



Scrappy Church Bible Study Pt. 6

Scrappy Churches Move From Impossible To Possible:

- "But I still like the idea of how these churches demonstrated God's possibilities when most people have deemed it impossible. I like how these leaders made profound decisions to change their own leadership approach to one of trust and excitement." (Pg. 19)
- There is the importance to know, that one thing about leadership in a Church is that leaders are going to lead out of their personality. Leaders follow the creativity that the Lord leads them, and a leader that leads should always be Biblical but shouldn't be boring either!
- Leaders are always thinking of ways that can be captivating, that can be catchy, and that can be fruitful! Leaders have a spirit that God gives them to lead the Church with power, lead the Church with vigor, lead with the Church with force, and lead the Church with pizzazz but a leader has to not be afraid to step out of the box!
- There is something that is real about that, the Church should never just stay in the box because why stay in a box that is not going anywhere, that is rotten, or that is not progressing? The Church has to always make sure that it is letting the leader be the leader that the Lord made the leader to be, because the leader belongs to the Lord and the

Church has to also realize that, when the Lord is making ways and when the Lord is opening doors you will see that God will do great things!

- The Church should never operate in fear, the Church should never operate in feeling as though that we are not this, or we can't be this because a closed-fist Church will never experience opened-favored doors! That is the difference, that the Church has to make those changes because things are always changing, and it is not a sin for the Church to make changes either!
- That is the importance of the Lord, and the Lord will always send a leader He wants that will make and orchestrate the changes He wants! The leader is always making changes that the Lord wants, and the leader is always going to make sure that what is done is what the Lord is doing for the Church to continue to go forward!
- Upgrades happen in Churches, and even in upgrades that doesn't mean that it is something wrong with the Church or God! God has great things ready for the Church, and the Church has to upgrade in its personality, upgrade in its service, and upgrade in its presentation. Upgrades happen all of the time, and as the Lord lives and as the Lord is alive we should not be against what the Lord is doing in making upgrades.
- The Lord is always doing that for the Church, and the leader always is thinking about that as well with the Church on how the Church can continue to sparkle, how the Church can continue to make improvements, and how the Church can continue to make strides. The Church belongs to the Lord, and the Church should always give its best effort to God.
- If we love the Church that God provides, then we should love and want to make the Church as presentable as possible. We should adapt, we should have new things, and we should want the Lord to be pleased with what we have. The Church is that powerful, the Church is that real, and the Church whether or not it wants to realize it has an attractive appeal.
- When you think about things that you are attracted to, you are attracted to things because of a specific reason. We are attracted to things because of their value, we are attracted to things because of the

draw, and you can think about a relationship people are attracted to a person whether it is the physical appearance, the intellect, or the conversations that they are able to have. You might be attracted to a car, you might be attracted to a house, or you might be attracted to other things and that is because there are things that bring that to you.

- When we follow the Lord the main attraction is always Jesus Christ, and not only that but we should always make sure that we are making ourselves presentable and the Church! Even as you walk with the Lord, and even as you follow the Lord, what are you bringing to your life and are you exhibiting an attractive attitude as well?
- We are what we are around, and as we follow the Lord there should always be that spirit on us and in us that doesn't allow us to be lackluster or to be stuck, but we should always be in the spirit of excellence. If you aren't going to do anything in the spirit of excellence don't do it, if you are going to do things without having the right spirit, and having the right mentality then you shouldn't do it!
- As followers of Jesus Christ, and as servants of the Lord the Church should always be dedicated to excellence. The Church when it is creative, the Church when it is special, and the Church when it is progressive it always seeks ways to engage with everybody, and to want the community to be blessed.
- The Church has to always think about is the Lord pleased? I believe that when the Church has the heart of the Lord then complacency won't be tolerated. The Church has to have the heart of the Lord, and the Church has to ask that question - "Do We Have The Heart Of God?" "How Do We Get The Heart Of God?"
- The Church has to have that spirit, and how does the Church get there.... Through the preaching and teaching of the word of God! The word of God is what makes the Church powerful, the word of God is what makes us Biblical strong, the word of God is what makes the Church Theological astute, and the word of God is what will make us not desire or even crave to stay in the same cycle.

- The word of God won't allow us to remain the same, the word of the Lord won't give us a bad name, and the word of the Lord won't let us stay still. The word of the Lord will always make us strong, the word of the Lord will always make us have peace, the word of the Lord will make us have powerful faith, and the word of the Lord will make us not leave God but will make us grow closer to God.
- There is just the value of the word of God, the value of importance, and the value of making sure that we are pleasing the Lord. Pleasing God is always at the top of the agenda and the main agenda, because when the focus goes from God to people the Church has missed the heart of God, and the Church should never want to be responsible for breaking the heart of God!
- If you've ever had a broken heart you know how it feels. A broken-heart is a feeling that you don't want, that you don't like, and you know there are even times it can be hard and take a while to even get over because of the bruises, hurts, and wounds that come with that broken-heart!
- We should ask ourselves if we are guilty of breaking God's heart? The Church has to be real, the Church has to be pure, and the Church has to be loyal to the Lord. The Lord is the reason that the Church is alive, and the Lord is the reason that we all have strength and that we are alive, because we know that the Lord is real and the Church should always have that love for the Lord.
- The Church stays alive through the word of God, and with the word of the Lord being our guide we know that we have the presence of God in our lives but we have the right foundation. The Church is the breathing organism of Jesus Christ, and the Church has the power to do great things and to be great when it continues to follow the word of God!
- "Scrappy Churches Build For God's Glory": 1 Kings 6:1-14 ESV - In the four hundred and eightieth year after the people of Israel came out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month of Ziv, which is the second month, he began to build the

house of the LORD. [2] The house that King Solomon built for the LORD was sixty cubits long, twenty cubits wide, and thirty cubits high. [3] The vestibule in front of the nave of the house was twenty cubits long, equal to the width of the house, and ten cubits deep in front of the house. [4] And he made for the house windows with recessed frames. [5] He also built a structure against the wall of the house, running around the walls of the house, both the nave and the inner sanctuary. And he made side chambers all around. [6] The lowest story was five cubits broad, the middle one was six cubits broad, and the third was seven cubits broad. For around the outside of the house he made offsets on the wall in order that the supporting beams should not be inserted into the walls of the house. [7] When the house was built, it was with stone prepared at the quarry, so that neither hammer nor axe nor any tool of iron was heard in the house while it was being built. [8] The entrance for the lowest story was on the south side of the house, and one went up by stairs to the middle story, and from the middle story to the third. [9] So he built the house and finished it, and he made the ceiling of the house of beams and planks of cedar. [10] He built the structure against the whole house, five cubits high, and it was joined to the house with timbers of cedar. [11] Now the word of the LORD came to Solomon, [12] "Concerning this house that you are building, if you will walk in my statutes and obey my rules and keep all my commandments and walk in them, then I will establish my word with you, which I spoke to David your father. [13] And I will dwell among the children of Israel and will not forsake my people Israel." [14] So Solomon built the house and finished it.

- "Scrappy Churches Have A Courageous Leader": 2 Chronicles 15:1-7
ESV - The Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded, [2] and he went out to meet Asa and said to him, "Hear me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin: The LORD is with you while you are with him. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will forsake you. [3] For a long time Israel was without the true God, and without a teaching priest and without law, [4] but when in their distress they

turned to the LORD, the God of Israel, and sought him, he was found by them. [5] In those times there was no peace to him who went out or to him who came in, for great disturbances afflicted all the inhabitants of the lands. [6] They were broken in pieces. Nation was crushed by nation and city by city, for God troubled them with every sort of distress. [7] But you, take courage! Do not let your hands be weak, for your work shall be rewarded."

- "Scrappy Churches Seek God": Matthew 5:5-9 ESV - "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. [6] "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. [7] "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. [8] "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. [9] "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.
- "Scrappy Churches Have Anointing & Appointing": Isaiah 42:1-8 ESV - Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights: I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. [2] He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; [3] a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. [4] He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law. [5] Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it: [6] "I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, [7] to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. [8] I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols.

Scrappy Churches Don't Resist Advancement:

- "I like how these churches did not accept the verdict of inevitability regarding their decline and demise. I like how these smaller and

mid-sized churches survived and thrived, often in the shadows of larger churches. They moved from impossible to the possible. Better, stated, they moved from human impossibility to God's possibility. (Pg. 19)

- Scrappy Churches have this capability, and the reason Scrappy Churches are able to do and become magnificent and become more living is because Churches realize, that faith in the Lord will not allow us to remain in the wrong way of thinking or doing.
- As you have faith in the Lord there should always be a sense of confidence that exists, because faith in the Lord will let me not stop and will not let me look at my current situation and not think that it won't get better or that it won't improve. Improvement is not something that we should run away from, improvement is something that we should embrace but don't ever talk about how you can't improve if you don't try to improve!
- The key for the Church is to make improvements for the glory of the Lord, because we are not in the business of trying to outdo each other. The Church is not about being listed in a major article or being known as doing better than others, that is not the function of the Church because the only thing that matters is Jesus!
- Jesus is the star of the show, Jesus is the writer of the program, Jesus is the director of the script, and Jesus is the one that makes everything click! It is Jesus and not us, we should never forget that Jesus lives, we should never forget that Jesus is real, and we should never forget that Jesus makes the Church not us!
- We are called to do the work of Jesus Christ, and we are called to do what the Lord wants but we have to also understand that the Church belongs to the Lord and not us! When we do what the Lord calls us to do, and when we do what the Lord wants us to do then the Lord will allow the Church to grow, the Lord will allow the Church to stand, and the Lord will allow the Church to function!
- The Church is powerful to be impactful and influential, but the Church has to make sure that we are not forgetting why we are here. We are here to lift up the name of Jesus, we are here to share the Gospel of

Jesus Christ, we are here to worship the Lord, and we are here to make sure that we are giving the credit and all of the glory to the Lord and not to us!

