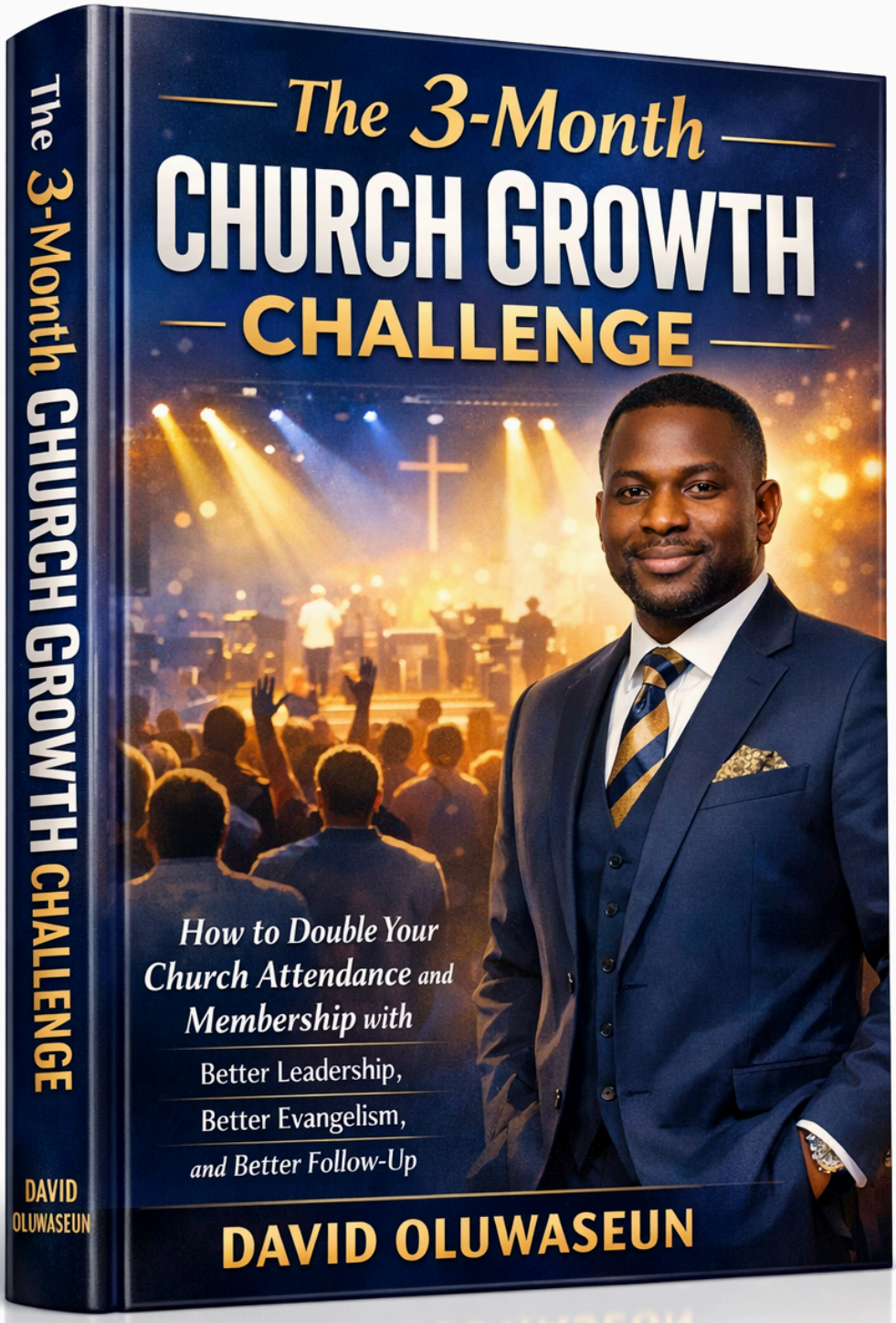
The 3-Month
CHURCH GROWTH
CHALLENGE
How to Double Your Church Attendance and Membership with
Better Leadership,
Better Evangelism,
and Better Follow-Up
DAVID OLUWASEUN
The 3-Month CHURCH GROWTH CHALLENGE
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Chapter 1: The Hidden Reasons Your Church Is Not Growing

The Warning Signs You Must Not Ignore

My dear leader, let me speak to you heart to heart.

Many churches want growth. Many pastors pray for more people. Many leaders fast and ask God for increase. That is good. We must pray. We must trust God. But we must also be honest enough to ask a hard question:

Why is the church not growing?

This is not a shame question. It is a wisdom question.

A doctor cannot treat a sick man if he first says, “Nothing is wrong.” In the same way, a church leader cannot fix a growth problem if he keeps pretending all is well.

Sometimes the signs are there, but we ignore them.

Maybe the chairs are empty week after week.
Maybe first-time guests come, but they do not return.
Maybe workers are tired and no one seems happy.
Maybe the service is long, but lives are not changing.
Maybe the same few people do all the work.
Maybe giving is low, prayer meetings are weak, and the fire is not strong anymore.

These are warning signs.

Let me say this with love: **a quiet church is not always a healthy church**. A church can have music, programs, and good clothes, yet still be weak inside.

Think of a mango tree. If it has many green leaves but no fruit, something is wrong. From far away, it may look fine. But when you come close, you see there is no result. Church can be like that too. It may look active, but there is little true growth.

As leaders, we must learn to read the signs early.

Here are a few warning signs you must not ignore:

1. **People visit, but they do not stay.**
2. **Workers serve, but they are not joyful.**
3. **The church has meetings, but no clear plan.**
4. **The pastor is preaching, but the people are not changing.**
5. **There is sound in the church, but no real warmth.**
6. **Leaders are busy, but not effective.**

A wise leader does not get angry at these signs. He studies them. He learns from them. He asks God for light. Then he takes action.

Why People Come and Leave

Now let us talk about something many leaders do not like to face.

People come to church for many reasons. Some come because they are hungry for God. Some come because a friend invited them. Some come because life is hard and they need help. Some come because they just moved to a new area. Some come because they want a church family.

But people also leave for reasons.

And many times, they do not leave because the devil is too strong. They leave because the church did not help them stay.

That may sound hard, but it is true.

Let me give you a simple example.

A young man visits your church on Sunday. He is happy to come. He sits at the back. Nobody greets him well. Nobody smiles at him. The sermon is

long and hard to follow. After service, people talk to their friends and go home. No one asks for his name. No one calls him on Monday. No one sends a message. Next Sunday, he stays home.

Now tell me, did he leave because God rejected him? No. He left because he did not feel seen.

People stay where they feel loved.
People return where they feel noticed.
People grow where they feel helped.

Let us be real, leader to leader. Many churches are good at **counting visitors**, but not good at **keeping people**.

A woman may come with three children. She may be tired, worried, and looking for hope. If she meets order, love, and clear teaching, she may return. But if the children's area is not ready, the ushers are harsh, and no one cares after service, she may not come back.

That is why we must ask:

- What do people feel when they enter our church?
- Do they feel peace or stress?
- Do they feel love or pressure?
- Do they understand the message?
- Do they know what next to do?

Many people do not need a perfect church. They need a caring church.

Let me tell you a short story.

Two churches were on the same street. One had louder speakers. The other had warmer people. A man visited both. In the first church, the music was strong, but nobody spoke to him. In the second church, one old woman smiled and said, "You are welcome. We are glad you came." That man joined the second church.

Never forget this: **people may first come for the sermon, but many stay because of love**.

Growth Killers in Many Churches

Now let us look at some common growth killers. These are things that quietly stop church growth.

They do not always look big. But they do big harm.

1. No Clear Vision

If the leader does not know where the church is going, the people will walk in circles.

When there is no clear plan, every week feels the same. People come, sing, hear a message, and go home. Nothing moves. Nothing builds. Nothing grows.

A church must know what it is trying to do. Is it winning souls? Building disciples? Raising leaders? Helping families? It should be clear.

2. Weak Follow-Up

This is one of the biggest growth killers.

A church may do good outreach and invite many people. But if there is no follow-up, the church is like a bucket with holes. Water goes in, but it does not stay.

If 20 new people visit and 18 do not return, the church has a follow-up problem.

3. Poor Leadership Example

People watch leaders more than leaders know.

If leaders come late, members will come late.
If leaders do not smile, members will not smile.

If leaders do not care for souls, members will not care for souls.
If leaders fight, the church will feel cold.

A leader is like a mirror. The church often reflects what it sees.

4. Hard and Dry Preaching

Let me say this kindly. Not every long sermon is a strong sermon.

Some messages are too hard to understand. Some are full of noise but empty of help. Some do not touch real life. The people leave without knowing what to do next.

Good preaching should help people live for God on Monday, not only shout “Amen” on Sunday.

5. Poor Church Experience

Sometimes the problem is not doctrine. It is disorder.

The church starts late.
The sound is bad.
The ushers are rude.
The restroom is dirty.
The children’s class is not ready.
Announcements are confusing.

These things may look small, but they speak loudly.

If a person enters a church and sees disorder everywhere, he may think, “If they cannot care for simple things, will they care for me?”

6. No Love Culture

This one is deep.

A church may have truth, but if it has no love, people will feel it.

Love is seen in little things:

- a smile
- a kind word
- a phone call
- a seat offered
- a name remembered
- a prayer after service

Where love is absent, growth will struggle.

What Healthy Churches Do Differently

Now let us turn the light on. What do healthy churches do differently?

Healthy churches are not always the biggest churches. But they do some things well.

1. They Make People Feel Welcome

From the gate to the seat, healthy churches care about people.

They greet guests kindly.
They help people find seats.
They make the place neat and calm.
They explain things clearly.
They do not make visitors feel lost.

A healthy church says, “You matter.”

2. They Keep the Main Thing the Main Thing

Healthy churches do not try to do everything. They stay strong on what matters most.

They preach Christ.
They win souls.
They disciple people.
They build families.
They train workers.
They follow up on new people.

They are not just busy. They are focused.

3. Their Leaders Work Together

Where leaders fight, church growth suffers.

Healthy churches have leaders who support one another. The pastor does not carry everything alone. There is teamwork. There is prayer. There is peace.

A church grows faster when good people work as one.

Think of a broom. One stick cannot sweep well. But many sticks tied together can clean a whole room. That is teamwork.

4. They Care About Systems

Some leaders say, “We only need anointing.” Yes, we need anointing. But we also need order.

Noah had faith, but he also built the ark with care.
Jesus did miracles, but He also told people to sit in groups before feeding them.

Healthy churches use simple systems:

- guest cards
- follow-up calls
- workers’ meetings
- clear service plans
- prayer teams
- children’s structure

Systems help growth stay strong.

5. They Help People Grow

Healthy churches do not only gather crowds. They build people.

They help new believers learn.
They teach members how to pray.
They teach families how to live well.
They train workers to serve with joy.

A healthy church is not just full. It is fruitful.

The Good News: Change Can Start Now

Now, dear leader, here is the good news.

Your church can change.

It may not happen by magic. It may not happen in one Sunday. But it can happen. And it can start now.

If your church has been weak, do not lose heart.
If people have been leaving, do not give up.
If systems are poor, they can be fixed.
If leaders are tired, they can be renewed.
If the church feels stuck, it can move again.

God still grows churches. But many times, He starts by opening the eyes of the leader.

The first miracle may not be more members. The first miracle may be **clear sight**.

When a leader begins to see the real problem, he can begin to build the real answer.

Let me speak plainly.

You do not need to wait for next year.
You do not need to wait for a big conference.
You do not need to wait for a famous guest speaker.

Start with what you have.

- Start greeting people better.
- Start following up on guests.
- Start preaching with more clarity.
- Start training your leaders.
- Start the service on time.
- Start caring for families.
- Start praying with focus.
- Start building a love culture.

Little steps can bring big change.

A farmer does not shout at the land for not giving fruit. He works on the soil. He plants good seed. He waters it. He waits. Then growth comes.

Church growth is often like that.

Do not only pray for fruit. Work on the soil.

And remember this: **healthy growth is better than fast noise**.

It is better to build a strong church of 100 who love God and care for people than a noisy crowd with no root. But when a church becomes healthy, growth often follows.

So take courage, leader. This chapter is not to blame you. It is to help you. If you can see the hidden reasons, you can remove them. If you can remove them, your church can breathe again. And if your church can breathe again, growth can begin.

Simple Leader Check-Up

Before you move to the next chapter, ask yourself these questions:

1. Do visitors feel welcome in my church?
2. Do we follow up on new people quickly?
3. Are our sermons clear and helpful?
4. Do our leaders work in peace?
5. Is there order in our services?

6. Do people feel loved here?
7. What one thing must change first?

Write the answer down. Be honest. Be calm. Be ready to act.

Because change can start now.

