



SBCVirginia
You are not alone.

Spiritual Vitality in Cultural Chaos

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Maintain your spiritual disciplines

Lies ministry leaders use to justify ignoring spiritual disciplines

- Life is too demanding right now
- My past preparation will sustain me
- My sermon preparation counts
- I am just too busy to rest
- Burning myself out models commitment

Maintain your spiritual disciplines

Four core spiritual disciplines for leaders

- Bible reading
- Prayer
- Worship
- Rest



Maintain your spiritual disciplines

Realistic goals for spiritual disciplines

- Develop realistic expectations, not legalistic goals
- Strive for consistency, not perfection
- Balance flexibility with the structure of a program

Practice self-care (and couple care)

Self-care contrasted with self-indulgence

- Self-care – activities to rejuvenate spiritual, emotional, physical stamina for leadership
- Self-indulgence – activities to pamper or pander to self-focused desires

Practice self-care (and couple care)

Self-care examples from the Bible

- Jesus ate and slept (Luke 7:34; Mark 4:38)
- Jesus retreated for prayer
(Mark 1:35; Matt. 14:22–23; Luke 6:12–13)
- Jesus enjoyed social gatherings with friends
(Matthew 9:10–11)
- Jesus rested to recover physical strength
(John 4:6; Matthew 8:24)

Practice self-care (and couple care)

Self-care includes essential seasons of sacrifice

- Sacrifice is personal
- Sacrifice is proportional
- Sacrifice is seasonal
- Sacrifice can happen in many areas—
 - Money, Time, Relationships, Privileges

Practice self-care (and couple care)

Practical steps to self-care

- Do disciplines
- Eat properly
- Sleep enough
- Rest regularly
- Relational infusions often

Practice self-care (and couple care)

Practical steps to self-care

- Relational infusions often
- Connect with people who energize you
- Build a friendship team for leadership support
(Mentor, Colleague, Peer, Friend)
- Invest time in marriage health

Enhance mission discipline

During chaotic times, improve mission discipline

- Narrow your focus to your core mission
- Simplify methods related to your core mission
- Limit the change you introduce to the organization

Enhance mission discipline

Every organization must have a clearly articulated mission

- Definition – a one sentence statement (without commas or conjunctions) of God's intention for your organization
 - Your reason to exist
 - Your core focus
 - Your purpose for being
 - Your founding principle

Enhance mission discipline

Every organization must have a clearly articulated mission

- Mission of the church
 - Every church shares a similar mission – fulfilling the Great Commission in the spirit of the Great Commandment
 - Every church must articulate that specifically in its context

Enhance mission discipline

Reasons mission discipline becomes even more essential during chaotic times:

- Mission is the foundation for crisis decision making
- Mission is the foundation for functional unity

Enhance mission discipline

Enhance mission-driven leadership

- Articulate your mission clearly and often
 - Formal venues
 - Informal venues

Enhance mission discipline

Enhance mission-driven leadership

- Articulate your mission clearly and often
- Model commitment to and alignment with your mission
 - Invest your time
 - Invest your money

Enhance mission discipline

Enhance mission-driven leadership

- Articulate your mission clearly and often
- Model commitment to and alignment with your mission
- Use mission to drive decision-making
- Allocate resources (or re-allocate) to your mission
 - Financial resources
 - Personnel resources

Enhance mission discipline

Enhance mission-driven leadership

- Courageously eliminate “lesser contributors” to your mission
 - Terminate programs
 - Redeploy personnel
 - Decline opportunities

Maximize chaos-induced momentum for change

Cultural context for ministry has changed

- We are not going back to the way things were three years ago
- We must learn to live in our new normal
- We must take advantage of the momentum imposed-change creates

Maximize chaos-induced momentum for change

Key leadership tasks during imposed-change

- Defining reality
- Anticipating the future
 - Discover what the Bible says about the future
 - Learn what insightful people are predicting about the future
 - Consider insights from mature Christian leaders
 - Listen to younger leaders
 - Ask God for insight

Maximize chaos-induced momentum for change

Diagnostic questions to help define a new normal

- What has changed we cannot control? Anger or acceptance?
- What have we stopped doing that does not need to come back?
- What have we started doing that needs to be continued in the future?
- How can we accentuate the positives of the changes we have experienced?
- How has our community changed and how will we adjust our methods accordingly?

Maximize chaos-induced momentum for change

Four key areas churches are grappling with change:

- Over-dependence on attraction models has been exposed
 - Worship services have become production events
 - Evangelism reduced to inviting your friends to church
 - Discipleship has been reduced to coming to church
 - More balanced ministry approaches are needed for the future
 - Small group gatherings have, and need to be, the best expression of Christian fellowship; foundational to church strength

Maximize chaos-induced momentum for change

Four key areas churches are grappling with change:

- Over-dependence on attraction models has been exposed
- Evaluating the real benefit of many functions and activities
 - Schedules have been simplified
 - Barnacles are being removed
 - People have voted with their feet and money
 - Hard questions of what really produces the results we want must be asked and answered

Maximize chaos-induced momentum for change

Four key areas churches are grappling with change:

- Over-dependence on attraction models has been exposed
- Evaluating the real benefit of many functions and activities
- Importance of stewardship development underscored
 - In many churches, attendance has declined much more than giving
 - Stewardship development versus fund-raising
 - Churches full of stewards are much better equipped to handle economic downturn than churches dependent on fundraising.
 - Danger of significant church debt has been revealed.

Maximize chaos-induced momentum for change

Four key areas churches are grappling with change:

- Creativity unleashed and technology used in new ways.
 - Many churches have moved into electronic communication for the first time.
 - Many churches have created online Bible studies, devotionals, prayer meetings, etc.
 - Many church members have learned how to use new forms of technology. (elders meeting)
 - In the future, church members will know they can remain connected in spite of distance, illness, work schedules, etc.
 - In the future, churches will need to have a “second service” mentality.

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