- The Church doesn't have to die if it doesn't want to! The Church can and the Church will live, because the Church belongs to the Lord and because the Church belongs to the Lord it is God that decides whether or not the Church will live.
- Don't forget this though, when you or when anybody in the Church has an attitude that is domineering and that doesn't listen to the Lord but wants to do it's own thing that's when the Church does die, because the Lord is no longer in control but people and if the Lord takes His hands off, the Church isn't going to stand!
- The Church is about the Lord, and that can't be iterated enough and the Church needs to understand that the Church can only survive when it follows the Lord, when it does what the word says, and when it doesn't try to get in the way of the Lord. We need to understand that, the Lord is the reason why the Church lives but when the Church neglects the Lord the Church has nothing to stand on.
- The Church isn't about popularity, the Church isn't about ego, and the Church isn't about lifting up people because we are not God. We should always be about being servants, and when we serve the Lord we need to always realize that when you have the right spirit, and when we have the right attitude the Lord will always allow the Church to live.
- Statistics show since 2019 over 4,500 Churches close every year.
- Since 2020 the average Church attendance has gone from 137 to 65.
- Think about this, and you start to see that the Churches across the United States are closing more and more. Some have closed because of age, some have closed because of the refusal to adapt, some have closed because of lack of progression, some have closed because of lack of vision, and some have closed because instead of doing it the Lord's way they have wanted to do it their way.
- Churches are closing, and that is something that is alarming to think about. The Church can be breathing one day with unlimited possibilities,

but then the next day, the Church can be dead because of missed doors, missed possibilities, missed opportunities, and not wanting to change. The Church isn't about pleasing us, but we have to please the Lord and there have been times that the Church can or even has missed the doors, missed the boat, and missed the prayers that they prayed for because of not wanting to change.

- When things that are done in Church have been done off of tradition, but those things aren't working then it is time to adapt. The Churches that stay alive are the Churches that know how to adapt, because with the Church if some things aren't working then they need to be changed, if some things aren't getting as much support as they used to then there needs to be some adjustments that take place.
- When the Church doesn't change the Church doesn't want to live. When the Church doesn't change, the Church has said that we are good like this and it is a sad indictment that some people will see a Church dying but would rather watch it die, then see it have the potential to stay alive. The Church can live, and the Church will live but if the Church doesn't choose to grow, if the Church decides to stay stagnant, and if the Church decides to not press forward it is gone.
- The Leader that God calls won't want to see the Church die, and the people that comprise the Church shouldn't want to see it die either! That is they trust in the Lord, and when we trust in the Lord we know that the Church will always go forward, always go far, and always reach newer heights when the Church doesn't want to die!
- **Do you want the Church to die?**
- When something dies that means it isn't coming back again, and we all know that death is a hard thing and death is an emotional thing because when we look at death we see that person that we used to talk to, that person we used to listen to, and that person we used to have various memories with is no longer with us and that can be something that is hard, crushing, and devastating!
- Think about the Church, have you ever thought about the fact that God allows the Church to stay functioning just for a little while until it no

longer can accept medicine, because when it had the chances to have medicine to get better it rejected it, and now the Lord has given the Church just enough oxygen to breathe, but that breath is slowly by slowly becoming more and more depleted.

- The Church has to realize that, the Church has to understand that, and the Church has to not forget that we can be here today but we can be gone tomorrow if we don't heed to what the Lord says, and don't do what the Lord is telling us to do. The Church has to do what the Lord says, and if the Church doesn't do what the Lord says then the Church has to realize that it won't have anything to live on!
- The Church can't live off of people, the Church lives off of God and when the Church lives off of God that makes the Church powerful, that makes the people spiritually equipped, and that makes the world have a bright outlook. The Church has that influence, but the Church has to make sure that it doesn't die if it doesn't want to die because the Lord gives the Church what it needs if it wants to live!
- Pastor, Theologian, & Author Mark Dever says this: "In order to see God's church grow, we should use the means God has given to us... Preaching the Gospel is the normal way God grows His church. Added to this there is also prayer. Again and again in the book of Acts we find the early Christians in prayer. And as we beseech God for conversion and for maturity, we find God granting our prayers. The more we pray the more we acknowledge that God is the reason for any growth that comes. We acknowledge, in humility, that any growth that comes does not ultimately come from us."
- The Late Theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer said this: "The Church is the Church only when it exists for others...not dominating, but helping and serving. It must tell men of every calling what it means to live for Christ, to exist for others."
- Theologian R. C. Sproul spoke it this way: "I think the greatest weakness in the church today is that almost no one believes that God invests His power in the Bible. Everyone is looking for power in a program, in a methodology, in a technique, in anything and everything

but that in which God has placed it—His Word. He alone has the power to change lives for eternity, and that power is focused on the Scriptures."

- "Scrappy Churches Have Harmony": John 13:34-35 ESV - A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. [35] By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."
- "Scrappy Churches Want The Best": 1 Corinthians 2:6-13 ESV - Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. [7] But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. [8] None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. [9] But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"- [10] these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. [11] For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. [12] Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. [13] And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.
- "Scrappy Churches Need The Right Diet": Titus 2:1-8 ESV - But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine. [2] Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. [3] Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, [4] and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, [5] to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled. [6]

Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled. [7] Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, [8] and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us.

- "Scrappy Churches Never Stop Working": Colossians 3:23-24 ESV - **Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, [24] knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.**
- "Scrappy Churches Want Enrichment": Numbers 14:6-10 ESV - **And Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes [7] and said to all the congregation of the people of Israel, "The land, which we passed through to spy it out, is an exceedingly good land. [8] If the LORD delights in us, he will bring us into this land and give it to us, a land that flows with milk and honey. [9] Only do not rebel against the LORD. And do not fear the people of the land, for they are bread for us. Their protection is removed from them, and the LORD is with us; do not fear them."** [10] Then all the congregation said to stone them with stones. But the glory of the LORD appeared at the tent of meeting to all the people of Israel.
- "Scrappy Churches Desire God": 1 Chronicles 22:11-13,19 ESV - **"Now, my son, the LORD be with you, so that you may succeed in building the house of the LORD your God, as he has spoken concerning you. [12] Only, may the LORD grant you discretion and understanding, that when he gives you charge over Israel you may keep the law of the LORD your God. [13] Then you will prosper if you are careful to observe the statutes and the rules that the LORD commanded Moses for Israel. Be strong and courageous. Fear not; do not be dismayed. [19] Now set your mind and heart to seek the LORD your God. Arise and build the sanctuary of the LORD God, so that the ark of the covenant of the LORD and the holy vessels of God may be brought into a house built for the name of the LORD."**



Scrappy Church Bible Study Pt. 7

Scrappy Churches Are Tenacious:

- Churchill indeed thought about negotiating a peace with Hitler. But as he mulled it over through sleepless nights, he saw the futility of negotiating with an evil tyrant. Such a move was tantamount to surrender. If Britain were to lose the war, it would be on their terms, fighting to the last. He would not surrender. (Pg. 20)
- Churchill passionately pleaded with Parliament and, through his speech, all the people of Britain. The nation followed his leadership. Against all seeming odds, Britain decided to fight Germany. And though it would be five years before Hitler and his forces were defeated, the tide turned on the day one man convinced others not to give up. Never. Never. Never give up. The course of history changed. Civilizations took a new course. Never give up. Never. Never. Never. (Pg. 21)
- Scrappy Churches have a leader that will always strive for excellence, and not just but will make sure that quitting is not an option. Great leaders have had to deal with various things in order for the dream to come true, but within any leader that trusts in the vision keeps going until it is accomplished.
- Scrappy Churches follow the Leader, Scrappy Churches support the Leader, Scrappy Churches pray for the Leader, and Scrappy Churches make sure to take care of the Leader. Scrappy Churches understand the

value and importance of taking care of the Leader, but also God opens the hearts, minds, and the intuition to see that the Lord always makes sure that His people have the Leader that He wants them to have. The Leader God sends is a Leader that cares, that is concerned, that has love, and that wants to see the people at their best.

- Leaders always want to see the people at their best, because Leaders that are used by God aren't selfish but they are about making sure that the people are taken care of, and Leaders will always pray before they make moves.
- Followers of Leaders have to understand that, because don't try to force the hand of the Leader but pray for the Leader in terms of decision-making times. Leaders have to always make decisions, and some decisions will be popular and some decisions won't be popular but as long as the Leader is doing it the way of God that is the best way to do it.
- Leaders have a mindset of wanting to see the team celebrate in the end, Leaders are just like a basketball coach or football coach there will be winning streaks, and there will be times that there are losing streaks, but when the the Coach keeps working and giving the team that belief, that is when in the end the team can raise the trophy at the end of the season.
- Sometimes Churches will have winning streaks that can be the fragrance of amazing days, people joining, people working, people serving, and other great things. Then Churches can go through losing streaks, some people leave, some people die, some of that commitment leaves, and other things can cause the dry season, yet the Leader that keeps giving the Lord and the people the best it is then that the Lord will turn around the fortunes of the Church!
- The real Ministry of the Leader is not show in the good times, but it is shown in the tough times because in the tough times is when God sees does the Leader really trust God, does the Leader really love the Lord, does the Leader really love the people, and does the Lord really believe what they say? It is easy to speak what you feel in good times, but when you speak what you feel in bad times and live it out that's when

the Lord will always show up, and the Church will feel the Glory of the Lord in a way they have never felt before.

- The People should believe the Lord and the Leader, the people ought to know that God has their best interests at heart. The Leader knows what the people need only because they listen to the Lord! A leader that listens to the Lord is a blessing, but a leader that doesn't listen to the Lord is dangerous!
- The Leader has to do what God says because God will lead the Leader and the people the victory, but when the Leader listens to the crowd then the Leader and the people will fall into a pool of muddy water, a pool of regret, and a pool of causing the momentum and the ship to sink when it could have stayed alive!
- Leaders have to do what the Lord says, and also in leadership you don't just make a decision without prayer and critical thinking! How much do people pray before they make decisions, sometimes we make decisions out of emotions or we make decisions just because we want to make them but is that the right way to do it? Decisions are costly, decisions can be helpful, decisions can be a blessing, decisions can be great, and decisions can be powerful, and decisions can be tough.
- It is important to pray, it is important to make sure that in any decision that we make that we should make sure that we are making sure that we are following the Lord always. Don't allow anything or anybody to pressure you into decisions, and Leaders understand that pressure isn't healthy and just because the people want it doesn't mean God wants it!
- Also the Leader has to be patient, the Leader has to pray, but the Leader can't be sluggish and passive. The Leader has to wait on the Lord as well, but the Leader should not lose the fire and passion that God has given them! Everything happens when the Lord wants it to happen, but in the meantime get prepared for what you are believing the Lord for!
- Prepare yourself, prepare yourself in prayer, prepare yourself in studying and knowing the word of the Lord, prepare yourself in service, prepare yourself in teaching, prepare yourself in learning, and prepare

yourself in having the right spirit and committed life. When we prepare ourselves God sends the increase, but when we don't prepare ourselves God puts it on hold until He sees that we are ready, because you can't ask for what you are not ready for. God watches our actions, God watches our drive, and God watches how we are, and it is on us to make sure we are prepared, so when the Lord starts working we are ready to receive.