Chapter 2: Better Leadership, Bigger Growth

In Chapter 1, we talked about the hidden reasons many churches do not grow. We saw that some churches are not sick on the outside only. Many are weak on the inside. We also saw that change can start now.

So the next question is this:

Where should change start first?

My dear leader, change must start with the leader.

This is not to put all the blame on the pastor. No. A pastor carries many things. He prays, preaches, counsels, visits, plans, and cares for people. That is heavy work. But it is also true that when the leader gets stronger, the church often gets stronger too.

Leadership is like the headlight of a car. If the light is dim, the road will not be clear. If the light is bright, the road becomes easier to follow.

That is why this chapter matters so much.

If you want bigger growth, you need better leadership.

Why the Leader Sets the Pace

Every church moves at the speed of its leader.

If the leader is full of faith, people begin to believe.
If the leader is serious about souls, the church becomes serious about souls.
If the leader is lazy, the church becomes slow.
If the leader is always late, the people learn lateness.
If the leader is full of love, the church becomes warm.

People may not always do what you say, but many times they do what you show.

Think of a family. If a father wakes early, works hard, and treats people well, the children will see it. They may not say anything, but they are learning. Church is like that too. The members are always learning from the leader.

I once saw two churches in the same city. In one church, the pastor came early, greeted workers, checked the service plan, and prayed with the team. The workers were active and happy. In the other church, the pastor came late, looked tired, and blamed people for every problem. The workers were afraid and confused.

Can you guess which church was growing?

The first one.

Why? Because the leader set the pace.

A leader is like the drummer in a choir march. If the beat is strong and clear, everyone can follow. If the beat is weak and broken, people lose step.

So ask yourself:

- What kind of pace am I setting?
- Am I leading with fire or with fear?
- Am I helping people move forward, or am I holding them back?

This is not a question to make you feel bad. It is a question to help you grow.

A church can rise when its leader rises.

Seeing the Future Before Others Do

A good leader sees before others see.

This is called vision.

Vision is not just a big slogan on a banner. Vision is seeing what can be, even when it is not here yet.

A leader looks at 50 people and sees 150.
A leader looks at weak workers and sees strong ministers.
A leader looks at empty chairs and sees souls that God wants to save.
A leader looks at today's small church and sees tomorrow's strong family.

That is vision.

Without vision, people do church work without joy. They just do the same thing again and again. They get tired. They feel stuck. But when people can see where the church is going, they find new strength.

Let me make it simple.

If you enter a bus and the driver says nothing, you may feel worried. You may ask, "Where are we going?" But if the driver says, "We are going to Lagos, and we will get there by this road," people relax. They know the plan.

Church members also want to know where the church is going.

A wise pastor says things like:

- "This year we will care for new people better."
- "This month we will focus on souls."
- "We will train leaders."
- "We will build a church where families can grow."
- "We will not just have service. We will make disciples."

That is vision made simple.

Vision gives people a reason to serve. It gives prayer direction. It gives workers hope. It helps the church stop moving in circles.

But let me say this too: vision must be clear.

If the leader sees too much but explains too little, the people will still be confused.

You must say the vision in a simple way. Say it often. Say it with faith. Say it until the workers and members can say it too.

One pastor told his church every week, “We are a church that loves God, loves people, and reaches souls.” He said it so much that even the children knew it. After some time, the whole church started to act that way.

That is what vision can do.

Leading with Wisdom and Love

My dear leader, leadership is not only about being strong. It is also about being wise and loving.

Some leaders have strength, but no love. They push people too hard. They talk in a harsh way. They correct without care. They want results, but they hurt people on the way.

Other leaders have love, but no wisdom. They are kind, but they do not fix problems. They avoid hard choices. They let disorder grow.

A strong church needs both:

wisdom and love.

Jesus had both.

He loved people deeply.
He touched the broken.
He welcomed children.
He had mercy on sinners.

But He also had wisdom.
He knew when to speak.
He knew when to stay quiet.

He knew how to choose leaders.
He knew how to handle crowds.

That is the model for every pastor and church leader.

Wisdom helps you know:

- what to do
- when to do it
- who should do it
- what must wait
- what must stop

Love helps you know:

- how to speak
- how to care
- how to restore
- how to keep people from breaking

Let me give a simple example.

A worker keeps coming late. A harsh leader may shame him in public. That may wound him. A weak leader may ignore it for months. That may spread bad habits. But a wise and loving leader will call him aside, ask what is wrong, listen, and then help him improve.

That is better leadership.

People grow best where truth and love meet.

Church is not the army. Church is family. Yes, there must be order. Yes, there must be correction. But correction should heal, not crush.

A leader must learn to say:

- “I care about you.”
- “This must change.”
- “Let me help you.”

- “We can do better.”
- “I believe in you.”

Those simple words can lift tired people.

Many members are carrying silent pain. Some workers are trying, but they are weak. Some leaders look fine in church but cry at home. If we lead without love, we may lose good people.

But if we lead with wisdom and love, we can help people rise.

Building Leaders Who Help You Grow

One of the biggest mistakes many pastors make is trying to do everything alone.

They preach alone.
They counsel alone.
They follow up alone.
They plan alone.
They solve every problem alone.

At first, it may feel faster. But later, it becomes heavy. The pastor gets tired. The church slows down. Growth stops.

No church grows strong for long with one man doing all the work.

Even Moses needed help. His father-in-law told him, “This work is too much for you alone.” That was wise advice.

A smart pastor does not just gather members. He builds leaders.

Why?

Because leaders help carry the work.

When you train good leaders:

- more people are cared for
- problems are solved faster

- new members are followed up well
- workers stay active
- the church becomes stronger

Think of it like farming. If only one person is planting, watering, and harvesting, the farm will stay small. But if many trained hands are helping, the farm can grow big.

Church growth works the same way.

So who should you build?

You should build people who are:

- faithful
- teachable
- humble
- willing to serve
- ready to grow

Do not only look for loud people. Look for steady people.

Some people speak well, but they do not stay faithful. Some are quiet, but they are loyal, caring, and wise. Those people can become strong leaders.

Start small.

Teach them how to welcome guests.
Teach them how to call new people.
Teach them how to pray with members.
Teach them how to lead small groups.
Teach them how to solve simple problems.

Then watch them grow.

A wise pastor is not afraid to raise other leaders. He is happy to see others become useful.

Let me say something important: training leaders may take time, but it saves time later.

At first, you may need to explain things again and again. That is normal. Children do not learn to walk in one day. But if you keep teaching, correcting, and encouraging, they will grow.

One pastor said, “I was tired until I started training people.” That is true for many leaders.

If you want bigger growth, do not only pray for more members. Pray for more leaders. Then train them well.

The First Changes Every Pastor Must Make

Now let us become very practical.

If church growth is going to happen, what are the first changes a pastor must make?

Not next year. Not one day. But now.

Here are some first changes that matter a lot.

1. Move from Reaction to Planning

Some pastors lead only by reacting. They wait for problems, then run to fix them. That is tiring.

A better way is to plan ahead.

Ask:

- What do we want to see this month?
- Who will do what?
- How will we welcome guests?
- How will we follow up?

- What are we preaching about this season?

Planning brings peace.

2. Move from Doing Everything Alone to Sharing the Work

You are not called to carry every chair, answer every call, and fix every small issue alone.

Start giving work to trusted people. Teach them. Check on them. Let them help.

Sharing the work is not weakness. It is wisdom.

3. Move from General Prayers to Clear Goals

It is good to pray, “Lord, grow the church.” But it is even better to pray with clear focus.

Pray like this:

- “Lord, help us keep first-time visitors.”
- “Lord, help us raise 5 new leaders.”
- “Lord, help us bring 20 new people this month.”
- “Lord, help our sermons touch real needs.”

Clear prayers often lead to clear action.

4. Move from Busy Services to Helpful Services

Not every full program is a fruitful program.

Some services are too long, too crowded, and too confusing. People leave tired instead of helped.

Ask:

- Is this service helping people?
- Is the message clear?
- Are announcements too many?

- Are we using time well?

Sometimes growth comes when we remove what is not helping.

5. Move from Talking About Love to Showing Love

Do not just preach love. Build it into church life.

Call the sick.
Notice the new person.
Thank the workers.
Smile at people.
Visit when needed.
Pray with care.

Little acts of love make a big difference.

6. Move from Guessing to Checking

A wise leader checks what is really happening.

Do not assume all is well.

Check:

- How many visitors came?
- How many returned?
- Which workers are tired?
- What do guests say about the church?
- What part of service is not working well?

What you check, you can improve.

7. Move from Fear to Faith

Some pastors are afraid to change. They think, “What if people do not like it?” “What if we fail?” “What if it does not work?”

But leader, fear will keep you small.

Faith says, “With God’s help, we can do better.”
Faith says, “We can learn.”
Faith says, “We can change.”
Faith says, “This church can grow healthy.”

You do not need pride. You need courage.

A Simple Story for Every Leader

Let me close this chapter with a simple story.

A pastor had a church of about 40 people. He prayed a lot for growth. Every week he cried to God, “Lord, send more people.” But nothing changed much.

One day, he sat down and looked closely at the church. He saw that service started late. Guests were not followed up. Workers had no clear jobs. Sermons were powerful, but there was no plan after the altar call.

So he made a few changes.

He trained the ushers.
He started service on time.
He gave leaders clear roles.
He called first-time guests on Monday.
He taught his workers to smile and care for people.
He made his vision simple and repeated it often.

In a few months, the church changed. Not because he bought new speakers. Not because a big preacher came. But because leadership got better.

That can happen for you too.

Final Word for This Chapter

My dear leader, church growth is not only about more noise, more chairs, or more events. It begins with leadership.

When the leader grows:

- the workers gain strength
- the systems become clearer
- the church becomes warmer
- the people become more focused
- growth becomes more possible

So do not only ask, “Why is the church not growing?”

Also ask, **“What kind of leader must I become for this church to grow?”**

That is a powerful question.

And the good news is this: you do not have to become perfect overnight. Just start growing on purpose.

Better leadership can lead to bigger growth.

Simple Leader Check-Up

Before you go to Chapter 3, ask yourself these questions:

1. What pace am I setting for my church?
2. Is my vision clear to my workers and members?
3. Do I lead with both wisdom and love?
4. Am I training leaders, or doing everything alone?
5. What first change must I make this week?

Write your answers down. Pray over them. Then take one step.

One step can start a new season.

Chapter 3: Sermons That Bring People Back

In Chapter 2, we talked about leadership. We saw that when leadership gets better, the church can get stronger. We learned that the leader sets the pace, sees ahead, leads with wisdom and love, and builds other leaders.

Now let us move to another big key to church growth:

the pulpit.

My dear leader, preaching matters a lot.

A church may have good chairs, nice music, and kind ushers. All that is good. But if the preaching is not clear, strong, and helpful, many people will still not stay.

Why?

Because people come to hear from God.

They want hope.
They want truth.
They want help.
They want to know what God is saying about their life, family, pain, and future.

So when we preach, we are not just filling time in the service. We are feeding people.

And if the food is not good, people may stop coming back.

Let us talk about sermons that bring people back.

Why Clear Preaching Wins Hearts

Many leaders think powerful preaching means using big words, shouting loud, or speaking for a very long time. But that is not always true.

A sermon can be loud and still be empty.
A sermon can be long and still be confusing.
A sermon can sound deep and still not help anybody.

Clear preaching is what wins hearts.

When people understand the message, they can receive it.
When they receive it, they can act on it.
When they act on it, their life begins to change.
And when life begins to change, they want to come back.

It is that simple.

Think about Jesus. He spoke in a clear way. He used stories about seeds, sheep, lamps, coins, and fathers with sons. Why? Because the people could understand those things.

He did not try to confuse people. He wanted them to see truth clearly.

That is a lesson for every preacher.

Let me give you an example.

If a mother comes to church worried about school fees, family stress, and prayer for her children, and the sermon is full of hard words she cannot follow, she may nod her head but leave empty. But if the sermon says, “God sees your need. Trust Him. Pray. Work with faith. Do not give up. God can make a way,” she can hold on to that.

Clear preaching reaches the heart.

Do not preach to impress people. Preach to help people.

A child drinks water better from a clean cup. In the same way, people receive truth better when it is served clearly.

So ask yourself:

- Can my people understand me?
- Are my messages simple enough to remember?
- Can a first-time visitor follow what I am saying?

If the answer is no, then some change is needed.

How to Preach So People Listen

Now let us talk about how to preach in a way that makes people listen.

Listening is not automatic. People may sit in front of you, but their mind can be far away. Some are tired. Some are worried. Some are fighting silent battles. So a preacher must learn how to hold the heart of the people.

1. Start with Something They Can Feel

Do not start too far from their world.

