

That question reflects a reality that must be addressed. We have to face the fact that we are having a minimal impact for the gospel in our community. The lack of impact reflects a great reality within the church. We must recognize that we are lacking in three key areas:

1. We have no passion for God.
2. We have no burden for people
3. We have no power for ministry.

Because of these realities, I have come to a conclusion that CCC is at a crossroads. We have a decision to make. ***Will we become the church, or will we continue to do church?*** It is a crucial question that each of must make, individually and as a church.

The purpose of this prayer guide is to help prepare you for that decision. It is going to take more than just listening to three weeks of messages concerning what we need to become. It is going to require effort on your part spiritually.

So, with that in mind, I am asking you to do the following three things.

1. Fast for the next three weeks (21 days)

I am asking you to abstain from one item for the next 3 weeks (ie. TV, a certain food or activity, etc.)

2. Read and pray through this guide
3. Ask God to help our church become all that He wants us to be.

This is a crucial moment for our church. God has a purpose and plan to use us in a mighty way. We must make the decision if we want to be all that He wants us to be.

***It's time. Be the Church!!!
Doing Church is No Longer Enough.***

Week 1
Opening Our Eyes to Our True Condition

If we are going to get to the place where we can make a decision about our future as a church, we need to first recognize what is our current condition. The following will help guide you through the process of examining your life and our church.

1. Read Revelation 3:14-22

2. Answer the following questions.

- A. Have you become complacent with your spiritual life? Have you become useless?

- B. Has the church become complacent? Are we useless?

- C. What does Jesus think about the reality of our complacency? What is your reaction to this?

- D. Are you self-sufficient (relying on your knowledge/wisdom, resources, experience and abilities)? Do you really need Jesus?

- E. Is the church self-sufficient (relying on our knowledge/wisdom, resources, experience and abilities)? Does the church really need Jesus?

F. Are you ignorant of your true condition (no passion for God, no burden for people, no power for ministry)?

G. As a church, are we ignorant of our true condition (no passion for God, no burden for people, no power for ministry)?

3. Pray about the following things for the next week:

A. Acknowledge your true condition to God in confession and seek His forgiveness. (1 John 1:9)

B. Acknowledge our true condition as a church to God in confession and seek His forgiveness

C. Ask God to help you and our church to do the following:

- Seek spiritual riches
- Seek purity and righteousness in your life and in our church
- Seek spiritual discernment
- Turn from any known sins in your life and in our church

D. Ask God to help you recognize that Jesus is waiting on us to come to Him.

E. Pray for the church as a whole to recognize our true condition.

Week 2
A Church After God's Own heart

In order to make an informed decision concerning our future as a church, we must have a Biblical understanding of what the church should be. The following will help you to gain a proper understanding of what God wants His church to be.

1. Read Acts 2:40-47

2. Answer the following questions.

A. What are your thoughts as you read about the first church?

B. Lists key characteristics about this first church.

C. Which characteristics do you see in our church?

D. Which characteristics do you not see in our church?

E. What is your reaction to what you have read and what you see in our church?

3. Pray that God molds our church into a “church after His own heart.” Here are specific things that you can pray about from the key characteristics of that first church.

A. Concerning the Word of God

1. That we would recognize the importance of God’s Word.
2. Acknowledge the authority of God’s Word in our lives and in our church.
3. That we would read and internalize God’s Word.
4. That we would submit and apply God’s Word to our lives and to our church.

B. Concerning fellowship with one another

1. That we can relate to each other.
2. That there will not be the presence of conflict in our midst.
3. That there will be a unity of the spirit in our church.
4. That there will be an atmosphere of acceptance (non-judgmental) in our church.
5. That our church will be a place of mutual encouragement.

C. Concerning the worship of the Church

1. That we would make a conscious effort to be involved in the worship of our God.
2. That we would move from being spectators to being participants in worship.
3. That we would have a proper perspective of God

D. Concerning prayer

1. That we would recognize the need for prayer in our lives and in our church.
2. That we would make a commitment to prayer.

E. Concerning the presence of God

1. That we would see the hand of God working in our church.
2. That we would see answers to our prayers.
3. That God would be glorified in our church as a testimony to the world and the church itself.

F. Concerning each other

1. That we would not be indifferent to the needs of others around us.
2. That we would place the needs of others before our own desires.
3. That we would be willing to sacrifice to help others in their needs.

Week 3
A Course of Action

After recognizing our true condition and the Biblical standard of what a church should be, it is now time for a decision. Do we want to be the church that God wants us to be? To help us with that decision, the following is a Biblical course of action.

1. Read Revelation 2:1-7

2. Answer the following questions.

A. What did Jesus commend this church for? What were they doing right?

B. What are we doing as a church that Jesus would commend us for?

C. What problem does Jesus have with this church?

D. What is missing in our church? Would this be displeasing to Jesus?

E. If they did not change, what will happen to this church?

F. What will happen to our church?

3. Pray about the following things for the next week:

- A. Ask God to help you remember when you truly loved God and served Him with all of your heart.
- B. Ask God to help the church see and understand its true condition.
- C. Ask God to help you acknowledge your sin and turn from it.
- D. Ask God to help our church acknowledge its sin and turn from it.
- E. As God to help us serve Him with a heart of love and devotion.
- F. Ask God to help us become the church that He wants us to be. Admit that doing church is no longer enough.