- We get ready by hearing the word, following the word, applying the word, and making sure that we are following the plan and following the Leader. God uses the Leader to get the people ready for what He has for them, and in getting ready it is like training in the army or running a marathon you will get pushed, you will get stretched, you will have to leave some old habits, you will have to learn some new things, and you will have to understand the importance of a different direction but it is what God does so that we are ready for the next chapter.
- Every Church has a "next chapter", and no Church can always function on one chapter but the Lord always gives a Church a new chapter. Don't forget the previous chapters, but as long as there are pages in the book, you will never complete the book by staying in one chapter. The book keeps going, and God does that for the Church there's always more than chapters to write and live, because God doesn't make the Church stay parked, the Church will make the Church stay parked because the Lord is always on the move.
- Scrappy Churches Have A Focused Leader: "Exodus 6:1-7 ESV- But the LORD said to Moses, "Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh; for with a strong hand he will send them out, and with a strong hand he will drive them out of his land." [2] God spoke to Moses and said to him, "I am the LORD. [3] I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by my name the Lord I did not make myself known to them. [4] I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they lived as sojourners. [5] Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the people of Israel whom the

Egyptians hold as slaves, and I have remembered my covenant. [6] Say therefore to the people of Israel, 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment. [7] I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.'

- Scrappy Churches Have A Praying Leader: "Ephesians 6:16-20 ESV
- In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; [17] and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, [18] praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, [19] and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, [20] for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak."
- Scrappy Churches Have A Winner's Mentality: "Judges 8:1-9 ESV - Then the men of Ephraim said to him, "What is this that you have done to us, not to call us when you went to fight against Midian?" And they accused him fiercely. [2] And he said to them, "What have I done now in comparison with you? Is not the gleaning of the grapes of Ephraim better than the grape harvest of Abiezer? [3] God has given into your hands the princes of Midian, Oreb and Zeeb. What have I been able to do in comparison with you?" Then their anger against him subsided when he said this. [4] And Gideon came to the Jordan and crossed over, he and the 300 men who were with him, exhausted yet pursuing. [5] So he said to the men of Succoth, "Please give loaves of bread to the people who follow me, for they are exhausted, and I am pursuing after Zebah and Zalmunna, the kings of Midian." [6] And the officials of Succoth said, "Are the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna already in your hand, that we should give bread to your army?" [7] So Gideon said, "Well then, when the LORD has given Zebah and Zalmunna into my hand, I will flail

your flesh with the thorns of the wilderness and with briers." [8] And from there he went up to Penuel, and spoke to them in the same way, and the men of Penuel answered him as the men of Succoth had answered. [9] And he said to the men of Penuel, "When I come again in peace, I will break down this tower."

- Scrappy Churches Trust God's Decisions: "1 Samuel 16:7-13 ESV - But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." [8] Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." [9] Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." [10] And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen these." [11] Then Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here." [12] And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him, for this is he." [13] Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah."
- Scrappy Churches Know God Will Take Care Of The Church: "Haggai 1:7-14 ESV - "Thus says the LORD of hosts: Consider your ways. [8] Go up to the hills and bring wood and build the house, that I may take pleasure in it and that I may be glorified, says the LORD. [9] You looked for much, and behold, it came to little. And when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why? declares the LORD of hosts. Because of my house that lies in ruins, while each of you busies himself with his own house. [10] Therefore the heavens above you have withheld the dew, and the earth has withheld its produce. [11] And I have called for a drought on the land and the hills, on the grain, the new wine, the oil, on

what the ground brings forth, on man and beast, and on all their labors." [12] Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, with all the remnant of the people, obeyed the voice of the LORD their God, and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the LORD their God had sent him. And the people feared the LORD. [13] Then Haggai, the messenger of the LORD, spoke to the people with the LORD's message, "I am with you, declares the LORD." [14] And the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people. And they came and worked on the house of the LORD of hosts, their God,

Scrappy Churches Believe In The Midst Of Trials:

- "But there are many church leaders and church members today wondering if their churches will survive. They are discouraged. A number of them are defeated. For countless numbers, the best days seem to be in the past. Those attitudes of pessimism and even defeat are not unwarranted. At least two-thirds of churches are declining, maybe more. We estimate that 100 to 150 churches are closing every week. The sighs of despair are justified." (Pg. 22)
- **Do you believe that the best days of the Church are behind us?**
- **The Church does hit walls, and sometimes it can be discouraging looking and seeing what can happen to any Church but at that time what does the Church do? Does the Church have the faith that the Lord will turn it around even? Even though the Church is in a tough situation and can hit a wall doesn't mean that God can't turn it around.**
- **God can turn the Church around, God will turn the Church around, and God can make the Church come up from the ashes, God can make the Church be stronger, and God can make the Church rise from a bad start, a bad season, a bad year, and just a tough season the Lord will send revival to the Church that will freshen the whole atmosphere!**

- There are times that Churches indeed go through seasons where the spirit can be low, seasons that the people aren't always happy or just going through dry spells, and sometimes the Church hits walls but can the Church survive?
- God is the ultimate defibrillator that will let the Church come back to life! God will do that, and God is going to do that because the Lord will never let His Church that seeks Him, craves Him, loves Him, and obeys Him the Lord won't allow that Church to go under. We have to seek the Lord, we have to make sure that we are always seeking the Lord, and it is important to know that the Lord will never let the Church fail!
- The Church won't fail when it follows the Teacher's instructions! The Teacher's instructions are always what will make a student pass any test, because when a student desires to have a successful grade that is when they will follow the direction of the Teacher so that they are able to pass any class and that they are able to be a strong student.
- The Lord is speaking the same thing to the Church, that when the Church listens to the Teacher the Church is able to pass and survive any test that presents itself. When the Church doesn't follow the Teacher who is God, that is when the Church starts to lose that spark, lose that edge, and lose that spirit that made the Church what it is.
- The Church has something special, the Church has something that can't be contained, and the Church has something that makes it continue to stand but the Church has to make sure that it stays with the Lord. The importance of Church growth is to make sure that the Church has the right purpose for Church growth, don't just want the Church to grow for numbers but the Church should grow because of wanting to see more people to come to Christ.
- Many times you will see that some Churches grow because they just want to have a big membership, but having a big membership doesn't qualify for Church health and Church growth. There are times that God takes His Church in different routes in order to grow, God won't always allow the Church to grow numerically until it is growing spiritually and in the word of the Lord.

- Growing has it's growing pains, but it is what we need in order to grow and with the Church before the Church grows, the Church has to understand that the Church in the hands of the Lord is always in the right hands. The Church in the hands of the Lord is always on the right way, the right path, and the right direction as long as the Church is following God the Church can't lose.
- The Lord knows how to restore any dead situation, and the way the Church comes back to life is through the preaching of the word, the teaching of the word, praying to the Lord, and worshiping the Lord. Everything starts with the preaching and teaching of the word of God, that is how the Church comes to life, and that is how the Church will not lose the love it has for the Lord.
- The Church lives off of the word, and not only that but the Church has to make sure that it never loses faith in the Lord or faith in itself but to see that the Lord is still able to revive us. The Church is never without joy or without power, and the reason that we have that power is because we know that the word of the Lord works.
- The word of God will keep us, and when we have the word of God we should always see from the word of the Lord that the Lord will always give life to a dead situation. Sometimes the Lord has to show us that i let some stuff get like that, to show you not just to full trust me but to also show you that when I'm not first, when I'm not consulted, and when I'm not depended on you I'll take a back seat and let things get crazy so that you will come back to me.
- The Church has to also understand that, don't ever get so caught up in prestige that you don't have any room for the Holy Spirit. We need more of the Holy Spirit, we need to be focused on the Holy Spirit, and we need to always make sure that we are seeking the presence of the Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit improves our preaching, the Holy Spirit improves our teaching, the Holy Spirit improves our singing, the Holy Spirit improves our prayer lives, the Holy Spirit improves our lives, and the Holy Spirit gives the Church a draw. When you walk through the doors of the

Church you ought to fill His Spirit, when you sit down on the pews you ought to fill His Spirit, when you listen to the instruments you ought to fill His Spirit, and when you see that the Spirit of God is at work and moving around the Church the Church has a different attitude, a different effect, and a different glow.

- It is important to always make sure that we are in the Spirit, and when we are in the Spirit and when we are following the Lord the Lord will make the Church not falter, not lose its significance, and not lose its value. The Lord has what the Church needs, and the Church has to also understand that there are multiple ways for the Church to spread the Gospel, and to share the Gospel and reach people for Christ.
- We have multiple ways to reach Christ, and when we utilize every avenue we have the Lord will bless. The Lord does it, and see there might be some resistance but keep on working, because the Lord gives the Church many various ways for His word to go across. The Lord is that strong, and the Lord is that powerful and we have to always make sure that we follow the direction of the Lord, and that we are doing what the Lord wants because the Lord isn't restricted to a zip code or tradition but God is universal!
- Author, Creative Strategist, & Digital Ministry Teacher Clint Rogers wrote an article titled: "7 Reasons Why Churches Will Close Their Doors The Next Decade" and the 7 things he says:
 1. LACK OF AN ONLINE PRESENCE
 2. LACK OF A QUALITY ONLINE PRESENCE
 3. THE YOUNGER GENERATION IS NEGLECTED
 4. COMMUNITY ONLY HAPPENS ON SUNDAY
 5. A HEAVY EMPHASIS ON CONVERSION AND NOT DISCIPLESHIP
 6. NEGLECT OF EMPOWERING LEADERS
 7. A DEATH GRIP ON TRADITION
- The Church has to realize the importance of utilizing every tool that it has at its disposal, because the Lord doesn't limit Himself and since the

Lord doesn't limit Himself, we shouldn't limit ourselves because the Lord has the power, the Lord has the draw, and the Lord can reach people anywhere! Just because it doesn't look like it at the moment doesn't mean it isn't coming, it is about being patient and making sure that we are following the Lord's guide and principles!