Start with a question.
Start with a simple truth.
Start with a story.
Start with a problem they know.

For example:

- “Have you ever prayed and felt like nothing was changing?”
- “Many families today are carrying hidden pain.”
- “Some people smile in church, but cry at home.”

When you begin like that, people feel, “This message is for me.”

2. Be Simple and Straight

Say what you mean.
Do not go around too much.
Do not use ten words when three words can do the job.

Simple preaching is not weak preaching. It is wise preaching.

If you say, “God wants you to trust Him in hard times,” people understand. If you wrap that truth in too many heavy words, they may miss it.

3. Use Bible Truth in a Living Way

Do not just read verses. Explain them.

Show people what the verse means.
Show them how it fits real life.
Show them what to do with it on Monday morning.

A good sermon is not only Bible information. It is Bible truth made useful for daily life.

4. Use Examples People Know

This is very important.

Use family examples.
Use market examples.
Use farming examples.
Use school examples.
Use church examples.

People understand better when they can see the picture in their mind.

For example, faith can be explained like planting seed. You do not dig it up every day to check if it is growing. You plant it, water it, and wait.

That kind of picture stays in the heart.

5. Know When to Stop

This one is hard for many preachers.

Some sermons become weak because they go on too long.

When the point is made, begin to land well.
Do not keep stretching the message until people are tired.

A sharp knife cuts better than a blunt one. In the same way, a clear sermon with focus often works better than a long sermon without shape.

Messages That Meet Real Needs

My dear leader, one reason people return to church is because the messages are helping them live.

People are asking real questions:

- How do I trust God in hard times?
- How do I raise my children well?
- How do I keep peace in my home?
- How do I fight fear?
- How do I grow in prayer?
- How do I forgive?
- How do I stand strong when money is low?

If the pulpit never speaks to these needs, people may feel the church is far from their life.

Yes, we must preach salvation. Yes, we must preach holiness. Yes, we must preach faith and sound doctrine. But we must also help people see how God's Word enters daily life.

A good sermon meets people where they are and leads them to where God wants them to be.

Let me show you a simple picture.

A man comes to church carrying heavy worry. His business is weak. His home is under stress. He is trying to smile, but inside he is sinking. If the message that day speaks to fear, trust, prayer, wise action, and God's care, he may leave lighter than he came. He may say, "I needed this word."

That is how sermons bring people back.

When people know they can come to church and receive help from God's Word, they return with hunger.

Here are some message areas that often meet real needs:

- faith in hard times
- prayer and spiritual growth
- healing from hurt
- marriage and family life
- parenting
- discipline and obedience
- hope in seasons of delay
- walking in love
- living holy in a hard world
- dealing with fear and worry

This does not mean every sermon must be about problems. No. It means every sermon should connect truth to life.

A doctor does not just hold medicine. He gives the right medicine for the right sickness. In the same way, a preacher must feed the church with what helps them grow.

Why Powerful Sermons Grow Churches

Now let us ask an important question:

Why do powerful sermons help a church grow?

Because powerful preaching does at least five big things.

1. It Builds Faith

Faith comes by hearing the Word of God.

When people hear strong Bible truth, faith rises in them. They begin to believe again. They begin to pray again. They begin to hope again.

A faith-filled church is easier to grow than a fearful church.

2. It Changes Lives

People stay where they are changing.

If a man keeps coming to church and his anger is going down, his prayer life is growing, and his home is getting better, he will not want to leave. He will say, “God is helping me here.”

Changed lives are one of the strongest reasons people stay.

3. It Gives People Something to Share

When a sermon blesses people, they talk about it.

They tell a friend, “Come next Sunday.”
They tell a neighbor, “The message helped me.”
They tell family, “I learned something that changed me.”

In that way, good preaching becomes free invitation.

4. It Builds Trust in the Church

When people know they will hear sound, helpful, Bible-based teaching, they trust the church more.

They feel safe bringing their children.
They feel safe inviting friends.
They feel safe planting their life there.

That trust helps growth.

5. It Keeps the Church Focused

Powerful preaching keeps the church on the right path.

It reminds the people of God's truth.
It corrects wrong thinking.
It strengthens weak hands.
It stirs the church for prayer, soul winning, love, and service.

A church with healthy preaching is like a house with strong pillars. It can stand and it can grow.

Let me tell you a short story.

A small church in a busy town was not growing much. The pastor loved God, but his sermons were hard to follow. He moved from one topic to another. People left not knowing the main point. Later, he changed his style. He began to preach one clear truth each week, using Bible verses, easy words, and simple examples. After some months, members started bringing others. Why? Because they were being fed.

That is the power of preaching.

What to Stop Doing in the Pulpit

Sometimes church growth does not only need new things to start. It also needs some old things to stop.

So let us speak plainly, leader to leader.

Here are some things we must stop doing in the pulpit.

1. Stop Preaching to Impress

Do not preach just to sound deep.

If the people clap but do not change, something is wrong.
If they shout but do not understand, something is missing.

Preach to bless, not to show off.

2. Stop Being Too Hard to Follow

Jumping too much from story to story, verse to verse, and point to point can tire the people.

Give the message shape.

Tell them where you are going.
Give them the main point.
Help them follow you.

A road with too many turns can confuse a traveler.

3. Stop Ignoring the Time

Respect the people's strength.

A tired mind does not hear well. A message can be powerful and still be shorter than before.

Time matters. Order matters.

4. Stop Shouting All Through

Passion is good. Fire is good. But if you only shout, people may miss the message.

Use your voice with wisdom.
Let there be calm moments.
Let truth sink in.

Not every seed is planted in a storm. Some are planted in quiet soil.

5. Stop Using the Pulpit to Fight People

The pulpit is not a place to insult members, attack workers, or settle personal anger.

Correction may be needed, yes. But the pulpit must be holy.

Do not use it to wound people. Use it to heal, guide, and build.

6. Stop Preaching Without Prayer and Study

A preacher must not live on old fire.

Do not enter the pulpit empty.
Pray over the message.
Study the Word.
Ask God what the people need.

Fresh bread feeds better than dry crumbs.

7. Stop Giving Truth Without Application

Do not end the message without showing the people what to do.

Tell them:

- what to believe
- what to stop
- what to begin
- what to pray
- what step to take this week

A sermon should not only inform. It should lead to action.

A Simple Example from Church Life

Let me share a simple example.

Two pastors preached on faith.

The first pastor used many big words. He moved fast from one scripture to another. He spoke for a long time. The people said “Amen,” but later many could not explain what they learned.

The second pastor said, “Faith means trusting God even when you do not see the answer yet.” He used the story of a farmer planting seed. He said, “Do not dig up your seed with fear. Pray, trust, and keep doing what is right.” The people understood. During the week, they remembered the message.

Which sermon helped more?

The second one.

That is the kind of preaching that brings people back.

Final Word for This Chapter

My dear leader, preaching is one of the greatest gifts God has given the church. Through preaching, hearts are opened, minds are renewed, sinners are called, and believers are built.

So never treat the sermon like a small part of service.

If your preaching becomes:

- clearer
- simpler
- stronger
- more loving
- more useful
- more focused

your church can feel the difference.

People do not only want noise. They want truth they can carry home.

So when you stand in the pulpit, ask yourself:

- Will people understand this?
- Will this help real life?
- Will this point them to Christ?
- Will they know what to do next?

If the answer is yes, then you are feeding the flock well.

And when the flock is fed well, they grow. They stay. They bring others.

That is how sermons help bring people back.

Simple Leader Check-Up

Before you move to Chapter 4, ask yourself these questions:

1. Are my sermons clear enough for new people to understand?
2. Do my messages meet real needs in the church?
3. Do I preach to help people or to impress them?
4. Do I give the people clear steps to take after the sermon?
5. What one thing must I stop doing in the pulpit?

Write your answers down. Pray over them. Then improve one thing this week.

Small changes in the pulpit can bring big growth in the church.

Chapter 4: Evangelism That Fills the Church

In Chapter 3, we talked about sermons that bring people back. We saw that clear preaching wins hearts. We learned that people stay where they are fed well. We also saw that strong sermons help people grow, change, and invite others.

Now let us go one step further.

Good preaching helps keep people.
But evangelism helps bring new people in.

So if a church wants to grow, it must not only preach well inside the building. It must also reach people outside the building.

My dear leader, church growth does not happen by sitting and waiting. We must go out. We must care about souls. We must make room in our hearts for people who do not yet know Christ well, or who have gone far from church.

This is where many churches struggle.

They love fellowship.
They love Sunday service.
They love conferences.
But they do not reach out enough.

A church that stops reaching out may become warm inside, but small in growth.

Let us now talk about evangelism that fills the church.

Why Soul Winning Must Be Simple

One reason many churches do not do evangelism well is this: they have made it look too hard.

Some members think soul winning is only for pastors.
Some think they must know the whole Bible first.
Some think they need a microphone, a pulpit, or a big gift before they can talk to people about Jesus.

That is not true.

Soul winning must be simple.

When it is too hard, people step back.
When it is simple, more people join in.

Think about a child learning to wash plates. If you give that child a very big pot and too many rules, the child may run away. But if you say, “Start with this one cup,” the child can begin.

Evangelism is like that.

Do not make it heavy.
Do not make it scary.
Do not make it look like only special people can do it.

A member can say:

- “Please come to church with me on Sunday.”
- “Can I pray with you?”
- “Jesus can help you.”
- “Our church has been a blessing to me.”
- “You are welcome to join us.”

That is a good start.

Not every member will preach on the street. Not every member will teach like a pastor. But every member can care. Every member can invite. Every member can share hope in a simple way.

Let me say something very important: **people do what feels possible**.

If evangelism feels too big, many will do nothing.
If evangelism feels simple, many will try.

Jesus told His disciples to go and make disciples. That means sharing the good news is not a side work. It is part of the main work.

But it must be taught in a simple, clear way.

Tell the church:

- speak with love
- invite with joy
- pray for people
- share your story
- trust God to touch hearts

Simple steps bring strong results.

Helping Members Share Their Faith

Now let us move deeper.

Many church members love God, but they do not know how to talk about their faith. They are not wicked. They are not cold. They are just unsure.

They may think:

- “What if I say the wrong thing?”
- “What if the person says no?”
- “What if they laugh at me?”
- “What if I cannot answer their question?”

These fears are real. So a wise leader does not only tell members, “Go and win souls.” A wise leader teaches them how.

You must help members share their faith.

1. Teach Them to Speak from the Heart

Not every member needs a long message. Start with simple truth.

They can say:

- “God has helped me.”
- “Prayer changed my life.”
- “I found peace in Christ.”
- “My church has helped me grow.”
- “You can come with me this Sunday.”

That is faith shared in a natural way.

A person may argue with a sermon, but it is harder to argue with your real story.

2. Teach Them to Use Kind Words

No one likes to feel attacked.

Members should not speak as if they are fighting people. They should speak with love, respect, and peace.

A soft word can open a hard heart.

It is better to say, “Can I invite you to church?” than to start condemning a person in anger.

Truth matters. But tone matters too.

3. Teach Them to Pray Before They Speak

Evangelism is not just human talk. God must touch hearts.

Tell your members:

- pray for your friends
- pray for your family
- pray for your neighbors
- ask God to open doors
- ask God to give you the right words

A prayed-up invitation is stronger than a dry invitation.

4. Teach Them to Look for Open Doors

Sometimes people will show they are ready.

They may say:

- “Things are hard right now.”
- “Please pray for me.”
- “I have not been to church in a long time.”
- “I feel lost.”

That is an open door.

Your members should learn to notice such moments. That is the time to speak with care, offer prayer, and invite them closer to Christ and to church.

5. Teach Them to Keep It Natural

Faith sharing should not always sound forced.

If a member talks to a friend at work, in the shop, in school, or in the compound, they can bring up church in a warm and normal way.

For example:

- “Our church is doing a family service this Sunday. You should come.”
- “We prayed about something like that last week.”
- “If you like, I can send you the church address.”

Simple. Natural. Friendly.

When members learn this, evangelism becomes easier.

Easy Invitation Strategies That Work

My dear leader, many people come to church first because someone invited them.

Do not look down on invitation.
Invitation is powerful.

A simple invitation can open the door to salvation, healing, restoration, and growth.

So let us look at easy invitation strategies that work.

1. Personal Invitation

This is still one of the best ways.

A personal invitation means one person invites one person.

It could be:

- a friend
- a neighbor
- a brother
- a sister
- a workmate
- a classmate

People respond more when they feel truly invited, not just generally told.

Instead of saying, “You people should come,” say, “Please come with me this Sunday. I would be happy to have you there.”

That feels warm.

2. Bring-and-Sit-With-Me Invitation

This works very well.

Some people are willing to come to church, but they feel shy. They do not want to enter alone. They do not want to feel lost.

