

Irresistible Church - Hungers for the Presence of God

God is calling us to be an irresistible church
Are we hungry for the presence of God or seeing of for the absence of problems
Matthew 18:20 & Jeremiah 23:24
In God we live and move and have our being.

1. A greater awareness of His presence

We are seeking a greater awareness of Gods presence - evidence of God there but times when he draws closer to you

2. A longing to be filled to the full measure with the Holy Spirit

Eph 5:18 be filled with the spirit
When we become a Christian we allow him in the entry - but then we let him into any area of our house.
Galatians 5:22-23 evidence of the fruit of the spirit

3. Our hungering might result in a special anointing or flow of Gods presence for a specific purpose.

Paul says - everything one decently and in order, discern....
- does it line up with gods revealed word?
- It should always honor Jesus Christ
- Have a deeper revelation and hatred of sin
Hudson Taylor "have you repented today?" Have you turned your life or turned away from the scriptures
Abraham Lincoln "Lord, Without you I must fail"
You can do the most amazing things but not necessarily have the presence of God there!
Moses - if your not coming don't send us in there.
You could probably pull the Holy Spirit out of all the western churches and not know the difference.
We are learning to move with the presence of God

Signs to tell when the spirit of God is no where to be found:

Fruitless - no love joy peace etc
Wordless - not I love with the scriptures
carelessness - not called to serve fast worship etc
Visionless - consumed with other things - colour of carpet , walls etc
Missionless - sees the church as an end to itself
Numberless - no life transformations
Purposeless - lose their purpose as to what it is all about, all about perfection

How to not lose it - elevate the vision, mission and values - keep it in our face - makes us accountable. Let's God know it is his place and welcome anytime to come in and do what he wants.
Our church is all about "our dad"

James 4:8 you draw close to me and I will draw close to you.

Irresistible Church - Remembers Who She Is

It pays to know who you are
Our identity / who are we as a church
Our true identity is an glorious one
The truth is we need to remember who we are

"When we remember who we are, we are able to act on who we are"

people don't need to see us - see Christ through us

Three images to help us picture the true identity of the Church:

1. Bride - a picture of beauty, glorious
Takes her place next to her groom
Christ loves us as he loves the Church
Eph 5:21 Paul charges husbands as Christ loves the church

2. Soldier

2 Tim 2:3-4 we are soldiers / Christ is our captain and commander

3. Royal family

1 Peter 2:9 Chosen race, a royal priesthood, people a belonging to God

We can be as attractive and captivating as a bride and true joy when we find or true identity

A case of mistaken identity - The church has a tendency to forget her true identity.
Being in the wrong job site is the same as when a church has lost their identity

Signs a church has lost their identity:

1. When a church becomes busy doing the wrong things.
2. When a church becomes an end rather than a means to an end. Of only they came to church I know they will meet others and see the light and have a changed life.
"you are now entering a mission field" on the way out of the church
3. When the church becomes inward focused.
God called us to be counter culture not a sub culture
A culture the does what is right and true in a world full of darkness. even when the world mocks us. Shine like the stars in a universe.

We are a reflective surface - a mirror of Christ
Our invitation as believers is to go into the darkness and shine our light into the darkness