- There have been Churches that have gone from the brink of closure, to now have 5 different Church services at 3 different campuses. The Lord will do that, and the Lord has your back and since the Lord has our back the Lord has so much power to be able to make things better, and will allow the Church to grow and have exponential growth! Growth isn't something that can't happen, but growth can happen when we follow the Lord and the blueprint of the Lord and when we follow the Lord at all times there is nothing stopping what the Lord can do!
- Pastor & Author Mark Dever says this: "As long as quick numerical growth remains the primary indicator of church health, the truth will be compromised. Instead, churches must once again begin measuring success not in terms of numbers but in terms of fidelity to the Scriptures."
- Author Thom S. Rainer says this: "Thriving churches have the Great Commission as the centerpiece of their vision, while dying churches have forgotten the clear command of Christ." "He placed us in churches to serve, to care for others, to pray for leaders, to learn, to teach, to give, and, in some cases, to die for the sake of the gospel. Many churches are weak because we have members who have turned the meaning of membership upside down. It's time to get it right. It's time to become a church member as God intended. It's time to give instead of being entitled."
- Pastor Rick Warren says this: "God is responsible for the quantity of your ministry; you are responsible for the quality."
- Scrappy Churches Will Be Restored By The Holy Spirit: Ezekiel 37:1-10 ESV - The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. [2] And he led me around among them, and behold,

there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. [3] And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." [4] Then he said to me, "Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. [5] Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. [6] And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD." [7] So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. [8] And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. [9] Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." [10] So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

- [Scrappy Churches Have A Healthy Diet: "1 Timothy 4:1,11-16 ESV - Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons. \[11\] Command and teach these things. \[12\] Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. \[13\] Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching. \[14\] Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you. \[15\] Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress. \[16\] Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers."](#)
- [Scrappy Churches Believe In What They Don't See But Believe They Will See It: "1 Corinthians 2:9 ESV - But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has](#)

prepared for those who love him" Philippians 1:6 ESV - And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

- Scrappy Churches Love To Work: "1 Chronicles 22:11-13,17-19 ESV - "Now, my son, the LORD be with you, so that you may succeed in building the house of the LORD your God, as he has spoken concerning you. [12] Only, may the LORD grant you discretion and understanding, that when he gives you charge over Israel you may keep the law of the LORD your God. [13] Then you will prosper if you are careful to observe the statutes and the rules that the LORD commanded Moses for Israel. Be strong and courageous. Fear not; do not be dismayed. [17] David also commanded all the leaders of Israel to help Solomon his son, saying, [18] "Is not the LORD your God with you? And has he not given you peace on every side? For he has delivered the inhabitants of the land into my hand, and the land is subdued before the LORD and his people. [19] Now set your mind and heart to seek the LORD your God. Arise and build the sanctuary of the LORD God, so that the ark of the covenant of the LORD and the holy vessels of God may be brought into a house built for the name of the LORD."
- Scrappy Churches Reach The World: "Matthew 24:3-14 ESV - As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?" [4] And Jesus answered them, "See that no one leads you astray. [5] For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will lead many astray. [6] And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. [7] For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. [8] All these are but the beginning of the birth pains. [9] "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. [10] And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. [11] And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray.

[12] And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. [13] But the one who endures to the end will be saved. [14] And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come."



Scrappy Church Bible Study Pt. 8

Scrappy Churches Are Tenacious:

- "But there are many church leaders and church members today wondering if their churches will survive. They are discouraged. A number of them are defeated. For countless numbers, the best days seem to be in the past. Those attitudes of pessimism and even defeat are not unwarranted. At least two-thirds of churches are declining maybe more. We estimate that about 100 to 150 churches are closing every week. The sighs of despair are justified." (Pg. 22)
- "Even among those churches that are hanging on, a number of their leaders feel a sense of futility. Though smaller churches vastly outnumber larger churches, more people are attending the larger churches every week. The migration from smaller to larger is clear and evident. Church leaders and church members sense the shadow of larger churches over them. They see their young families move to the churches that have ministries and programs for their children and teenagers. They see the newer, even cooler, buildings of the larger churches." (Pg. 23)
- "They see it. They sense it. They know it. Is there hope? Do these smaller churches have any path forward? Can the smaller and mid-sized churches survive the word seemingly dominated by larger churches and megachurches? The answer to the question is an absolute "yes." I make

that declaration not by sentiment nor false hopes, but by clear evidence of God's work. Though the number of scrappy churches is still relatively small, they are growing in number. I am convinced scrappy churches are a growing trend of the reality we will soon see." (Pg. 23)

- Scrappy Churches have to look at this as a sign of hope, but also a sign of being warned because healthy Churches have many things in place for all groups! Healthy Churches make sure that they look out for everybody, and not just staying still or staying complacent because that's when the Church loses people.
- People don't want to come to a Church that is empty! We look at empty as pews on Sunday's, but empty has more than that because a Church can be full but empty if there is no drive, no goals, no mission, no values, and no ministries? How can you expect the Lord to grow the Church, if the Church isn't trying to grow and if the Church isn't trying to be active why should people want to come?
- The reality is that most Churches don't have a big membership, and as we look at the Church culture today as compared to the Church culture of years ago the crave for the Lord, the desire for the Lord, and the hunger for the word of the Lord isn't the same. The Church used to be the most respected place in the world, but now the Church has to compete with various things but is the Church wanting to grow and adapt?
- Too often the Church battles change, and experiences change that it doesn't even recognize when it sees that people would rather leave and go somewhere where they can be used, instead of staying somewhere that the minute they want to serve they deal with criticism instead of encouragement!
- That is the landscape of the Church that we see, that many people want to come to serve, to be fed, and to feel the warmth and the embrace. However.... There are times that they can get tarnished and Churches can leave a sour taste in the mouths of people because of complaints, arguments, or distastefulness and it hurts the Church!

- Churches are losing numbers, because instead of focusing on discipleship and progression there is too much focus on keeping a stranglehold on tradition and the way we have always done it, and that can be one of the main gashes that always makes the Church bleed.
- Some Churches can never stop bleeding, because there is a battle between God's will and the way we've done it our "our way." Some Churches would rather bleed than get well, and as a Church it is important to make sure that we follow the Lord and not follow us, because if we leave it to us we will continue to go down a path of destruction and dryness.
- Scrappy Churches must have faith in the Lord, and when the Church has faith in the Lord we realize and we understand that just because we don't have what another Church has, doesn't mean that we can't have anything special ourselves. We have to be persistent in wanting the Church to grow, wanting the Church to be healthy, and wanting the Church to make sure that we are always following the word of the Lord at all times.
- The Church that follows the Lord will make sure that we are listening to the Lord, and in following the Lord we are realizing and understanding that the Lord will sprout up new changes and ministries in the field! The Lord will do that when we follow the Lord, and the Church can't be quick to neglect the word of the Lord, the Church can't be quick to neglect the open doors of the Lord, and the Church can't be quick to neglect the power of the Lord.
- The Lord is the conductor of the Church, the Lord is the leader of the Church, and the Lord is the one that makes the Church strong and complete. The Church doesn't get to tell the Lord what will or will not happen in His Church, and there are those times that the Church misses out on the power of the Lord because the people in the Church are following them and not God!
- Shouldn't the decrease of people in the Church wake the Church's eyes? The Church has been sleeping if it thinks that it can go on the same way, the Church has been asleep if it thinks that it shouldn't be

progressive, because a Church will never grow if it operates in sleep patterns? Has the Church been asleep, because we have enjoyed the bed of comfort, the bed of tradition, the bed of being stuck, the bed of favoritism, and the bed of being belligerent? Has the Church been asleep, and enjoyed the same mattress but hasn't wanted anything else and now we see that the house is going down because there aren't enough people to maintain it!

- We need to be real with ourselves about that, and also realize something that the Church can't lose if the Church doesn't want to lose! The Church has to understand that the Lord is the one that is always going to make a change, make a difference, and make things look and feel differently because the Lord doesn't operate in one lane! God operates in multiple lanes, and God always has more than one way of doing something!
- We should ask the Lord.... "How Can I Help The Church Grow?" and "How Can I Spread The Word Of God?" Do we want the Church to grow and operate God's way or our way?
- There is something to be said about that, and there is something that we need to wake up and look at ourselves and ask ourselves that question, and really be real with ourselves because people can sometimes want the Church to grow if it grows their way. The Church doesn't answer to you, because the Church isn't ours but the Church is the Lord's and because the Church is the Lord's God will do what He wants!
- The Church should realize that we know that the Lord is real, and since we know that the Lord is real then we should make sure that we do the work of Jesus Christ! Does our Church resemble the ministry of Jesus Christ, do you resemble Jesus Christ, and does our ministry make people want to join Jesus? We are all influential, if we really understand the power of Jesus, but our ministry isn't about us but our ministry is about Jesus and if we aren't doing it the way Jesus orchestrated it then we are in the wrong!
- The Church needs to be the portrait of Jesus, but too often people in the church mess up the picture because we don't like the way the

picture was taken. In photography there are times, that you have to take multiple poses, and in taking multiple poses you are getting the right frame and the right picture, and with any great photographer they want to make sure that you get the right photo. Photos are memories, photos will make you laugh, and photos will make you enjoy the journey, because of what they bring to the table.

- The same way is the Lord, because when we have the word of the Lord and letting the Lord lead us we are letting the Lord craft and form the perfect picture, and when the Lord takes the picture it is the Lord making the Church the way He wants, and that will be the most effective and impactful so that everybody can feel special, everybody can feel apart of the Church, and everybody can feel that they have something to offer and that they have somewhere where they belong!
- Everybody should feel like they belong in the Church, everybody should feel like they are serving, and we should want everybody to serve. We should have something for everybody, that's why the Church can't stand still or just be comfortable with just the same stuff but not having things that are suitable and fit everybody!
- The Church should be open for everybody, because there need to be ministries for all ages. What fits one age won't fit another age, and you have to realize that and leaders that are used by the Lord realize and recognize this! Leaders see and recognize that everybody is important, everybody is significant, and the Church isn't meant to just cater to one age group!
- There are multiple age groups, and multiple generations in the Church so if the Church just focuses on one age group and generation then it has missed the other generations, and that is when an exodus can happen. Leaders see that, Leaders understand that, and Leaders are very observant of the fact that it is important for all people to feel that the Church is giving them something.
- Think about when you go to a restaurant, a restaurant's job is to make sure that there is food for every customer. Foods can be: Burgers, Chicken Sandwiches, Chicken Strips, Fish, Salmon, Salad, Club

Sandwiches, Breakfast items, Pizza, Soup, Chili, or other different items.", and the reason that these items are served is because for a restaurant to have great success they understand the importance of making sure that they are open to everybody, and that they are giving everybody options so that if there is one thing that you don't like at least there is something that you do like that will help enjoy the experience because something was good for you!