So teach members to say, “I will go with you. I will sit with you.”

That one line can remove fear.

3. Special Sunday Invitation

Special days help too.

For example:

- Family Sunday
- Thanksgiving Sunday
- Youth Sunday
- Prayer Sunday
- New Month Service
- Healing and Hope Service

These give members an easy reason to invite others.

A member may say, “This Sunday is our Family Blessing Service. Please come with your children.”

That sounds clear and welcoming.

4. Follow-Up Invitation

Some people say no the first time. That is normal.

Do not stop at one invitation.

A member can invite again with kindness:

- “You were on my mind. You can still join us this week.”
- “We would love to have you.”

- “I saved a seat for you.”

Gentle follow-up works.

5. Church-Wide Invitation Culture

Do not leave invitation to only a few people.

Make it part of church life.

Remind the church often:

- invite someone
- pray for someone
- bring someone
- care for someone new

When the whole church learns this, growth becomes easier.

Let me share a simple story.

One church asked every member to bring one person in one month. Not all did it. But many did. Some brought family. Some brought neighbors. Some brought old friends. The church saw new faces almost every week. Why? Because invitation became normal.

Simple invitation. Strong result.

Outreach Ideas That Reach Real People

Now let us talk about outreach.

Outreach means we do not only wait inside church. We go where people are.

This is very important.

Jesus did not only stay in one place. He went to towns, homes, seaside places, and streets. He met people where they were.

The church should do the same.

But outreach must reach real people in real ways.

1. House-to-House Greeting and Prayer

This can be very effective when done with wisdom and love.

A small team can go around the area, greet people kindly, offer short prayer, and invite them to church.

No pressure. No quarrel. No long argument.

Just kindness, prayer, and invitation.

Many people remember a church that cared enough to knock and pray.

2. Community Help Outreach

People open their hearts when they see real care.

A church can do simple things like:

- help clean an area
- visit the sick
- support widows
- give food to needy families
- pray for market people
- visit schools with encouragement

This is not buying people. It is showing the love of Christ in action.

Love opens doors that noise cannot open.

3. Street or Bus Stop Invitation

Members can share flyers, greet people, and invite them in a simple way near bus stops, junctions, or busy areas.

This should be done with respect. The team should be neat, kind, and organized.

A smiling team often reaches more than an angry team.

4. Small Group Outreach

Sometimes a small home fellowship can reach people better than a big service.

In a home setting, people may feel freer to ask questions, share pain, and receive prayer.

A church that uses small groups well can touch many homes.

5. Children and Family Outreach

If you reach children and families, you touch the future.

A simple children's event, family talk, or school prayer support can open many doors. Parents often respond when they see that a church cares for their home.

6. Member-Led Local Outreach

Every member lives somewhere. That means every member is already close to people who can be reached.

Teach members to see their area as a mission field:

- their street
- their compound
- their shop
- their office
- their school

When this mindset grows, outreach becomes bigger than church events. It becomes daily life.

Making Evangelism a Way of Life

Now let us come to the heart of this chapter.

A church grows more when evangelism is not only an event. It must become a way of life.

Some churches do outreach once in a while. That is good. But then they stop for many weeks or months. The fire goes down. The focus is lost.

Evangelism should not live only on the calendar. It should live in the culture of the church.

What do I mean?

It means the church should breathe outreach.

The pastor talks about souls often.
The leaders pray for the lost often.
The members invite people often.
The workers welcome guests warmly.
The church follows up quickly.
The people celebrate changed lives.

That is evangelism as a way of life.

1. Talk About Souls Often

What the leader talks about often becomes important to the church.

If you keep speaking about buildings only, people will think buildings are the main thing. If you keep speaking about souls, people will begin to care more about souls.

Remind the church:

- heaven is real

- people matter
- the gospel saves
- someone near us needs hope

2. Pray for Souls Often

Make prayer for souls normal.

Pray in leaders' meetings.
Pray in workers' meetings.
Pray in Sunday service.
Pray in home fellowship.

When a church prays for people outside the fold, the heart of the church grows bigger.

3. Celebrate Evangelism Wins

If one member brings a new person, thank God for it.
If a soul is saved, rejoice.
If a family joins the church, celebrate wisely.

What you celebrate, people value.

4. Train and Repeat

Do not teach evangelism once and forget it.

Teach it again.
Remind the church again.
Give simple steps again.
Share stories again.

People learn by hearing and doing again and again.

5. Connect Evangelism with Follow-Up

Evangelism without follow-up loses fruit.
Follow-up without evangelism has no new fruit to keep.

The two must work together.

If new people come, the church must receive them well, care for them, and help them grow.

That is how outreach leads to lasting growth.

A Simple Story for Leaders

Let me close with a simple story.

A church had good preaching and kind members, but growth was slow. The pastor then asked every member to do three simple things each week:

1. Pray for one person.
2. Invite one person.
3. Show kindness to one person.

That was all.

At first, it looked too small. But after some weeks, members began to share stories. One invited a neighbor. Another prayed for a sick workmate. Another brought a cousin to church. New people started coming. Some stayed. Some gave their lives to Christ. The church became more alive.

Why?

Because evangelism became simple and steady.

That is the secret many churches miss. Growth does not always start with big events. Many times, it starts with simple obedience.

Final Word for This Chapter

My dear leader, if you want a full church, care about empty hearts.

If you want more seats filled, care about more souls saved.

Do not wait for people to find the church by chance. Go after them with love. Teach your members to do the same. Make evangelism simple. Make it normal. Make it part of church life.

Remember:

- simple soul winning works
- trained members can reach more people
- kind invitations bring people in
- smart outreach touches real lives
- a church that lives for souls will grow

So ask yourself:

- Is evangelism simple in my church?
- Are my members being taught how to invite others?
- Are we reaching people outside Sunday service?
- Is soul winning an event for us, or a way of life?

Those are strong questions.

And if you answer them with honesty, change can begin.

Simple Leader Check-Up

Before you move to Chapter 5, ask yourself these questions:

1. Have we made soul winning too hard in our church?
2. Do our members know how to share their faith simply?
3. What invitation method works best in our church right now?
4. What outreach can we start this month?
5. Is evangelism part of our church culture?

Write your answers down. Pray over them. Then take one step this week.

A church that reaches out in love will not stay empty for long.

Chapter 5: The Follow-Up Secret Most Churches Miss

In Chapter 4, we talked about evangelism. We saw that soul winning must be simple. We learned that members can share their faith, invite others, and reach people in real ways.

But now, dear leader, we come to a very important truth:

It is not enough to bring people to church. You must know how to keep caring for them.

This is where follow-up comes in.

Many churches work hard to invite people. They print flyers. They do outreach. They pray for souls. They hold special programs. New people come. The church feels happy. But after one or two Sundays, many of those people are gone.

Why?

Because no one cared for them well enough after they came.

Let me say it plainly:

A guest who is not cared for can become a lost chance.

This is one of the biggest secrets many churches miss. They know how to gather people, but they do not know how to hold them with love, care, and wisdom.

So let us talk about the follow-up secret.

Why Visitors Need Quick Care

Visitors need quick care because first impressions do not last forever.

When someone comes to your church for the first time, that moment is very important. They are watching. They are feeling. They are asking questions in their mind.

They may not say it, but they are thinking:

- “Will anybody notice me?”
- “Will I feel welcome here?”
- “Will this church care if I come back or not?”
- “Is this a place where I can grow?”

That first visit is like planting a seed. But if no one waters the seed, it may dry up.

Quick care matters because people forget fast.

If a person visits on Sunday and no one calls, no one texts, no one checks on them, and no one remembers their name, they may think, “Maybe I do not matter there.”

But if someone reaches out that same day, or the next day, the guest feels seen.

A simple message can mean a lot:

- “Thank you for worshipping with us today.”
- “We were happy to have you in church.”
- “How was your experience?”
- “We hope to see you again.”

Those words may look small, but they speak loudly.

Think of it this way. If someone visits your home and you never speak to them again, what will they think? They may say, “Maybe they did not really care.” Church is the same.

Quick care shows real care.

I once heard of a man who visited two churches. In the first church, no one called him after service. In the second church, a leader sent him a kind message that evening and called him the next day. Guess which church he returned to?

The second one.

Not because the building was bigger. Not because the music was louder. But because he felt cared for.

People often go back to where they feel remembered.

That is why follow-up must be quick.

The Right Way to Welcome Guests

Now let us talk about welcome.

A guest should not feel like a stranger in the house of God.

Some churches say, “You are welcome,” but the welcome does not feel warm. It is said with the mouth, but not shown with the heart.

The right way to welcome guests is with warmth, order, and joy.

1. Notice Them Early

From the gate, someone should be ready to notice new people.

A warm smile matters.
A kind greeting matters.
A helpful usher matters.

No guest should enter and look lost.

If someone comes in and does not know where to sit, an usher should help. If a mother comes with children, someone should guide her well. If an older person needs support, someone should show care.

These things speak of love.

2. Speak Kindly

Guests should never be greeted with a hard face or harsh tone.

Simple words can do so much:

- “You are welcome.”
- “We are glad you came.”
- “Please feel free.”
- “Can I help you with a seat?”

Kind words open hearts.

A hard welcome can close the door before the sermon even starts.

3. Make the Church Easy to Understand

Some guests do not come back because they feel confused.

They do not know:

- when to stand
- when to sit
- where the restroom is
- where children should go
- what happens next

A wise church makes things simple.

Do not assume visitors understand church flow. Help them feel relaxed.

If your church does some things in a special way, explain it clearly and kindly.

4. Do Not Embarrass Guests

This is very important.

Some churches welcome guests in ways that make them feel shy or exposed. A guest may not want too much attention on the first day.

Wisdom is needed.

Welcome them warmly, yes. But do it in a way that honors their comfort.

Love is not loud all the time. Sometimes love is gentle.

5. Make the Whole Church Friendly

Welcoming guests is not only the work of ushers.

The whole church should have a friendly spirit.

Members should learn to smile, greet, and make room for others. A new person should not sit in a church full of people and still feel alone.

A loving church feels different. You can sense it.

What to Do After Sunday Service

Now let us move to what happens after the service.

This is where many churches lose people.

The message was preached. The service ended. People greet their friends and go home. The visitor walks out quietly. No one talks to them. No one gets their details. No one asks about their experience.

That is a missed chance.

So what should happen after Sunday service?

1. Speak to Guests Before They Leave

If possible, someone should speak to first-time guests before they leave church.

It could be:

- the pastor
- a follow-up leader
- a welcome team member

- a trained worker

The goal is simple:

- thank them for coming
- ask their name
- show warmth
- make them feel seen

A short, kind talk can go a long way.

2. Collect Simple Contact Details

If guests are willing, collect simple details:

- name
- phone number
- area
- maybe prayer request

Do not make it stressful. Keep it simple and respectful.

These details help the church care for them after service.

3. Ask the Right Questions

Do not ask too many questions. Do not make them feel like they are filling a job form.

Simple questions are enough:

- “Was this your first time with us?”
- “How did you hear about our church?”
- “Is there anything we can pray with you about?”

These questions show care.

4. Give Them One Clear Next Step

Do not leave a guest wondering what to do next.

Tell them one next step:

- “We would love to see you next Sunday.”
- “We have a new members class.”
- “We meet on Wednesday too.”
- “We will send you a message.”

One clear next step helps a guest move closer.

5. Pray with Them if Needed

Some guests come carrying heavy things. A short prayer after service can touch them deeply.

A woman may be crying inside. A young man may be confused. A family may be under pressure. If a caring leader prays with them, they may feel hope again.

Never rush past that moment.

Church growth is not only numbers. It is people.

6. Reach Out Within 24 to 48 Hours

This is very important.

By Monday or Tuesday, someone should contact the guest.

A phone call.
A text message.
A WhatsApp message.
A short visit, if wise and needed.

The timing matters.

If you wait too long, the moment becomes cold.

Quick follow-up says, “You matter to us.”

Follow-Up Tools Every Church Should Use

My dear leader, follow-up should not depend on memory alone. If it does, many people will be forgotten.

This is why every church needs simple follow-up tools.

These tools do not need to be expensive. They just need to work.

1. Guest Card or Welcome Form

This is one of the easiest tools.

It helps you collect basic guest details in a simple way.

Keep it short.
Do not ask for too much.
Make it easy to fill.

A long form can discourage people.

2. Follow-Up Notebook or Record Book

Every church should have a place where guest details are written clearly.

This helps the team know:

- who came
- when they came
- who contacted them
- who returned
- who needs prayer

A simple notebook can do a lot if used well.

3. Phone Call List

Someone should be in charge of calling guests.

Not everyone will call well. Choose people who are kind, calm, and respectful.

A bad follow-up call can push people away. A warm call can draw them closer.

