



# Waking the Dead



## Waking the Dead

### Presentation Goals

- Assess the spiritual health of your group
- Food for thought on creating change
- A non-judgmental, proactive, *spiritually mature* approach to change

### Matt 28:19-20

19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,  
 20 "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

### Rev 2:4-5

4 "Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.  
 5 "Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place-- unless you repent.

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## Waking the Dead

**There is only *ONE* mission!**

John 4:34

34 Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. (NKJ)

### The Patriot

"Will you now when you are needed most, stop at only words? Is that the sort of men you are? I ask only that you act upon the beliefs of which you have so strongly spoken and in which you so strongly believe."

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## Waking the Dead

**The average life cycle of a church is 70 years.**

Birth/Growth Cycle:

- Vision
- Structure
- Clarifying
- Leadership
- Maturity

Plateau/Maintenance

Decline/Death Cycle:

- Nostalgia
- Questioning
- Control
- Polarization
- Blaming
- Leaving

It is natural for a church in the decline cycle to attempt to reclaim their glory days by trying to work their way back through the cycle. That is not possible.

Instead, the church must recapture their original (or a new) vision and go through a rebirthing process.

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## Waking the Dead

### Spiritual Resurrection: 2 Elements

- 1. Rediscovery of original mission

Rev 2:4-5

4 Nevertheless I have this against you, that **you have left your first love.**  
5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; **repent and do the first works**, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place-- unless you repent.

- 2. Making the Gospel relevant for our time

1 Cor 9:22

To the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.

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## Waking the Dead

How healthy is your congregation?

The Congregational Health Quick Assessment (pgs 59-67)

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### Restoring Vision

1. Recognize the problem
2. Pray for help and wisdom
3. Seek intervention opportunities
  - New pastor
  - Church crisis
  - Evangelism conference
  - Plant a new church
4. Recreate the vision in others
  - Why are we here?
  - Where will our present course take us?
  - Is this where we want to go?
  - What must change with us to further Christ's mission?
5. Strategies for change
  - Start with the leadership
  - Think in terms of *both/and* instead of *either/or*
  - Increase the number who own the mission
  - Help people discover and use their spiritual gifts
  - Focus on possibilities and opportunities
  - Concentrate effort where you have control
  - Encourage tolerance if not acceptance
  - Give people choices
  - Identify one mission-related area your church does well and focus on it
  - Keep reviewing the dream