- That is how it has to be in the Ministry, because a successful and strong Church has to make sure that there are Ministries for all people, and that there is something that all people can enjoy, and can utilize their gifts for the Lord. The gifts that we all have come through handy, because the Lord has work for us all and because the Lord has work for us all that is when we see the Lord at work and the Lord is always working for us all, and that is when the Church will keep growing because the Lord is able to do great things for the Church to grow!
- "Scrappy Churches Include Everybody": 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 ESV - For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. [13] For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body-Jews or Greeks, slaves or free-and all were made to drink of one Spirit. [14] For the body does not consist of one member but of many. [15] If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. [16] And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. [17] If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? [18] But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. [19] If all were a single member, where would the body be? [20] As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. [21] The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." [22] On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem

to be weaker are indispensable, [23] and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unrepresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, [24] which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, [25] that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. [26] If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. [27] Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

- "Scrappy Churches Want Church Growth": Acts 2:42-47 ESV
- And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. [43] And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. [44] And all who believed were together and had all things in common. [45] And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. [46] And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, [47] praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.
- Ephesians 4:11-16 ESV - And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, [12] to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, [13] until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, [14] so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. [15] Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, [16] from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

- "Scrappy Churches Have Leaders Who Seek God": Exodus 33:12-23 ESV
- Moses said to the LORD, "See, you say to me, 'Bring up this people,'
but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have
said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.'
[13] Now therefore, if I have found favor in your sight, please show me
now your ways, that I may know you in order to find favor in your sight.
Consider too that this nation is your people." [14] And he said, "My
presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." [15] And he said to
him, "If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from
here. [16] For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your
sight, I and your people? Is it not in your going with us, so that we are
distinct, I and your people, from every other people on the face of the
earth?" [17] And the LORD said to Moses, "This very thing that you
have spoken I will do, for you have found favor in my sight, and I know
you by name." [18] Moses said, "Please show me your glory." [19] And
he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim
before you my name 'The LORD.' And I will be gracious to whom I will
be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. [20] But,"
he said, "you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live."
[21] And the LORD said, "Behold, there is a place by me where you
shall stand on the rock, [22] and while my glory passes by I will put you
in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have
passed by. [23] Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my
back, but my face shall not be seen."
- "Scrappy Churches Adapt": Proverbs 22:17-21 ESV - Incline your ear,
and hear the words of the wise, and apply your heart to my knowledge,
[18] for it will be pleasant if you keep them within you, if all of them
are ready on your lips. [19] That your trust may be in the LORD, I
have made them known to you today, even to you. [20] Have I not
written for you thirty sayings of counsel and knowledge, [21] to make
you know what is right and true, that you may give a true answer to
those who sent you?

- "Scrappy Churches Have Servants": Mark 10:35-45 ESV - And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." [36] And he said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" [37] And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." [38] Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" [39] And they said to him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized, [40] but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." [41] And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. [42] And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. [43] But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, [44] and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. [45] For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Scrappy Churches Believe God's Plan:

- "While scrappy church leaders are not blind to the difficulties around them and in their congregations, they remain certain God is still working in their churches. "We are at this address now for a reason," one pastor told us. "We are not here by accident. We are determined to make a difference in our community. We are moving forward." (Pg. 24)
- The pastor responded with a loud laugh. "Of course we do. We have many of the same issues in our turnaround as we had in our decline. We still struggle for resources. We still have change-resistant members. We still have a lot of critics." He paused for a moment and reflected, "But, you know, many of us in the church have chosen to focus on what God wants us to do. We have to be obedient to the Great Commission

and the Great Commandment. We can't spend our time focusing on the critics and the naysayers. We have to focus on God's plan for us." "We believe with all our hearts that God still has a plan for our church." (Pg. 24)

- The Lord has His plan for His Church, and wherever the Lord has His Church the Lord has them there for a reason because the Lord knows that the Church needs to be there! The Lord knows what is good for the community, and the community needs the Church and the Church needs the community because you can't have one without the other!
- The Church should have a love affair with the community, the Church needs to have that love affair with the community because the Church has to take the next steps, the Church has to make sure that when we follow the Lord, and when we serve the Lord that we realize and understand that the Church has to be the light, the Church has to be the friend, the Church has to be the embracing entity to make sure that the community is taken care of!
- The Church has the power to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and we have to understand that Jesus didn't pass by the community but Jesus sat with the community and Jesus didn't mind getting right there with the people. We have a Church in the community, but the Church is passive and afraid to embrace the community because of this and that, but the power of the Lord will protect us but we have to be willing to go the extra mile!
- If we are believers in the word, then we need to make sure that we are indeed doing what the word of God is saying! The word of the Lord will use us to make sure that the world is better, lives are better, and when we give the word of the Lord we understand that everybody can be a part of the change. We should want to change, and we need to change, but we have to make sure that the word of the Lord is the embrace and the function that brings life to the community!
- We have communities that are dry, we have communities that are losing lives, we have communities that are drug infested, we have communities that are not Holy-Spirit filled. That is where the Church needs to step

up, are we satisfied with just seeing the same things happen all of the time, are we satisfied with seeing deaths, are we satisfied with seeing more people unsaved than are saved, are we satisfied with just sitting on pews and not wanting to see people saved.

- The Church has to be active, the Church should be active, the Church should desire growth, and the Church should want to see lives changed. God will change our lives, God will grow our hearts, God will grow our spirits, God will grow our families, God will grow our homes, God will grow our schools, and God will grow everything around us. When we have the word of the Lord in us we can make these impacts.
- We should have the word of the Lord to rest in us, because anybody that is a follower of Jesus Christ should always make sure that they are following the Lord and when they are following the Lord it is a desire to grow in the word. We need to always grow in the word, we need to always study the word of the Lord, and we need to always be in the place to be changed by the word!
- **The Church can't change the community until it has been changed itself!** That is another reality, that if we are going to make an impact in our lives then we need to let the Lord change us. We need to be changed by the Lord, the Lord will change us because the word of the Lord isn't meant for us not to grow! The word of God is meant for us to improve, the word of the Lord is meant for us to be righteous, and the word of the Lord is meant for us to be responsible Christians that are pleasing in the eyes of the Lord!
- You can't be a follower of Christ, and don't follow the manual that the Lord has set up! The manual is the word of the Lord, the instructions are the word of the Lord, and the word of the Lord is like a prescription from a doctor in order for you to stay healthy make sure you take the medicine so that your body is functioning better. The word of the Lord is that way as well, that with the word of the Lord we have the medicine that we need so that we are always spiritually healthy!
- The Church and Christian can't live without the word, but we need the word so that we are encouraged, full, and lifted up because we let the

Lord have complete control in our lives. God's word will certainly do that for us, and God's word will make us never turn away from the Lord, but the word of the Lord will always make me and us want more of God, and live for the Lord without apologies!

- Dr. Shelly Hogan in her article "The Importance of Church as a Community" gives keys about the Church and Community she says this:
 1. As Christians, the church as a community has a shared three-fold mission: Worshiping God, Discipling believers, and Sharing the gospel with the world.
 2. The church as a community proclaims the goodness of God and provides clear directions toward living a life of fulfillment and connection. As a clear reminder, it is a restorative agent in reclaiming the image of God in his crowning creation-humanity.
 3. We become our best selves in the presence of others and in accepting ourselves and each other, we encounter God's love and heal. In this cohort of connection, we are informed, reformed and equipped to walk out purpose and destiny, both individually and communally. This engagement empowers and enables individuals to participate in meaningful service to others and intentional kingdom contribution.
 4. It is in this place of connection that next generations receive education as life in Christ is modeled, future leaders emerge and the supernatural presence of God is ignited. The church as a community provides something both profound and powerful. To summarize journalist and activist Dorothy Day regarding community, we can't love God until we love and learn to be with one another. Only then will we truly understand that the cure to loneliness is the love that comes along with community and companionship.
 5. It is essential the church as a community practice the biblical principles of forgiveness, repentance and reconciliation while cultivating a healthy crop of spiritual fruit. Owning our mistakes, forgiving the failings of others and restoring relationships disarms the enemy of our souls and

disables the potential destruction of community. When these attributes are engaged, next level relationships are enabled and encouraged.

6. Christian community is the biblical prescription for the ailments of modern society and the impetus for human flourishing. In connection with each other, we have the opportunity to best express God's love, empower each other to fulfill destiny and equip one another to withstand adversity. The church as a community is good armor against every enemy and good soil for transformative growth.

- "Scrappy Churches Need The Word": Nehemiah 8:1-8 ESV - And all the people gathered as one man into the square before the Water Gate. And they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses that the LORD had commanded Israel. [2] So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the seventh month. [3] And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand. And the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law. [4] And Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden platform that they had made for the purpose. And beside him stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah on his right hand, and Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam on his left hand. [5] And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was above all the people, and as he opened it all the people stood. [6] And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. [7] Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, the Levites, helped the people to understand the Law, while the people remained in their places. [8] They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

- "Scrappy Churches Want To See People Changed": 2 Corinthians 1:3-7 ESV - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, [4] who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. [5] For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. [6] If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer. [7] Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort.
- "Scrappy Churches Live What They Preach": Titus 2:7-14 ESV - Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, [8] and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us. [9] Bondservants are to be submissive to their own masters in everything; they are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, [10] not pilfering, but showing all good faith, so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior. [11] For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, [12] training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, [13] waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, [14] who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.
- "Scrappy Churches Seek God": 1 Peter 1:13-16 ESV - Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. [14] As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, [15] but as he who called you is holy, you also

be holy in all your conduct, [16] since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

- "Scrappy Churches Can't Live Without God": Proverbs 2:1-8 ESV - My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, [2] making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; [3] yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, [4] if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, [5] then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. [6] For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; [7] he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity, [8] guarding the paths of justice and watching over the way of his saints.
- "Scrappy Churches Want The Best": Deuteronomy 10:12-17 ESV - "And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, [13] and to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD, which I am commanding you today for your good? [14] Behold, to the LORD your God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is in it. [15] Yet the LORD set his heart in love on your fathers and chose their offspring after them, you above all peoples, as you are this day. [16] Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no longer stubborn. [17] For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe.



Scrappy Church Bible Study Pt. 9

Scrappy Churches Are Praying Churches:

- "One of the common themes of the scrappy churches was a greater dependance on prayer for their churches. "We realized we had become comfortable in our own power," said Margaret, a member of one of the scrappy churches that experienced a turnaround."We began a time of intensive prayer for our church. It began with a twenty-four-hour vigil, but it continued well beyond that. In fact, we are still praying for God to use our church in the community and beyond. It's amazing what happens when you depend on Him through prayer." (Pg. 25)
- The Church that prays is the Church that has power, but the Church that doesn't pray is a Church that has disrespected God. Prayer is the key, prayer is a power that can't be contained, and prayer is a love affair with the Lord because you can't seek the Lord if you are never spending time with the Lord.
- Churches run into many problems when they refuse to pray, and when we are praying are we really praying to the Lord and are we really believing what we pray? That is the difference between authentic prayer and rehearsed prayer, because when we are real in our prayers we really believe in what we pray and we don't just say something that sounds good or that I have always said, but I am shifting in my belief in prayer!