4. WhatsApp or Text Message Template

This helps the church respond quickly.

For example:

“Hello, this is from Grace Life Church. Thank you for worshipping with us on Sunday. We are glad you came. We pray God blesses you and your family. We hope to see you again.”

That short message can make a guest smile.

5. Follow-Up Team

A church should not leave follow-up to chance.

There should be people assigned to care for guests.

The team can:

- call guests
- send messages
- answer questions
- pray for needs
- welcome returning guests

When people have clear work, follow-up becomes stronger.

6. Return Guest Tracking

It helps to know who came back.

If a guest returns, that is a good sign. It means the church should increase care.

A first visit is good. A second visit is even more important. A third visit may mean the person is opening their heart.

Wise churches notice that.

7. Prayer List for Guests

This is often forgotten, but it matters a lot.

Guests should not only be followed up by phone. They should be followed up in prayer too.

Pray for:

- their salvation
- their family
- their needs
- their healing
- their growth

Follow-up without prayer may become dry work. Prayer gives it life.

Turning Guests into Faithful Members

Now we come to the bigger goal.

The goal is not only to have visitors. The goal is to help people become rooted, growing, faithful members.

How does that happen?

It happens step by step.

1. Keep Showing Care

Do not stop caring after one message or one phone call.

If a person returns, welcome them again.
Remember their name.

Ask about their week.
Check on them kindly.

People grow closer through steady care.

2. Help Them Connect

Guests become members more easily when they form real connections.

Help them meet:

- leaders
- workers
- small groups
- other loving members

A person who knows no one may leave. A person who has found a church family may stay.

3. Teach Them the Church Vision

New people should know what your church stands for.

Tell them:

- what the church believes
- what the church values
- how they can grow
- how they can belong

Clarity helps commitment.

4. Give Them a Place to Grow

People do not stay long where they are not growing.

Help them grow through:

- Bible teaching
- prayer meetings

- new members classes
- small groups
- simple spiritual guidance

A guest who starts growing can become a strong member.

5. Help Them Serve at the Right Time

In time, some guests become ready to serve.

Do not rush too fast. But do not wait forever too.

When people begin to serve in the right way, they often feel more rooted in the church.

Service helps belonging.

6. Stay Patient

Not everyone becomes faithful in one week.

Some people are careful. Some have been hurt before. Some are testing if the church is real.

That is okay.

Be patient. Be steady. Be loving.

Growth takes time.

A plant does not become a tree in one day. But with water, sun, and care, it grows.

People grow like that too.

A Simple Story for Leaders

Let me share a simple story.

A woman visited a church one Sunday. She came quietly and sat at the back. After service, one sister smiled, greeted her, and asked if she was

new. She said yes. The sister introduced her to another leader, who thanked her for coming and got her number.

That evening, she got a kind message. On Monday, someone called to ask how she was doing. The next Sunday, when she returned, the usher smiled and said, “Welcome back. We are glad to see you again.”

She kept coming.

Later she joined a small group. Then she joined the prayer team. After some time, she brought her children. Then her husband started coming too.

What happened?

Follow-up happened.

She did not become a strong member because of one Sunday only. She became a strong member because someone cared again and again.

That is the secret.

Final Word for This Chapter

My dear leader, if evangelism brings people in, follow-up helps them stay.

Do not lose people because of carelessness.
Do not let visitors slip away because no one noticed them.
Do not do outreach and then fail at follow-up.

A church that follows up well says:

- “We see you.”
- “We value you.”
- “We care about your journey.”
- “You can belong here.”

That kind of church will grow.

Remember:

- visitors need quick care
- guests should be welcomed the right way
- after-service moments matter
- simple follow-up tools help a lot
- faithful members often begin as well-cared-for guests

So ask yourself:

- Are we quick in follow-up?
- Do our guests feel welcome?
- Do we know what to do after service?
- Do we have simple tools that help us care well?
- Are we helping visitors become family?

Those are big questions.

And when you answer them well, your church can grow in a healthy way.

Simple Leader Check-Up

Before you move to Chapter 6, ask yourself these questions:

1. How quickly do we follow up on first-time guests?
2. What does a guest feel from the gate to the seat?
3. What do we do well after Sunday service, and what do we miss?
4. Which follow-up tools do we already have?
5. What must we improve so guests can become faithful members?

Write your answers down. Pray over them. Then improve one part of your follow-up this week.

Small care can lead to lasting growth.

Chapter 6: Building a Church People Love

In Chapter 5, we talked about follow-up. We saw that it is not enough to bring people to church. We must care for them well. We must notice them, welcome them, follow up fast, and help them grow into faithful members.

Now let us go one step further.

A person may come because of an invite.
A person may return because of good follow-up.
But many people stay because they have found a church they love.

This matters a lot, dear leader.

People do not stay only because of a sermon.
They do not stay only because of music.
They do not stay only because the building is fine.

Many times, they stay because the church feels like home.

That is why this chapter is so important.

If you want long-term growth, you must build a church people love.

Not a church people fear.
Not a church people endure.
Not a church people visit only when they need help.

A church people love.

The Power of a Loving Church

Love is one of the greatest strengths a church can have.

A church may not have the biggest hall.
It may not have the best sound system.
It may not have the richest members.
But if it has real love, it has something powerful.

Love makes people breathe.

Love helps people heal.
Love makes correction easier to receive.
Love keeps weak people from giving up.
Love makes visitors want to return.
Love makes workers serve with joy.

A loving church feels different.

When people enter, they feel warmth.
They feel peace.
They feel kindness.
They feel that someone truly cares.

And let me say this clearly: people are carrying many hidden battles.

Some smile, but they are hurting.
Some clap in service, but they are tired inside.
Some dress well, but their home is under stress.
Some look strong, but they are fighting fear.

When such people enter a loving church, something begins to change. Their heart starts to open. Hope starts to rise.

That is the power of a loving church.

Jesus drew people because of truth, yes. But also because of love. Children came near Him. Broken people came near Him. Weak people came near Him. Why? Because His heart was open to them.

The church should be like that.

Not soft on truth. No.
But rich in love.

A leader should ask:

- Do people feel love here?
- Do our workers show love?
- Do our leaders speak with care?
- Do our members notice others?

A church without love can become cold, even if it is busy.

Think of food with no salt. It may fill the stomach, but it has no taste. In the same way, a church may have programs, but if love is missing, something important is missing.

Why People Stay Where They Feel Seen

People stay where they feel seen.

That is a simple truth, but it is deep.

To feel seen means:

- someone noticed me
- someone remembered me
- someone cared enough to ask about me
- someone made space for me
- someone treated me like I matter

This is very important in church life.

Many people leave churches not because the doctrine is wrong, but because they feel invisible.

They come in.
They sit down.

They leave.
No one knows their name.
No one asks how they are.
No one notices when they are absent.

After some time, they drift away.

But when people feel seen, something changes.

A young man returns because an usher remembered his name.
A widow stays because one sister keeps checking on her.
A family settles because the pastor asked about their children.
A worker grows stronger because a leader noticed their effort and said thank you.

Small acts can do big work.

Let me give you a simple example.

Two women join a church around the same time. One comes and goes quietly. Nobody really notices her. The other is greeted warmly, introduced to others, and asked how she is doing the next week. After some months, the first woman is gone. The second woman is still there.

Why?

Because one felt unseen. The other felt seen.

This is why church leaders must train the whole church to notice people.

Notice the guest.
Notice the quiet person.
Notice the tired worker.
Notice the member who has not come in two weeks.
Notice the single mother.
Notice the elderly man who sits alone.

People are not numbers. They are souls.

And souls stay where they feel seen.

Creating Order, Peace, and Joy

Now let us talk about another part of a church people love: order, peace, and joy.

Some leaders think love alone is enough. But love must be joined with order.

Why?

Because disorder can make people tired.

If church starts late every week, people notice.
If announcements are confusing, people feel lost.
If workers do not know their roles, things become messy.
If children's church is not ready, parents feel stress.
If the sound is always poor, the service becomes hard to enjoy.

These things may look small, but they matter.

Order is not being stiff.
Order is making things work well.

God is not the author of confusion. So the church should not be full of confusion.

A church people love usually has:

- clear flow
- prepared workers
- neat spaces
- calm service direction
- simple communication
- respect for time

Order helps people relax. It helps them focus on God instead of being distracted by problems.

Now let us talk about peace.

A church should not feel full of tension.

If workers are always angry, people feel it.
If leaders fight openly, people feel it.
If there is too much gossip, people feel it.
If every meeting is full of pressure, people feel it.

Peace matters.

A peaceful church feels safe.
People can grow in peace.
Children can settle in peace.
Families can breathe in peace.

Then there is joy.

Joy is beautiful in church life.

Not fake joy.
Not forced smiles.
Real joy.

Joy comes when people love God, love one another, and enjoy serving together. A joyful church draws people. It feels alive.

A church can be holy and joyful at the same time. In fact, it should be.

So ask:

- Is there order in our church?
- Is there peace among our leaders?
- Is there joy in our service?

Where order, peace, and joy are strong, people often feel at home.

Helping New People Feel They Belong

Dear leader, one of the worst things that can happen in a church is for new people to keep feeling like outsiders.

Some churches are friendly to old members but cold to new people. The members know one another well, laugh together, and move in groups. But the new person stands alone.

That should not be so.

A healthy church helps new people feel they belong.

Belonging is deeper than attendance.

A person may attend for weeks and still not feel connected.
They may know the sermon, but not know anybody.
They may know the church name, but not feel part of the church family.

That is not enough.

So how do we help new people feel they belong?

1. Learn Their Names

Names matter.

When you call a person by name, you tell them, “You are not lost in the crowd.”

A pastor does not need to know every name at once. But leaders and workers should try.

Even remembering one name can open a heart.

2. Introduce Them to People

Do not leave new people alone.

Help them meet:

- a leader
- a worker
- a small group member
- another family
- someone close to their age or season of life

Connection helps belonging.

3. Show Them the Next Step

New people feel safer when they know what to do next.

Tell them:

- where to sit
- what meetings are available
- how to join a class
- who to talk to for prayer
- how to ask questions

Simple direction removes confusion.

4. Make Room for Them

Sometimes old members can unknowingly block new people out.

They sit only with their close friends.
They talk only to people they know.
They do not open space for others.

Teach the church to make room.

Make room in your smile.
Make room in your conversation.
Make room in your heart.

A church grows when it keeps opening its arms.

5. Help Them Join Something

People feel they belong faster when they are part of something healthy.

This could be:

- a new members class
- a prayer group
- a home fellowship
- a service unit
- a Bible study group

Not everyone should be rushed into service, but everyone should be helped into connection.

That is how belonging grows.

Building a Strong Church Family

Now we come to the heart of this chapter.

A church people love is not just a crowd. It is a family.

Yes, we gather in numbers. Yes, we count attendance. Yes, we want growth. But if all we build is a crowd, people may come and still feel alone.

A strong church family is different.

In a real family:

- people care for one another
- people pray for one another
- people notice when someone is missing
- people rejoice together
- people help each other in hard times

That is how the church should be.

This does not mean there will never be problems. Every family has things to work on. But the heart must be right.

A strong church family does not throw people away quickly. It restores people with wisdom. It carries weak people. It teaches truth in love.

Let me give you a simple picture.

A bundle of sticks is stronger than one stick alone. One stick can break easily. But many sticks tied together are harder to break. Church family is like that. When people are joined in love, they stand stronger.

So how do we build a strong church family?

1. Teach Love Often

Do not assume people know how to love well.

Teach it from the pulpit.
Show it in leadership.
Repeat it in meetings.
Model it in daily church life.

What is taught and shown often becomes culture.

2. Create Places for Real Connection

Sunday service is powerful, but many people connect better in smaller spaces.

Home fellowships.
Prayer groups.
Worker meetings.
Bible study circles.

These smaller spaces help people talk, pray, laugh, and grow together.

3. Care in Times of Need

Family is tested in hard times.

When someone is sick, care.
When someone loses a loved one, care.

When a member is struggling, care.
When a family has a baby, celebrate.
When someone gets a job, rejoice.

These moments build deep roots.

4. Build a Culture of Honor

People should feel respected in church.

Honor older people.
Honor workers.
Honor new people.
Honor those who serve quietly.
Honor those who have stayed faithful.

Honor brings beauty to church life.

5. Protect Unity

The devil often fights church growth through offense, gossip, and division.

A wise leader protects unity.

Do not feed gossip.
Do not allow little anger to grow into big damage.
Settle issues with wisdom.
Teach people to forgive.
Call leaders to peace.

A divided church cannot become a strong family.

A Simple Story for Leaders

Let me share a simple story.