- Prayer means having full belief, prayer means having full trust in the Lord, and prayer means that nothing will be done without talking and seeking the Lord. Churches get into so much trouble when they don't seek the Lord, and when there is no consecration to the Lord then how can the Lord bless the Church!
- **A clean God will never bless a dirty Church!**
- The Church that doesn't seek God is the Church that allows anything to enter in, and when the Church doesn't pray to the Lord enough is the Church that will fall for many things, and that will allow Satan to have too much influence. **The Church that neglects God, is the Church that is saying: "We can do this on our own, and we know what we are doing."**
- The Church should never live in this type of ignorance, and the Church should never live with any thought that thinks that the Lord doesn't need to be in charge. The Lord is in charge of the Church, the Lord is the CEO of the Church, the Lord is the head of the Church, the Lord is the pilot of the Church, the Lord is the captain of the Church, the Lord is the supplier of the Church, and the Lord is the one that makes the Church flow so how can the Church think they can do it without God?
- **A Church that overrides God is an arrogant Church that will soon die, because the Lord will never allow a Church to live that doesn't seek the life-giver!** The Church needs to always be humble enough to realize that, and to have that type of respect for the Lord because the Church should never allow its name to forget who's name is the real name of the Church!
- The Lord's name is the head name of the Church, the Lord's name is the most influential name of the Church, and the Lord's name is the most impactful name of the Church! It is not our name, but it is the name of the Lord that has all power, it is the name of the Lord that restores, it is the name of the Lord that keeps us every day, and because of the Lord we have what we have.
- We are the beneficiaries of the Lord's goodness, and because we are followers of the Lord and because we are believers in the Lord then we should always believe in God. When we have belief in the Lord, that

belief that we have is belief that will keep you from not going the right way but you know that the Lord will fix it. Belief in the Lord is knowing that with God all things are possible, with God storms cease, with God lives are changed, with God lives are saved, with God we can trust in Him even when things can get queasy and uneasy, there's something that we should always know that with God we will make it, and we will survive because we believe in the Lord!

- How much do you believe in the Lord? As we follow the Lord, and as we continue to serve the Lord that should be something that we have to believe and we have to know that the Lord is going to bless us. We have to believe in what we are praying, and if you are not going to believe in what you are praying then why are you praying?
- When you pray there is something that we have to know that prayer is not going to be useless if you are praying with the right spirit, but you also have to understand that as we pray to the Lord and as we continue to trust in the Lord we realize and we know that the Lord will bless us, but as we think about blessings and as we look at blessings we should realize that we serve an awesome God!
- The reputation of the Lord will show up in your prayers! God has a great name, God has a powerful name, God has a strong name, God has a remarkable name, and God has a victorious name that is the Lord. When you know that the Lord has kept you, and when you know that the Lord has kept you alive then we should know that the Lord will make things better if we believe it!
- The Church has to believe in the power of prayer, the Church should believe in the strength of prayer, and the Church should believe in the need of prayer. You can't believe in prayer if you don't believe your prayers, because a strong prayer life has a strong voice, it has a strong force, and it has a strong power that can't be cutoff because of understanding that I know who I am praying to, and since I know who I am praying to I know that I have faith in God.
- Our faith in the Lord will come out in your prayers. The Church that wants to grow needs to pray, the Church that wants to grow financially

needs to pray, the Church that wants to grow numerically needs to pray, the Church that wants to grow spiritually needs to pray, the Church that wants to grow with more opportunities, more ministries, and to do more that Church needs to make sure that the Church is praying.

- Prayer is that important ingredient in our lives, and if we don't pray to the Lord then where are we going? We aren't going anywhere without prayer, we aren't going to be enriched without prayer, we aren't going to be uplifted without prayer, we aren't going to have a strong foundation without prayer, and we aren't going to be the mature disciples that we need to be without prayer!

The Attributes Of Prayer:

- Prayer Brings Life": 1 Kings 17:17-24 ESV - After this the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, became ill. And his illness was so severe that there was no breath left in him. [18] And she said to Elijah, "What have you against me, O man of God? You have come to me to bring my sin to remembrance and to cause the death of my son!" [19] And he said to her, "Give me your son." And he took him from her arms and carried him up into the upper chamber where he lodged, and laid him on his own bed. [20] And he cried to the LORD, "O LORD my God, have you brought calamity even upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by killing her son?" [21] Then he stretched himself upon the child three times and cried to the LORD, "O LORD my God, let this child's life come into him again." [22] And the LORD listened to the voice of Elijah. And the life of the child came into him again, and he revived. [23] And Elijah took the child and brought him down from the upper chamber into the house and delivered him to his mother. And Elijah said, "See, your son lives." [24] And the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in your mouth is truth."
- "Prayer Makes Us Trust God": Philippians 4:6-7 ESV - Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. [7] And the peace

of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

- "Prayer Grows The Church": 1 Chronicles 28:9-10 ESV - "And you, Solomon my son, know the God of your father and serve him with a whole heart and with a willing mind, for the LORD searches all hearts and understands every plan and thought. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will cast you off forever. [10] Be careful now, for the LORD has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary; be strong and do it."
- "Prayer Encourages Us": Psalm 91:1-6 ESV - He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. [2] I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." [3] For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence. [4] He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler. [5] You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day, [6] nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor the destruction that wastes at noonday.
- "Prayer Makes Us Not Lose Hope:" Colossians 4:2-4 ESV - Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. [3] At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison- [4] that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.
- Prayer gives us that jolt and spark of energy, and we have to look at prayer as not something that is a waste of time, but prayer makes us realize that this is time for me and the Lord. Prayer is how we need to understand that we need to spend time with the Lord, and as the Church we miss out on being a powerful Church because we don't want to pray together, and we don't want to seek the Lord that is why the Church can at times live and operate in dysfunction!
- Do we pray to the Lord, do we really seek the Lord, and do we really want to talk to the Lord as a family together? The Church that misses

these key moments is a Church that is missing something it needs, because when we pray together we are not trying to do it ourselves, but we are not admitting and seeking the Lord to give us the answers, give us the guide, and give us the power that we need in order for us to really grow in the word and together!

- We can't grow together if we can't pray together! The Church that can't pray together isn't together, the Church that can't pray together is a Church that will never be together because nothing important and that works properly never misses a part. Books need pages, chapters, and words, cars need tires, steering wheel, oil, steering fluid, windshield wipers, and engines.
- A hotel room has a bed, room key, tv, shower, toilet, and lights, a piano needs black and white keys, an organ needs black and white keys, and a shirt and pants get their wrinkles taken away with an iron and starch. So many things go together, and that is the same thing with prayer and the Church, that the Church has to make sure that prayer is key, and people in the Church ought to pull each other together and just start having prayer meetings together!
- We should never be in a rush with prayer, but we should be able to have serious prayer meetings with each other. When we really seek the Lord we are refreshed, we are changed, we are delivered, we are set free, and we are better. Prayer will make us react better, prayer will make us have a better attitude, prayer will make us desire more of the Lord, and because we desire more of the Lord, and we want more of the Lord, prayer does that and changes us as well.
- Prayer is not something that we should ever ignore, and prayer is something that will never make us stop trusting in the Lord but prayer tackles us higher, prayer is like a cell phone with a good charge it is there when we need it, and prayer is like toothpaste to your teeth in the morning it will freshen you up. Prayer will freshen up our spirits, prayer will make us whole, and prayer will make us complete and we should be glad that prayer lives, and that prayer works.

- Prayer does work when we let the Holy Spirit have control, prayer works when we really allow the Lord to have His way, prayer works when we follow the Lord, and when we pray with the right spirit we will always see that prayer will surely take care of us. Prayer is that important, and as the Church we need to always make sure that we pray and that we want to pray!
- A follower of Jesus Christ should never be allergic to prayer! We should be allergic to discontentment, but we should always welcome prayer and we should pray for people rather in the Church or at home we should still make sure that we are praying to the Lord. Prayer works, prayer is real, prayer is necessary, prayer is fiery, prayer is like icing on the cake it adds the finishing touches, and it adds that extra zest to make the cake better, and prayer will make us have the extra zest to make sure that we are always committed to the Lord.
- "Scrappy Churches Pray For Their Pastor": Galatians 6:8-9 ESV - For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. [9] And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.
- "Scrappy Churches Pray For The Right Character": 1 Timothy 2:8 ESV - I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling;
- "Scrappy Churches Pray For God's Anointing": Numbers 6:24-27 ESV - The LORD bless you and keep you; [25] the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; [26] the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. [27] "So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them."
- "Scrappy Churches Pray For Unwavering Faith": James 1:6-8 ESV - But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. [7] For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; [8] he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

- "Scrappy Churches Pray To Be Christ-Like": Ephesians 5:1-4 ESV - Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. [2] And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. [3] But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. [4] Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.

Scrappy Churches Are Committed To Prayer:

- "Of course, it would be good if we could share with you exactly how these churches are moving forward in prayer. There is, however, no discernible pattern. The ways the churches have become focused on prayer for revitalization are as diverse as the churches themselves." (Pg. 25)
- "Though the methodologies are different, there is a theme of prayer in many of the scrappy churches. A number of congregations focused on the role prayer played in the early church. In fact, this passage Acts 2:24 is cited frequently in the scrappy churches: "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer." Prayer is not an afterthought in scrappy churches. It is pervasive and powerful. (Pg. 25)
- The word "devoted" in the Greek means - To continue all the time in a place, to persevere and not to faint, and to show one's self courageous."
- The Late Great Preacher Charles Stanley said this: "The amount of time we spend with Jesus — meditating on his Word and his majesty, seeking his face — establishes our fruitfulness in the kingdom."
- The Late Theologian Andrew Murray said this: "Prayer is not monologue, but dialogue; God's voice is its most essential part. Listening to God's voice is the secret of the assurance that he will listen to mine."
- The Late Theologian George Mueller said this: "I saw more clearly than ever, that the first great and primary business to which I ought to attend every day was, to have my soul happy in the Lord. The first thing to be concerned about was not, how I might serve the Lord, how I

might glorify the Lord; but how I might get my soul into a happy state, and how my inner man may be nourished.... I saw that the most important thing I had to do was to give myself to the reading of the Word of God and to meditation of it."