A man moved into a new town and visited a church. The preaching was good. The music was fine. But what touched him most was this: after service, one brother invited him to join a small group. In that group, people

learned his name, asked about his work, prayed for him, and checked on him in the week.

After some time, he said, “This church feels like home.”

That was the turning point.

He did not stay only because of the sermon. He stayed because he found family.

Later, his wife joined him. Then his children began to love church too. In time, the whole family became strong in the church.

What built that?
Love.
Care.
Belonging.
Family.

That is what every healthy church should aim for.

Final Word for This Chapter

My dear leader, people may come for many reasons. But many stay because they have found a church they love.

So build more than programs.
Build more than events.
Build more than numbers.

Build a loving church.
Build a peaceful church.
Build an orderly church.
Build a church where new people belong.
Build a strong church family.

Remember:

- love has power

- people stay where they feel seen
- order, peace, and joy matter
- new people must feel they belong
- strong families help churches grow strong

So ask yourself:

- Does my church feel warm or cold?
- Do people feel seen here?
- Is there order and peace in our church life?
- Are new people helped into belonging?
- Are we building a crowd or a family?

These are important questions.

And when you answer them well, your church can grow in a healthy and lasting way.

Simple Leader Check-Up

Before you move to Chapter 7, ask yourself these questions:

1. What kind of feeling do people have when they come to our church?
2. Do new people feel seen and remembered?
3. What area of order do we need to improve right now?
4. How can we help more people feel they belong?
5. Are we building a true church family?

Write your answers down. Pray over them. Then improve one area this week.

A church people love becomes a church people bring others to.

Chapter 7: Your 90-Day Church Growth Plan

In Chapter 6, we talked about building a church people love. We saw that people stay where they feel seen, loved, and cared for. We learned that a strong church is not just a crowd. It is a family.

Now, dear leader, we come to the action part of this book.

We have talked about:

- hidden growth problems
- better leadership
- stronger preaching
- simple evangelism
- wise follow-up
- building a loving church

Now the question is:

How do we put all of this together in the next 90 days?

That is what this chapter is about.

This chapter is not just for reading. It is for doing.

You do not need to do everything in one day.
You do not need a perfect church before you start.
You do not need a big budget first.

You need a clear plan, a willing heart, and steady action.

Ninety days is not too long. But it is long enough to begin real change.

Let us walk through it together.

Setting a Faith Goal for Growth

Before you start any plan, you need a goal.

A church that has no goal may stay busy, but it may not move forward. A goal gives direction. A goal helps the leader and the workers know what they are trying to do.

Now let me say this clearly: your goal must have both **faith** and **wisdom**.

Faith says, “God can do more than we see now.”
Wisdom says, “Let us take clear steps and measure what we are doing.”

That is healthy leadership.

So ask yourself:

- What kind of growth are we trusting God for in 90 days?
- Do we want more attendance?
- Do we want more first-time guests?
- Do we want more returning guests?
- Do we want stronger workers?
- Do we want better follow-up?
- Do we want more souls saved?

The answer may be all of these. That is fine. But try to keep your focus clear.

For example, a church may say:

- “In 90 days, we want to see 30 new visitors.”
- “In 90 days, we want at least 10 visitors to return.”
- “In 90 days, we want to train 5 new follow-up workers.”
- “In 90 days, we want every member to invite one person.”
- “In 90 days, we want our Sunday service to start on time every week.”

These are simple faith goals.

A good goal should be:

- clear
- easy to explain
- possible to check
- strong enough to stretch your faith

Do not just say, “We want growth.” That is too wide.

Say:

- “We want 20 new families to visit.”
- “We want to improve our guest care.”
- “We want to keep 50% of first-time guests coming back.”
- “We want to build a strong soul-winning culture.”

When the goal is clear, the work becomes clearer.

Also, make sure your workers know the goal. A leader should not carry the vision alone. Share it. Repeat it. Pray over it with your team.

You can say to your leaders:

“Over the next 90 days, we are going to focus on reaching people, welcoming them well, and helping them stay. This is not just church activity. This is our mission.”

That brings unity.

And please remember this: do not set a goal just to impress people. Set a goal that will help your church grow in a healthy way.

Your Month One Action Steps

Month One is the month of **preparing and fixing**.

Before you can hold more people, you must make the church ready for them.

Think of it like this. If rain is coming, you fix the roof first. If guests are coming, you prepare the house first.

Month One is about getting ready.

1. Pray With Clear Focus

Start with prayer.

Gather your leaders and workers. Pray for:

- souls
- wisdom
- fresh fire
- love for people
- unity among leaders
- growth in the church

But do not pray in a general way only. Pray with your 90-day goal in mind.

For example:

- “Lord, help us care for new people well.”
- “Lord, send us people who need Christ.”
- “Lord, give us wisdom to lead better.”
- “Lord, help our church become warm and alive.”

Prayer prepares the heart.

2. Meet With Leaders and Workers

You need your team.

Call a meeting and explain the 90-day plan. Share the goal clearly. Let workers know this is not a time for sleeping. It is a time for action.

Talk about:

- greeting
- order

- follow-up
- evangelism
- prayer
- service timing
- church atmosphere

Let everyone know their part matters.

3. Fix the First Impression Areas

Look at your church through the eyes of a visitor.

Check:

- the gate
- the parking area
- the entrance
- the chairs
- the restroom
- the children's area
- the sound
- the service flow

Ask:

- Is this place welcoming?
- Is it neat?
- Is it clear?
- Is it peaceful?

Fix what you can.

A small change can make a big difference.

4. Set Up a Simple Follow-Up System

Do not wait until more people come before you prepare follow-up.

Get ready now.

Make sure you have:

- guest cards or forms
- a follow-up notebook or list
- a message template
- people assigned to call or text guests
- a simple way to track who returns

This is very important.

If the church is reaching out but not ready to follow up, you may lose the fruit.

5. Train Members to Invite

Teach the church how to invite people in a simple way.

Tell them:

- pray for one person
- invite one person
- follow up with one person

Do not make it hard.

A church grows faster when all the members become part of the mission.

6. Review the Sermons

As we learned in Chapter 3, sermons matter.

In Month One, begin to prepare messages that are:

- clear
- Bible-based
- simple
- full of hope
- helpful for real life

This is not the time for confusing messages. Feed the people well.

Month One is about laying a strong foundation.

Your Month Two Action Steps

Month Two is the month of **reaching out and receiving people well**.

Now that you have prepared the church, it is time to move more boldly.

1. Start Strong Evangelism Effort

This is the month to push outreach more on purpose.

You can do:

- member invitation Sundays
- street or area outreach
- prayer walks
- home visits
- family and friend invitations
- small group invitations

Do not wait for people to find your church by luck. Go after them with love.

Encourage members every week. Keep reminding them:

- invite
- pray
- care
- bring

2. Hold a Special Service or Focus Sunday

A special Sunday can help.

This can be:

- Family Sunday
- Friend Day
- Hope and Healing Sunday
- New Month Blessing Service

- Thanksgiving Sunday

Give members a simple reason to invite others.

But remember: a special Sunday only helps if the church is ready to receive people well.

3. Welcome Every Guest Like They Matter

This is not the time for cold church behavior.

Train the ushers.
Train the welcome team.
Train the workers.

Every guest should feel:

- seen
- respected
- helped
- valued

A warm church helps growth.

4. Follow Up Fast

This is where many churches fail.

Do not wait three days or one week before contacting a guest. Try to reach them quickly.

That same Sunday if possible.
Monday at the latest.
Tuesday if needed.

Thank them. Ask about their experience. Pray for them if needed. Invite them again.

5. Watch What Is Working

Month Two is not only for action. It is also for learning.

Ask:

- Which invitation methods are working?
- Are guests returning?
- Which workers are doing well?
- What part of service do guests like?
- What still needs to improve?

A wise leader watches and adjusts.

If one method is weak, improve it. If one method is helping, strengthen it.

6. Keep the Church Excited

Do not let the fire go down in the middle of the plan.

Share testimonies. Celebrate new guests. Thank workers. Keep talking about souls.

When the church sees progress, faith rises.

Month Two is often where momentum begins.

Your Month Three Action Steps

Month Three is the month of **helping people stay, grow, and settle**.

By now, some people have visited. Some may have returned. Some may be opening their heart to the church.

This is the time to help them move from guest to member.

1. Focus on Returning Guests

Pay attention to people who have come more than once.

These people are showing interest.

Reach out to them with extra care:

- welcome them again
- remember their name
- ask if they have questions
- invite them to a next step meeting
- connect them with a leader or small group

This is how roots begin to grow.

2. Help New People Connect

People stay where they connect.

Help new people meet others in the church. Do not let them keep standing alone after service.

Connect them to:

- a leader
- a family
- a Bible study group
- a prayer group
- a new members class

A connected person is more likely to stay.

3. Teach Belonging

Let new people know:

- what the church believes
- how the church works
- how they can grow
- how they can join the church family

Clarity helps commitment.

Some people leave not because they wanted to leave, but because no one helped them settle in.

4. Raise More Helpers

By Month Three, you may see that some areas need more hands.

Maybe you need:

- more ushers
- more follow-up workers
- more prayer partners
- more small group leaders

Do not wait until one person is tired before you raise help.

A growing church needs growing teams.

5. Review the Full 90 Days

Near the end of Month Three, sit down with your leaders and review the plan.

Ask:

- What did we do well?
- What changed?
- How many guests came?
- How many returned?
- What part of our follow-up worked best?
- What must we improve next?

This review is very important.

It helps you see the fruit of your labor. It also helps you prepare for the next season.

6. Thank God for Every Step

Do not only thank God for big growth. Thank Him for every step.

Thank Him for:

- one new soul
- one family restored
- one worker strengthened
- one guest who stayed
- one improved system
- one fresh fire in the church

Gratitude keeps the church humble and joyful.

Month Three is where the church begins to see that steady action really works.

How to Keep Growing After 90 Days

Now let us talk about what happens after the 90 days.

This is very important, dear leader.

Some churches do well for a short time, then go back to sleep.

They push hard for one month.
They get excited for one program.
They see some growth.
Then they relax too much.
And the old problems return.

Do not let that happen.

The goal of this plan is not just 90 days of noise. The goal is to build healthy habits that keep growth going.

So how do you keep growing after 90 days?

1. Keep the Best New Habits

Look at what helped most and keep doing it.

If fast follow-up worked, keep it. If member invitation worked, keep it. If better order helped, keep it. If clearer sermons helped, keep it.

Do not throw away what is working.

2. Make Soul Winning Ongoing

Do not let evangelism become a short project.

Keep reminding members to:

- pray
- invite
- care
- share their faith

A church that keeps reaching out will keep seeing life.

3. Keep Training Leaders and Workers

Do not stop building people.

Train your workers.
Raise new leaders.
Encourage the weak.
Correct with love.
Make your team stronger month by month.

Healthy growth needs healthy leaders.

4. Keep Watching the Numbers and the People

Yes, count attendance.
Yes, count guests.
Yes, check returns.

But also watch the people.

Are they growing? Are they happy? Are they connected? Are families stronger? Are workers joyful?

Growth is not only about more numbers. It is also about stronger lives.

5. Keep the Church Warm

As the church grows, do not lose love.

This is very important.

A church can become bigger and colder if leaders are not careful.

Protect:

- the welcome
- the follow-up
- the care
- the peace
- the family feeling

Growth should not kill warmth. It should increase the need for warmth.

6. Set the Next Goal

After 90 days, do not stop.

Set a new faith goal.

It may be:

- stronger discipleship
- better small groups
- more families reached
- stronger children’s ministry
- better worker training
- another season of outreach

Healthy churches keep moving forward.

A Simple Story for Leaders

Let me share a simple story.

A pastor decided to lead his church through a 90-day growth plan. The church was not very large, but the people were willing.

In Month One, they prayed, trained workers, cleaned up weak areas, and prepared a follow-up system.

In Month Two, members began inviting friends and family. The church welcomed guests better than before. Leaders followed up quickly.

In Month Three, they focused on helping new people belong. They connected guests to small groups and prayer meetings. They remembered names. They cared more deeply.

At the end of the 90 days, the church had grown. Not only in number, but in spirit. The people were more alive. The workers were more united. The church felt warmer.

The pastor said, “The growth did not come from one big miracle meeting. It came from simple steps done well.”

That is the truth.

Final Word for This Chapter

My dear leader, church growth does not have to stay as a dream.

It can become a plan.
It can become action.
It can become fruit.

In 90 days, a lot can change:

- leaders can become stronger
- sermons can become clearer
- evangelism can become active

- follow-up can become better
- guests can become members
- the church can become warmer
- growth can begin to show

Do not wait for a perfect time. Start with what you have.

Set a faith goal.
Take Month One seriously.
Push well in Month Two.
Strengthen roots in Month Three.
Then keep the growth going.

Remember:

- small steps matter
- steady action matters
- healthy systems matter
- loving people matters
- prayer matters
- leadership matters

And above all, God still gives increase.

So take courage, leader.

Your church does not have to stay the same.

Simple Leader Check-Up

As you close this chapter, ask yourself these questions:

1. What is our clear 90-day faith goal?
2. What must we fix first in Month One?
3. What outreach steps will we push in Month Two?
4. How will we help guests settle in Month Three?
5. What habits must we keep after the 90 days?

Write your answers down. Share them with your leaders. Pray over them. Then begin.

One clear plan can start a new season of growth.

Chapter 8: Keeping the Growth and Not Losing It

In Chapter 7, we talked about your 90-day church growth plan. We saw how to set a faith goal, what to do in Month One, Month Two, and Month Three, and how to begin strong church growth.

Now, dear leader, we must talk about something very important.

It is one thing for a church to grow.
It is another thing for a church to keep growing.

Some churches grow for a short time, then go back down.
Some churches have a strong season, then become weak again.
Some churches bring in many people, but after some months, many of them are gone.

Why does this happen?

Because growth must be kept.

A fire can burn bright today and go out tomorrow if no one adds wood. In the same way, church growth can slow down if leaders do not protect it, feed it, and guide it well.

So this chapter is about keeping the growth and not losing it.

Why Some Churches Grow and Fall Back

Let us begin with an honest truth.

Some churches do grow, but they do not stay strong.

At first, there is joy.
There are new people.

There is excitement.
The church feels alive.

But after some time, things begin to drop again.

The prayer life becomes weak.
The follow-up becomes slow.
The workers become tired.
The pastor becomes too busy.
The church becomes relaxed.
And slowly, the growth begins to fade.

This happens for many reasons.

1. They Stop Doing What Helped Them Grow

This is a big problem.

A church may grow because it prayed well, followed up quickly, preached clearly, and reached out often. But later, after seeing some increase, the church stops doing those same things.

That is a mistake.

If clear preaching helped, keep preaching clearly.
If warm follow-up helped, keep following up warmly.
If evangelism helped, keep reaching out.

Do not stop watering the plant because it has started to grow.

2. They Celebrate Growth but Do Not Build Strength

Some churches are happy to count new people, but they do not help those people become strong.

They enjoy the crowd, but they do not build roots.

A church is like a tree. If the branches grow fast but the roots stay weak, the tree will not stand long.

Growth must be deep, not just wide.

3. They Depend Too Much on One Season

Sometimes a church grows during a special program, revival, or event. That is good. But after that event, the church has no strong plan for what comes next.

The fire was real, but there was no wood to keep it burning.

A wise leader plans for after the big moment.

4. Leaders Become Tired and Unprepared

Growth brings more work.

More people means more care.
More families means more planning.
More members means more leadership needs.

If leaders are not trained and supported, they may become tired. And when leaders become tired, the church can begin to slow down.

5. The Church Loses Its Focus

Some churches start strong, then become distracted.

They stop caring about souls.
They stop caring about new people.
They stop checking what is working.
They become busy with many things, but not strong in the main things.

That is how growth slips away.

So, dear leader, if you want growth to stay, you must protect the things that made the church healthy in the first place.

How to Keep New Members Strong

Now let us talk about new members.

New members are precious.

They are like young plants.
They need water.
They need sunlight.
They need care.
They need protection.

If you ignore a young plant, it may dry up. In the same way, if you ignore new members, many of them may grow weak and drift away.

So how do we keep new members strong?

1. Keep Caring for Them

Do not stop caring after they join.

Some churches are very warm at first. They call, they smile, they greet, they check on the new person. But after some weeks, all that care stops.

That should not happen.

Keep checking on them.
Keep greeting them.
Keep asking how they are doing.
Keep praying for them.

Steady care builds strength.

2. Help Them Learn the Word

New members need teaching.

They need to understand:

- prayer

- faith
- salvation
- holiness
- love
- service
- Christian living

Do not assume they know these things already.

Some are coming from other churches.
Some are coming from weak church backgrounds.
Some are just starting to grow.

Teach them simply and clearly.

A strong member does not grow by chance. A strong member grows by truth.

3. Help Them Build Godly Habits

Teach new members how to live daily with God.

Teach them to:

- pray daily
- read the Bible
- come to church faithfully
- join fellowship
- obey God's Word
- stay away from harmful habits

These simple habits make believers strong.

4. Give Them Healthy Relationships

New members need good people around them.

If they are left alone, they may struggle. But if they are connected to wise and loving believers, they grow better.

Help them find:

- a prayer partner
- a caring leader
- a small group
- a faithful friend in church

People grow stronger in the right company.

5. Watch for Weak Signs Early

A wise church notices when a new member is becoming weak.

Maybe they stop coming often.
Maybe they sit alone and look troubled.
Maybe they no longer reply to calls.
Maybe their joy is going down.

Do not wait too long.

Reach out early.
Pray with them.
Ask simple questions.
Show care before they disappear.

That is wisdom.

Training People for Long-Term Growth

Dear leader, if growth is going to last, the church must keep training people.

Not just pastors.
Not just workers.
Not just leaders.

The whole church needs growth.

Training helps people become:

- stronger in faith

- wiser in service
- better in character
- more useful in the house of God

A church that stops training will later stop growing.

Why?

Because people need help to keep improving.

1. Train Believers, Not Just Attenders

Some people come to church, but they are not yet strong disciples.

They attend, but they do not yet understand service.
They attend, but they are still weak in prayer.
They attend, but they still need guidance.

So do not just gather people. Train them.

Teach them:

- how to follow Christ
- how to share their faith
- how to serve with love
- how to grow through hard times

That is long-term growth.

2. Train Workers Well

Workers help hold church growth.

If workers are not trained, confusion may grow.
If workers are trained, order becomes stronger.

Teach workers:

- how to welcome people
- how to speak kindly

- how to follow up
- how to serve with joy
- how to handle church work with wisdom

Do not only give people titles. Give them training.

3. Raise New Leaders

A church that is growing will always need more leaders.

If only a few people carry all the work, they may become tired. But when new leaders are raised, the church becomes stronger.

Look for people who are:

- faithful
- humble
- teachable
- steady
- ready to grow

Then teach them little by little.

Jesus trained people.
Paul trained people.
Wise pastors train people too.

4. Repeat the Teaching Often

Training is not a one-time thing.

People forget.
People drift.
People need reminders.

So teach again.
Show again.
Explain again.

That is not weakness. That is good leadership.

A mother does not teach a child to wash hands only once. She keeps saying it until it becomes a habit. Church training works the same way.

Building Systems That Last

Now let us talk about systems.

Some leaders do not like this word. They think systems are too formal or too dry. But systems are simply helpful ways of doing things well again and again.

A system helps the church stay strong even when the church becomes busier.

Without systems:

- people are forgotten
- work is unclear
- follow-up becomes weak
- leaders get stressed
- growth becomes hard to keep

Good systems help the church stand.

1. Build a Strong Guest System

Know what happens when a visitor comes.

Who greets them?
Who gets their details?
Who follows up?
Who checks if they return?

This should not be a guessing game. It should be clear.

2. Build a Strong New Members System

Know how new people become settled.

Do they join a class?
Do they meet a leader?
Do they enter a small group?
Do they get taught the church vision?

These things help growth stay.

3. Build a Strong Worker System

Know how workers are added, trained, and cared for.

Do not just put people into work and leave them. Help them grow in service.

A healthy worker system protects the future of the church.

4. Build a Strong Care System

Know how the church responds when people are sick, absent, struggling, or in need.

Who checks on them?
Who prays with them?
Who visits if needed?

A church with good care systems feels like family.

5. Build a Strong Review System

From time to time, stop and review.

Ask:

- What is working?
- What is weak?
- What do we need to improve?

- Are people being cared for?
- Are guests becoming members?

What you review, you can improve.

Systems are not there to remove the Spirit. They are there to support healthy growth.

How to Stay Fresh After the First 90 Days

Now let us talk about freshness.

After the first 90 days, it is easy for leaders and workers to relax too much. They may say, “We have done well,” and then slowly lose focus.

So how do you stay fresh?

1. Keep Your Heart Fresh Before God

Church growth is not only about plans. It is also about your heart.

Stay prayerful.
Stay humble.
Stay hungry for God.
Stay full of love.

A dry leader will lead a dry church. A fresh leader helps keep the church fresh.

2. Keep Sharing the Vision

Do not stop talking about the mission.

Keep reminding the church:

- we are here to win souls
- we are here to build people

- we are here to love one another
- we are here to grow healthy

Vision must be repeated.

3. Keep Learning

A wise leader never says, “I know it all.”

Keep learning.
Keep reading.
Keep watching what needs to improve.
Keep asking God for wisdom.

Fresh leaders help build fresh churches.

4. Keep Trying New Helpful Ideas

Do not become dry and stiff.

You may try:

- a fresh outreach plan
- a better guest welcome method
- a stronger small group pattern
- a new way to train workers
- a better family support plan

Do not change just for change’s sake. But do not fear helpful change either.

5. Keep Celebrating the Right Things

Celebrate:

- changed lives
- faithful service
- new souls
- strong families
- answered prayers

- member growth

What you celebrate helps shape the culture.

6. Keep Resting the Right Way

Leaders are not machines.

Rest matters.
Renewal matters.
Quiet time with God matters.

If leaders never rest well, they may become tired and sharp in spirit. A tired leader may stop seeing clearly.

Rest does not mean becoming lazy. It means staying healthy enough to keep leading well.

A Simple Story for Leaders

Let me share a simple story.

A church grew well during a 90-day plan. New people came. Members were happy. The church was alive.

But the pastor knew something important. He knew that if the church relaxed too much, the growth might fade.

So he did not stop.

He kept the follow-up team active.
He kept training leaders.
He kept teaching new members.
He kept talking about souls.
He kept checking what was working.
He kept the church warm and loving.

After six months, the church was not only larger. It was stronger.

Why?

Because they did not only chase growth. They learned how to keep it.

That is wisdom.

Final Word for This Chapter

My dear leader, growth is a gift, but it is also a trust.

If God sends people to your church, care for them well.
If God gives increase, build wisely.
If the church begins to grow, do not become careless.

Remember:

- some churches grow and fall back
- new members must be kept strong
- training helps growth last
- systems help growth stand
- freshness must be protected after the first 90 days

So ask yourself:

- What made our church grow?
- Are we still doing those things well?
- Are our new members becoming stronger?
- Are we training enough people?
- What systems must become stronger now?
- How will we stay fresh in the next season?

These are the questions wise leaders ask.

And when you answer them well, your church can do more than grow for a moment. It can grow in a steady, healthy, lasting way.

Simple Leader Check-Up

As you close this chapter, ask yourself these questions:

1. Why do some churches lose growth after a strong season?

2. What are we doing to keep new members strong?
3. Who are we training for long-term growth?
4. Which church systems need to become stronger?
5. How will we stay fresh after the first 90 days?

Write your answers down. Pray over them. Share them with your leaders. Then keep building.

Because real church growth is not just about starting well.
It is also about staying strong.

Bonus Chapter: The Role of Social Media and Community Development Programs as Bonus Growth Strategies

As we close this book, there is one more important truth every church leader must understand.

In 2026, church growth is no longer only about what happens inside the church building.

People now live in two places at the same time:

- in the real world
- and online

They go to work in the day, but they also check their phones. They sit in traffic, but they also watch short videos. They talk to neighbors, but they also read messages on WhatsApp and social media.

This means something very important for the church:

If we want to reach more people in 2026, we must learn to serve both the community and the digital space.

A wise church will not choose one and ignore the other. It will use both.

It will reach people:

- online through social media
- offline through love, service, and community help

That is what this bonus chapter is about.

Why Social Media Matters for Church Growth in 2026

Many people today first hear about a church online before they ever step into the building.

Before they visit, they may check:

- your Facebook page
- your Instagram page
- your YouTube videos
- your TikTok clips
- your WhatsApp status
- your church website or location page

They want to know:

- Is this church active?
- Is this church alive?
- Is this church warm?
- What do they teach?
- What kind of people attend there?

In the past, a church flyer on the street was enough for many people. In 2026, many people will first meet your church through a screen.

That is why social media matters.

Social media helps a church:

- reach more people
- stay in people's minds
- share hope every day
- invite people to services
- show church life

- build trust before a visit

A church does not need to be famous online. But it should be present, clear, and warm.

Using Social Media to Reach Souls

Social media should not only be used for posting church posters.

It should be used for ministry.

A wise church can use social media to share:

- short Bible encouragement
- prayer points
- sermon clips
- testimonies
- church event updates
- simple gospel messages
- family and marriage tips
- youth encouragement
- community care updates

These kinds of posts can touch people every day.