- This is the key of the life of a Church and the life of any person, that we all have to make sure that we are always seeking the Lord. We need to make that we are always desiring the Lord, and we should always make sure that we have that hope in the Lord, because it is for us and the power and the presence of the Lord is that strong and that powerful that the Lord never leaves us, and that the Lord never cuts us off!
- We are never cut off by the Lord, and we can always go to the Lord if we choose to and if we desire to because when have you ever known the Lord to be too busy, when have you ever known the Lord to not want you, and when have you ever known the Lord to say that I don't want to talk to you? The Lord always talks to us, the Lord is always open, and the Lord is always available and because of that, we should always have that spirit of craving the Lord.
- The Church should always come together to pray..... That is what the Church should do, before anything else is said, before anything is done, and before anything is thought of the Church should come together just to have prayer. A strong Church is a Church that loves to pray, and when we love the Lord and when we are really serious about our growth and our need to be influential, that is when we have to make sure that we are always praying to the Lord.
- The Church needs prayer because the Church needs God. The Lord is the keeper of the Church, the Lord is the provider of the Church, the Lord is the ruler of the Church, the Lord is the sustainer of the Church, and the Lord is the power of the Church. The Church will never be able to last if prayer is inexistent, because prayer for us is the battery that will keep us going.
- You want your Pastor to preach hard, teach hard, and be fresh, make sure you pray for him! You want the choir to sing songs that uplift God and not man pray for them, you want deacons and trustees to be holy

and not devilish pray for them, you want people in the Church to get along pray for them, you want people in the Church to reach the lost for Christ than pray for them, and you want lost souls to come to Christ make sure you are praying for them. That is the winning formula is prayer, that is how we defeat the devil is through prayer, and that is how we overcome various challenges is through prayer.

- We face challenges of various sorts, we face challenges in our homes, we face challenges in our finances, we face challenges in our schools, we face challenges in our education, we face challenges in our politics, and we face challenges all around us but that is when we need to start praying to the Lord, and we need to seek Him always.
- We need to seek the Lord daily..... We don't have to make things hard if we would pray to the Lord, even though there are days and challenges that seem to be hard and rough, but when we pray we believe and we know that the Lord has the power to redeem us, the Lord has the power to get us through our afflictions, and the Lord has the power to resurrect us from dead and dry situations!
- There's nothing that the Lord can't handle, and the Church should never forget that either that there is nothing that the Lord can't handle with the Church! The Church goes through different seasons, the Church faces different obstacles, and the Church encounters different storms but there is one thing that we should never forget, that the Lord doesn't change, and that the Lord hasn't forgotten about us.
- The Lord has all power, and the great thing about prayer is that prayer will eliminate doubt and prayer will not let me or you fall for anything that we know that God has all power. God has the power to revive any dead situation, God has the power to revive any tough situation, and God has the power to let us still be able to be impactful but we need to pray for the Holy Spirit and for the will of the Lord to be done.
- Prayer is the map that God uses to lead His Church into the open doors and right direction He desires, prayer is the Powerade that gives us a jolt of energy and replenishes us in the midst of the different challenges that present themselves, prayer is the water that grows us

just like water grows flowers, and prayer is water that grows our faith, grows our desire for the word, grows our preaching, grows our lifestyles, and grows our commitment to the Lord.

- The Church should always want to pray..... Why should we stop praying? Prayer needs to be something that is an everyday factor, and we don't have to limit ourselves to a time frame or how many times that we need to pray. Prayer should be something that we never get enough of, because when we are praying we are in the presence of God and that is the best presence you can be in.
- Being in the presence of God will keep us from making mistakes, being in the presence of God will remind us of the safety net we have in Jesus Christ, being in the presence of God will let us know that the Lord is able, the Lord has not abandoned us, and the Lord won't let us fail. That is something that prayer does for us, and that prayer reminds us that we are not alone no matter what it feels like, no matter what we deal with, and no matter what we are up against we are never alone.
- We are never alone... the Lord is with us! The Lord is with us, the Lord loves us, the Lord cares for us, the Lord is our shelter, the Lord is our guide, the Lord is our rock, the Lord is our strength, and the Lord is what we need Him to be. That is the power of God, and that is the reason the Church is still alive, and that is why the Church can't forget who is the maker and the builder of the Church!
- Don't ever forget how the Lord has blessed you, and the Church should always have the gratitude that the Lord is the reason we are here, and the Lord is the reason that we are blessed right now. We are blessed because of God, and not because of us, and since we know that we are blessed let us always seek the one that has given us the blessings that we have.
- Pray to God, and there's something about prayer that we should never forget is that prayer seeks God but prayer doesn't control God! I have the desire to seek the Lord in my prayer, but there's also the other side and reality that even though I seek the Lord in my prayer I don't get to tell the Lord how I want it done, I seek Him but I also can't

control the Lord but I have enough faith in Him to know that whatever He does, and whatever He chooses to do is alright with me because as long as I know He is doing it than I will be alright!

- Prayer is the picture that always hangs on the wall and doesn't fall, because prayer always reminds us of what we have come from, what we have done, and what we have in the Lord! There's just no way around it... We all need prayer, we need to practice prayer, and we need to make sure that we want prayer and we want God and we know that we can and will always turn to Him because He always gives us everything we need, and we don't have to doubt Him because we know that He is always in control!
- "Scrappy Churches Develop Spiritual Transformation Through Prayer": Matthew 6:9-15 ESV - Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. [10] Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. [11] Give us this day our daily bread, [12] and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. [13] And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [14] For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, [15] but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.
- "Scrappy Churches Pray For Protection": Psalm 71:1-6 ESV - In you, O LORD, do I take refuge; let me never be put to shame! [2] In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me; incline your ear to me, and save me! [3] Be to me a rock of refuge, to which I may continually come; you have given the command to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress. [4] Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of the unjust and cruel man. [5] For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O LORD, from my youth. [6] Upon you I have leaned from before my birth; you are he who took me from my mother's womb. My praise is continually of you.
- "Scrappy Churches Are Protected By Jesus Through Prayer": Luke 22:31-32 ESV - "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you,

that he might sift you like wheat, [32] but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."

- "Scrappy Churches Pray With An Humble Attitude": Ephesians 3:14-21 ESV - For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, [15] from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, [16] that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, [17] so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith-that you, being rooted and grounded in love, [18] may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, [19] and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. [20] Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, [21] to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.
- "Scrappy Churches Pray Knowing That We Have The Right Comforter": Hebrews 4:14-16 ESV - Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. [15] For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. [16] Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
- "Scrappy Churches Pray For God's Direction: " Psalm 25:1-5 ESV - To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. [2] O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me. [3] Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame; they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous. [4] Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths. [5] Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.



Scrappy Church Bible Study Pt. 10

Scrappy Churches Celebrate Not Compete:

- "I used to get so angry every time a new church or a new campus of a church located near us," Harold admitted. Harold is a pastor of a turnaround church. "I would fuss to whomever would listen. We don't need another church in this area!" (Pg. 26)
- "We also asked Harold what changed his attitude on this issue. He smiled, "My son. James is a pastor in Arizona. We stay in touch a lot. He heard my rants about the other churches for years. One, Christmas he and his family spent a week with us. He showed me the demographics new our church. And he showed about how much of our community is in church. What did the report show?" (Pg. 26)
- "Harold sighed, "More than 80 percent of our community is not in church. Probably almost as many aren't believers. James didn't have to say another word. I felt ashamed. We don't have too many churches. We don't have enough churches reaching people. I let anger and jealousy rule me. And it affected my leadership of the church." (Pg. 26)
- The great movie director Oliver Stone said this: "Never underestimate the power of jealousy and the power of envy to destroy. Never underestimate that."
- There's nothing more dangerous than a jealous Christian, and any Christian that calls themselves a child of God but is jealous isn't a child

of God, and does not represent what the Lord wants or desires. It is not our job to be jealous of each other, but it is our job to love one another and to support one another.

- The Church should not be jealous of another Church, and the Church has nothing to be jealous about especially if one Church refuses to do anything and refuses to get out of their way, and then if another Church shows up and does something that is powerful and great then they took that open door!
- Too often there are Churches that are always negative because they didn't take the doors that they could have taken, and as we look at the importance of ministry one thing that we have to never forget is that the Lord is the CEO of the world and of the Christian faith. When the Lord is the one that is doing it, and when the Lord is the one that decides to make another Church come about it is what He wants.
- It is important for us to understand that a Church should never start off of the wrong motives. The Lord should be the one that is making the Church start, and we have to understand that as well that if the Church sits on the sideline and does nothing, then it can't be mad if another Church starts to bloom because the only flowers that bloom are the ones that are constantly treated.
- Flowers and gardens don't look healthy out of nothing, but there has been some care that has gone into it and because of the care that has gone into it that is why it looks the way that it does, and that is why it is the way it is because of the way it has been treated. If the Church never treats its own garden right, then it can't be made if the Lord allows another garden to have success.
- We have to be about the Gospel of Jesus Christ, that is what makes the Church stand, that is what makes the Church powerful, and that is what makes the Church significant. The Church can have programs, the Church can have events, the Church can have popularity, and the Church can have great resources which we all want the Church to have but if it misses the main thing it doesn't have anything!

- The Church has to always be about the mission, and sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ because that is how the Church grows, that is how the Church improves, that is how the Church is healthy, and that is how the Church continues to stand. The Church is never about winning the most popular Church contest, but the Church is about winning souls for Jesus Christ.
- The world has plenty of lost souls for us to reach, but sometimes the Church misses out on the main thing because it can't let go of little things that won't mean anything in the end. There are more people dying, Church attendance is starting to become even lower, and there are people who are speaking things that go against the word of the Lord and too often the Church misses the power to have real ministry impact because of being focused on flesh and not Jesus!
- The Church gets preoccupied with tradition, the Church gets preoccupied with trying to have a power struggle, the Church gets preoccupied with things we have always done, the Church gets preoccupied with wanting to fuss and not wanting to embrace God's new direction, that there are people we miss out on embracing and sharing the love of Jesus Christ because that's not the focus!
- **When Jesus isn't the focus the Church has no focus!** When Jesus Christ isn't the focus of the Church then nothing else we do matters, and when Jesus Christ has been pushed away then the Lord won't allow that Church to grow because their agenda is more important than the Lord's agenda! Churches don't grow when the Lord isn't the leader, if the Lord is not the leader of the Church then the Church has nothing to discuss until the Lord becomes the main priority!
- You notice we indeed share a lot of things in our lives, if somebody dies then we will share not only that they died, but then we will share what time the funeral is, we will share the funeral location, we will share who has the body, and we will make all of these plans if a funeral happens. When we are going on a vacation we will take pics of where we are, when we are out to eat we might take a pic of the food or let somebody know this was a good restaurant, or if we are going to a sporting event

we will tell people that this is where we are going because when we go to fun events or do fun things we will acknowledge and express that!