A one-minute video can encourage a tired mother. A short prayer post can lift a man at work. A sermon clip can lead a young person back to church. A testimony can give hope to someone who is almost giving up.

This is how ministry can happen online.

Let me say this clearly:

A phone in the hand of a wise church can become a tool for soul winning.

A church member may not preach to 500 people on the street. But one good message online can reach many people in one day.

That is why leaders should not look down on digital ministry.

What a Church Should Post Online

Not every post helps growth.

Some churches post too much without meaning. Some post only flyers. Some post in a confusing way. Some pages look dry, empty, or forgotten.

A healthy church page should be simple, clear, and alive.

Here are good things to post:

1. Short Words of Hope

People are going through a lot.

A short message like:

- “God has not forgotten you.”
- “Prayer still changes things.”
- “There is hope in Christ.”
- “Do not give up. God is with you.”

These simple words can bless many people.

2. Sermon Highlights

Not everyone will watch a full one-hour message online. But many people will watch a short clip.

You can post:

- one strong point from Sunday’s sermon
- one clear Bible truth
- one short teaching that meets a real need

This helps people hear your church voice.

3. Testimonies

Testimonies build faith.

When people hear how God helped someone, they are encouraged.

You can share testimonies about:

- healing
- salvation
- family restoration
- job breakthrough
- answered prayer
- life change

Real stories touch real hearts.

4. Warm Church Moments

People like to see life.

Share simple moments like:

- worship
- children’s church
- prayer meetings
- church family moments
- outreach pictures
- community help events

This helps people see that your church is not cold. It is alive.

5. Clear Invitations

Sometimes churches post many things, but never clearly invite people.

Invite people in simple words:

- “Join us this Sunday.”
- “You are welcome to worship with us.”

- “Come and hear God’s Word.”
- “We would love to receive you.”

Never be ashamed to invite.

Social Media Must Be Simple and Consistent

A big mistake many churches make is this: they start strong online, then stop.

One week they post every day. Then nothing for one month.

That weakens the work.

It is better to post simply and steadily than to post too much and disappear.

For example, a church can decide to post:

- 3 short encouragement posts each week
- 1 sermon clip after Sunday service
- 1 clear service invitation before Sunday
- outreach or testimony updates when needed

That is enough to start well.

Consistency builds trust.

People begin to know:

- this church is active
- this church is serious
- this church is present
- this church cares

Helping Members Become Online Evangelists

Social media should not be left to the media team alone.

Members can help too.

Teach members to use their own pages for good.

They can:

- share church flyers
- repost sermon clips
- share testimonies
- invite friends through WhatsApp
- post Bible encouragement
- tell others about church events

This is digital evangelism.

If 50 members each share one church message, the reach can grow fast.

One church page may have small reach. But many members sharing together can spread the message far.

So teach the church this truth:

Your phone is not only for fun. It can also be used for God's work.

Things to Avoid on Social Media

Social media can help growth, but it can also harm growth if used poorly.

Church leaders should be careful.

Avoid:

- online fights
- rude replies
- unclear doctrine
- too much begging for money
- posting poor quality things carelessly
- sharing private church matters publicly
- using fear too much

- posting without wisdom

A church page should carry light, truth, order, and love.

What people see online can shape what they think about the church.

Why Community Development Programs Matter

Now let us move from online ministry to community life.

A church must not only preach near the people. It must also care for the people.

Community development programs are simple ways a church helps the people around it live better.

This may include:

- school support
- youth mentoring
- free health talks
- food support
- skill training
- cleanup programs
- family support meetings
- help for widows and elderly people

These things matter because churches do not grow only by talking. Churches also grow by showing the love of Christ in action.

When a church blesses its community, people notice.

They begin to say:

- “This church cares.”
- “This church is helping people.”

- “This church is a blessing here.”
- “This church is not only about itself.”

That kind of witness is powerful.

How Community Programs Help Church Growth

Some leaders may ask, “If we help the community, will that really help the church grow?”

The answer is yes, if it is done with love, wisdom, and a true heart.

Community programs help church growth because they:

1. Build Trust

Some people do not trust churches quickly.

But when they see a church helping people, supporting families, and solving problems, trust begins to grow.

Trust opens doors.

2. Meet Real Needs

People listen better when they see real love.

A hungry family remembers the church that helped them. A young person remembers the church that taught them a skill. A mother remembers the church that cared about her children.

Love makes the gospel easier to hear.

3. Make the Church Visible in a Good Way

A church should be known for good works, not noise alone.

When the community sees your church cleaning streets, helping families, training youths, and praying for people, your church becomes visible in a beautiful way.

4. Create Natural Invitations

Community work gives natural doors for invitation.

For example:

- after a youth training, invite them to youth service
- after a family talk, invite them to Sunday service
- after a food outreach, invite them to a hope service
- after a health event, offer prayer and church connection

This is wise ministry.

5. Show the Heart of Christ

Jesus preached, but He also healed. He taught, but He also fed. He spoke truth, but He also showed compassion.

The church should do the same.

Community Development Ideas Churches Can Use in 2026

A church does not need huge money to start helping its community.

Start small, but start well.

Here are simple ideas:

1. Youth Skill Support

Many young people need help.

A church can organize:

- CV writing help
- business talks
- skill training
- career guidance
- digital learning support

This can draw many young people closer.

2. Family and Marriage Talks

Many homes are under pressure.

A church can hold simple sessions on:

- peaceful marriage
- parenting
- family prayer
- money wisdom for homes
- raising children with values

This helps families and opens hearts.

3. School Support Programs

A church can bless children and parents through:

- back-to-school support
- school bag or book giving
- holiday lessons
- reading clubs
- prayer for students

Parents remember churches that care for their children.

4. Health and Wellness Outreach

Simple health programs can help the community.

This may include:

- blood pressure checks
- health talks
- mental and emotional support talks
- women’s health awareness
- prayer and care sessions

When people are cared for, trust grows.

5. Community Cleanup and Environment Care

A church can show love by helping keep the area clean.

This may seem small, but it speaks loudly.

A clean-up day can show:

- responsibility
- care
- unity
- community love

6. Help for Widows, Elderly People, and the Needy

The church should remember the weak.

Simple acts of help can mean a lot:

- food support
- visits
- prayer
- small gifts
- practical care

These acts reflect Christ.

Joining Social Media and Community Work Together

Now here is where wisdom becomes stronger.

The best growth strategy in 2026 is not only social media. It is not only community programs. It is both working together.

For example:

- if your church helps widows, share the story online
- if you hold a youth training, post pictures and short clips

- if you do a family program, invite more people online
- if you clean the community, let people see the love in action
- if testimonies come from outreach, share them wisely online

This creates a strong message: **this church cares, this church serves, and this church is alive.**

Online content then becomes more real. And community work becomes more visible.

That helps growth.

A Simple 2026 Strategy for Wise Churches

If I were guiding a church in 2026, I would suggest this simple plan:

Each month:

- do one community blessing project
- post weekly online encouragement
- share one testimony
- post one sermon clip
- run one strong invitation campaign
- ask members to share church content
- connect every outreach to clear follow-up

This is not too heavy. But if done well, it can produce steady fruit.

A Simple Story for Leaders

Let me share a simple story.

A church wanted to grow, but attendance had stayed low for a long time.

The pastor made two changes.

First, the church began posting simple online content:

- short sermon clips

- prayer videos
- warm Sunday invitations
- testimonies

Second, the church started small community programs:

- youth mentoring
- food support for needy families
- school help for children
- prayer walks in the area

People in the community began to notice. People online began to watch. Some first met the church on Facebook. Some first came through a youth event. Some first visited after seeing a testimony online.

After some months, the church began to grow.

Why?

Because the church was reaching people in both places:

- online
- and in the community

That is wise growth.

Final Word for This Bonus Chapter

My dear leader, in 2026, the church must not hide.

It must shine in the community. It must shine online. It must carry the love of Christ into real life and digital life.

Remember:

- social media can spread hope
- members can become online evangelists
- community programs build trust
- service opens hearts

- online and offline ministry work best together

Do not wait until your church becomes big before you start. Start now. Start small. Start wisely. Start with love.

Use your phone for ministry. Use your church for service. Use your people for outreach. Use your message for hope.

And as you do, more people will see your church, trust your church, visit your church, and by God's grace, grow in Christ through your church.

Simple Leader Check-Up

As you close this bonus chapter, ask yourself:

1. Does our church have a clear social media voice?
2. What kind of helpful content can we post every week?
3. Are our members using their phones for evangelism?
4. What community need can our church begin to meet this month?
5. How can we join online ministry and community service together?

Write your answers down. Pray over them. Take one step this week.

Because in 2026, a wise church will not only wait for people to come. It will go where people already are.

Conclusion: This Church Can Grow

We have come to the end of this book.

From the first chapter to the last, we have looked at one big truth:

Church growth does not happen by luck. It happens when leaders and members work with God in the right way.

We started by looking at the hidden reasons many churches do not grow. We saw that some churches have love for God, but they still struggle because something is missing. We learned that growth problems must be faced with truth, humility, and hope.

Then we talked about leadership. We saw that the leader sets the pace. When the pastor grows, the church can grow. When the leader sees clearly, loves people, and leads with wisdom, the church becomes stronger.

We also looked at preaching. We learned that sermons must be clear, simple, Bible-based, and full of life. People come back when they are fed. People grow when the Word touches real life.

Then we moved to evangelism. We saw that soul winning must be simple. Church growth cannot happen if the church stays quiet. We must pray, invite, care, and reach people with the love of Christ.

After that, we talked about follow-up. We learned that it is not enough to bring people in. We must care for them quickly and wisely. A guest who is loved well can become a faithful member.

We also talked about building a church people love. We saw that people stay where they feel seen. Love, peace, order, joy, and belonging all help build a strong church family.

Then we looked at the 90-day growth plan. We learned that growth needs action. Prayer must become action. Vision must become steps. Good desires must become daily work.

And in the last chapter, we learned how to keep the growth and not lose it. We saw that growth must be protected. New members must be strengthened. Leaders must be trained. Systems must be built. The church must stay fresh.

Now, dear leader, what does all this mean?

It means **your church can grow**.

Yes, your church can grow.

It may be small today.
It may be struggling today.
It may feel weak today.
It may have lost people before.
It may have made mistakes before.

But that is not the end of the story.

With God's help, with wise leadership, with loving people, and with steady action, your church can grow again.

Do not believe the lie that nothing can change.

Things can change.

A dry church can become alive again.
A weak church can become strong again.
A quiet church can become fruitful again.
Empty seats can be filled again.
Lost people can be saved again.
Families can be restored again.
Workers can rise again.
The fire can burn again.

But it will take more than wishing.

It will take:

- prayer
- leadership
- love
- truth
- planning
- follow-up
- evangelism
- patience
- steady work

And above all, it will take God's grace.

Never forget this: **God is the One who gives increase.**

We plant.
We water.
We preach.
We pray.
We invite.
We follow up.
We lead.
But God gives the increase.

So do not carry the burden as if everything depends only on you. Work hard, yes. Lead wisely, yes. But trust God deeply too.

He loves His church more than you do.

He cares about the lost more than you do.

He still saves.
He still heals.
He still restores.
He still builds His church.

So as you close this book, do not just say, “That was a good read.”

Say instead:

- “I will pray more on purpose.”
- “I will lead better.”
- “I will preach more clearly.”
- “I will care for people better.”
- “I will help my church reach out.”
- “I will build systems that help growth last.”
- “I will trust God for a new season.”

That is how change begins.

Not by reading alone.
But by doing.

My dear pastor, my dear leader, my dear worker, do not be discouraged.

Start where you are.
Use what you have.
Gather your leaders.
Set a clear goal.
Take one step.
Then take the next one.

Little by little, with prayer and wisdom, growth will begin to show.

And when it comes, do not be proud. Be thankful.

Give God the glory.
Love the people.
Keep building.
Keep caring.
Keep reaching souls.
Keep the fire burning.

Because church growth is not just about bigger numbers.

It is about:

- more souls saved
- more lives changed
- more families helped
- more disciples raised
- more glory given to God

That is the real goal.

So go forward with faith.

Lead with courage.
Serve with love.
Build with wisdom.
Trust God for increase.

And may your church not only grow in number, but also grow in strength, in love, in truth, and in lasting fruit.

Final Charge to Every Leader

Before you close this book, ask yourself these last questions:

1. What must I start doing now?
2. What must I stop doing now?
3. What must I improve in my church first?
4. Who do I need to train and gather around me?
5. What kind of church am I trusting God to build?

Write your answers down.

Pray over them.

Then begin.

Because the church you dream about will not come by chance.

It will come through prayer, wisdom, love, and action.

And by God's grace, **this church can grow**.