- Why don't we express the power and goodness of the Lord? Do we know that the Lord is real, are we ashamed to express our love for the love, or do we not know as much Bible as we have said? What stops us from really expressing to others, that Jesus saves and that Jesus is life because evangelism is on every Christian, sharing the word of God is on every Christian, and lifting up the name of Jesus is on every Christian!
- God's Word Is Authoritative: 2 Peter 1:19-21 ESV - And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, [20] knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. [21] For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.
- God's Word Is Real: Psalm 19:1,7-10 ESV - The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. [7] The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; [8] the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; [9] the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether. [10] More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.
- God's Word Is Life-Changing: John 3:1-6 ESV - Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. [2] This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." [3] Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." [4] Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" [5] Jesus

answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. [6] That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

- God's Word Is Cleansing: Ezekiel 36:23-27 ESV - [23] And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the Lord GOD, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes. [24] I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. [25] I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. [26] And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. [27] And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.
- **God's Word Never Lies: "2 Timothy 3:16-17 ESV - All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, [17] that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."**
- **God's word does all of that for us, and since the word of the Lord does that for us then it is on us to not forget what we are called to do by sharing the word of God, and giving people the word. The Church has a job to do, and God uses every Church differently because God gives a Church specific tools, specific instructions, and specific paths but that is when the Church shouldn't operate in competing but learning!**
- **We can learn from each other, not just in the Church but we can learn from other Churches as well! The reason we can't learn or don't want to learn is because of what we have built up, or what has been built up in us that makes us not want to learn. However that is where the blessing is, because if you know something I don't I should be able to go to you and ask questions about how did you do this and how can be better at this or that?**

- We learn not just from familiar but there are times it is impactful to branch out to places you've never been to see things you've never seen! The Church becomes limited when all we see is the same thing all of the time, and the reason we become limited is because that is all we want to see.
- The key of the matter is what are we doing with the life that God has given the Church! God gives the Church life so what are we doing with the life that God has given us? As we think about life it doesn't come around all of the time, because life will end but while you are living what are you doing with the life you have?
- **The Church needs to ask.... Are we birthing life or are we wasting life?**
- What are we doing, and we need to focus on what the Lord has given us because when we focus on what the Lord has given us and what the Lord is allowing us to do that is when we can always make the right moves, because we have to look up the Lord, and we have to make sure that we do what the Lord is saying, and not being engulfed with things that we can't control but keep our focus on Him!
- Ministry changes when we know why we are doing ministry..... Ministry changes when we know and understand the real purpose of Ministry! Ministry is about equipping, ministry is about discipleship, ministry is about love, ministry is about service, ministry is about dedication, ministry is about Jesus, ministry is about being a light, and ministry is about God's work!
- That is ministry when we know the meaning of Ministry, that is when we can be our most effective. We will be our most effective when we keep the Lord at the center, because the Lord will direct us in what will be the most effective way to have everlasting and effective ministry!
- When we are following the Lord, and when we are about the Lord then the Lord will bless His Church the way He wants. It is not our job to grow the Church that is God's but it is our call and responsibility to follow the blueprint that Jesus lays out in the word to do what He commands us to do to make sure that the Church is functioning the Biblical way! Our job is to lift up Jesus!

- We are called to lift up Jesus, and when we lift up Jesus that is the power that can't be contained or stripped because when we lift up Jesus that is when the Lord will draw people, because the Lord knows when the Church is ready for growth! Sometimes the Church doesn't grow the way it wants because it isn't spiritually mature for growth, so God has to get the Church ready for what it wants!
- The Church can't be ready for growth if it doesn't know the word, the Church can't be ready for growth if it doesn't pray, the Church can't be ready for growth if it doesn't worship, the Church can't be ready for growth if it doesn't know its doctrinal beliefs, theological beliefs, and where it stands with the Lord. The Church has to be firm in its beliefs in the Lord in order for the Church to grow, and when the Lord sees that the Church is mature that is when God will do more for the Church!
- "Scrappy Churches Preach Jesus:" - Colossians 1:28 ESV - Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.
- "Scrappy Churches Teach Jesus:" - Colossians 2:4-10 ESV - I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments. [5] For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ. [6] Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, [7] rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. [8] See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. [9] For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, [10] and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.
- "Scrappy Churches Seek The Lost:" - Luke 15:1-10 ESV - Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. [2] And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them." [3] So he told them this parable: [4] "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not

leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? [5] And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. [6] And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' [7] Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. [8] "Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? [9] And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' [10] Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

- "Scrappy Churches Know The Word:" - Psalm 119:145-149 ESV - With my whole heart I cry; answer me, O LORD! I will keep your statutes. [146] I call to you; save me, that I may observe your testimonies. [147] I rise before dawn and cry for help; I hope in your words. [148] My eyes are awake before the watches of the night, that I may meditate on your promise. [149] Hear my voice according to your steadfast love; O LORD, according to your justice give me life.
- "Scrappy Churches Lift Up Other Churches:" - Luke 10:30-37 ESV - Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. [31] Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. [32] So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. [33] But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. [34] He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. [35] And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' [36] Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" [37]

He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."

Scrappy Churches Turn When Attitudes Soften:

- "What happened next?" "I wish I could say that I had a dramatic change," Harold began. "But over time, God began to work about this issue. My heart began to melt. I now see other churches as our allies in the mission of the kingdom. They are not our competition. I really think my change of heart was key to our church turning around eventually."
(Pg. 26)
- The Church is the Church only when it exists for others...not dominating, but helping and serving. It must tell men of every calling what it means to live for Christ, to exist for others. - Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- Being a member of a church means realizing that we are responsible for helping the brothers and sisters around us to grow as disciples of Jesus. In the same way, they are responsible for helping us. We desperately need each other in the daily fight to follow Christ in a world that's full of sin. - Pastor David Platt
- For the church is not a human society of people united by their natural affinities but the Body of Christ, in which all members, however different, (and He rejoices in their differences and by no means wishes to iron them out) must share the common life, complementing and helping one another precisely by their differences. - C. S. Lewis
- The Church makes the shift when attitudes change, because the attitude that we need to have must always be one that is positive and it must be one that has the right movements because as long as we follow the Lord, we should always be positive, and when we are positive and when we continue to follow the Lord that is when the Church will always be at its best.
- The person that lets the Lord lead their emotions is the person that is in the right frame of mind. When we allow the Lord to change us, and when we allow the Lord to be the one that we look up to, that is when

we can continue to be on the right path. We have to watch our emotions, and we have to watch what we do and what we say because it is important for us to not allow anything to get in the way of us being who we are for Jesus Christ.

- Proverbs 6:34 ESV - For jealousy makes a man furious, and he will not spare when he takes revenge.

- 1 Samuel 18:6-16 ESV - As they were coming home, when David returned from striking down the Philistine, the women came out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with songs of joy, and with musical instruments. [7] And the women sang to one another as they celebrated, "Saul has struck down his thousands, and David his ten thousands." [8] And Saul was very angry, and this saying displeased him. He said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed thousands, and what more can he have but the kingdom?" [9] And Saul eyed David from that day on. [10] The next day a harmful spirit from God rushed upon Saul, and he raved within his house while David was playing the lyre, as he did day by day. Saul had his spear in his hand. [11] And Saul hurled the spear, for he thought, "I will pin David to the wall." But David evaded him twice. [12] Saul was afraid of David because the LORD was with him but had departed from Saul. [13] So Saul removed him from his presence and made him a commander of a thousand. And he went out and came in before the people. [14] And David had success in all his undertakings, for the LORD was with him. [15] And when Saul saw that he had great success, he stood in fearful awe of him. [16] But all Israel and Judah loved David, for he went out and came in before them.

- We have to not even be concerned about what others are doing, when we are doing what we are doing and we have to understand that the Lord will bless who He wants to bless and how He wants to bless! That is why the Lord is who He is, and we need to understand that as long as the Lord is in charge we as the Church will stand and be the Church that is pleasing to the Lord.

- The word of God will change us, prayer will change us, and our desires for the best for all people will do that. When we have that desire for everybody to be changed, for everybody to be successful, and for everybody to be blessed we will live with the right because we want to see everybody have an impact.
- During the great times of television one of the best things I can remember is when great tv stars were guests on other shows. I remember when on the TV show Full House that they did a crossover episode and then they had Steve Urkel on that show because Family Matters at the time was a hit show as well. However there have been these great tv stars that have done movies together, shows together, and other things together because they realize that your talent doesn't diminish my talent but we both have talent, and we both bring something to the table that can be great for everybody!
- That is the power of the Church, and that is the power of the Church because when I see what another Church brings to the table that doesn't diminish what we can do, but when we both know what we bring to the table and are able to combine and bring it all there then we will see how the Lord will bless us, just like He is blessing somebody else.
- Everyone can have a meal at the table, because the table belongs to the Lord and not to us. The important attitude is to understand that don't try to get in the way of what somebody is doing, because the Lord will use us all in the way that He desires.
- It is the Lord that does it and not us, and we all have been gifted but the Lord gives the gifts and another thing a person must always understand is you should never be mad if you don't utilize your gifts and somebody else does! Sometimes we cause ourselves to be used by the devil and not the Lord, because we allow ourselves to want to hurt people and not help people because of us not being secure with us.
- You have to be secure within yourself, and when the Church and people are secure that is when the confidence that lives doesn't leave because we know who makes us secure, and the one that makes us secure is God and since God is the one that makes us secure we know that the Lord

- holds us, the Lord guides us, the Lord takes care of us, the Lord is the one that blesses us, and the Lord is the one that has allowed us to live.
- We are here because of the Lord, and since we are here let us never forget that God made us all, and because the Lord made us all the Lord has the power and control on us, and let us never forget that the Lord is the one that bestows on us these blessings! Nothing will stop you when you know who He created you, and nothing will stop you when you allow the Lord to have His way and when you submit to Him that is when the Lord will do His best work!
 - God will never do His best work if you are always complaining! God does His best work when we know how to hush, listen, and do what He wants and what He says! God does His best work when we as His children and servants learn how to stop trying to play with every toy, but play with the toys that He has given us and function in the way that He tells us and that is when there won't be any limits!
 - "Scrappy Churches Are God's Church:" - Colossians 1:17-20 ESV - And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. [18] And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. [19] For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, [20] and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.
 - "Scrappy Churches Have Love:" - Matthew 25:35-40 ESV - For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, [36] I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' [37] Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? [38] And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? [39] And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' [40] And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

- "Scrappy Churches Are God's Picture:" - Colossians 3:12-17 ESV - Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, [13] bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. [14] And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. [15] And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. [16] Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. [17] And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.
- "Scrappy Churches Are Birthed By God:" - Genesis 1:26-27 ESV - Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." [27] So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.
- "Scrappy Churches Are Needed:" - 1 Peter 4:1-11 ESV - Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, [2] so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God. [3] For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. [4] With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; [5] but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. [6] For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, that though judged in the flesh the way people are, they might live in the spirit the way God does. [7] The end of all things is at hand;

therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. [8] Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. [9] Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. [10] As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: [11] whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

- “Scrappy Churches Want The Word:” - 1 John 2:18-27 ESV - Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour. [19] They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us. [20] But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge. [21] I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth. [22] Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. [23] No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also. [24] Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. [25] And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life. [26] I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you. [27] But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him.