Introduction: I got to thinking about last week’s lesson “Dangers to The Church- Dying” and thought it needed an antidote. Some churches do die spiritually. Reminds me of a story of a cat getting run over. Mom had to tell her son about the dead cat. In order to make it sound better she explained the cat is in heaven with God. The boy asked, “What does God want with a dead cat?” That is a good question. Another one is, what would God want with a dead church? Such was the case with Sardis as they had a name of being alive but were dead, Rev. 3.1. Another question is what do you and I do if we think the place we are meeting at is either dead or dying? Prayers are by rote, singing lifeless, preaching mundane, communion is rushed without much feeling, and worship is just not uplifting.

**I) What Some Do**

**A) Quit -** Those who are newborn babies in Christ and/or weak in the faith lack the knowledge and fortitude to continue on.

**B) Change congregations-** some places have numerous congregations in the same city or driving distance.

**C) Move -** go to a new region, town, place where a growing and faithful congregation exist.

**D) Think of how we, you and I, can help the dying church to regain its life.**

1. Jesus was warning the church at Sardis so they could repent and regain their life.

2. Starts with us working on ourselves, make sure we are alive.

**II) How To Stay Alive When It Seems The Church is Dying?**

**A) Remember your worship is between you and God.**

1. Worship by definition centers on God.

2. It is bowing down and paying homage to God.

**Revelation 5:13 And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: "Blessing and honor and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!" 14 Then the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.**

3. Do not let others determine how sincere and fervent your worship to God is.

a. You sing with the spirit and understanding.

**1 Corinthians 14:15 What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.**

b. You pray for the Lords will to be done in your life with a heart of faith.

**James 1:6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;**

c. You observe the Lord’s death, remember His sacrifice for your sins.

**1 Corinthians 11:26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes. 27 Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. 28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29 For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.**

d. You give cheerfully as you have purposed in your heart. 2 Cor. 8 & 9.

e. You listen so as to hear God’s word and make application in your life.

4. This will bring about your spiritual growth.

**B) You Study Your Bible and Offer Your Prayers to God**

1. Read with your family, think about what you have read. 2 Timothy 2:15

**“how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, 4 by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ),” (Ephesians 3:3-4)**

2. Do some private study on subjects which interest you.

3. Feed your soul.

**1 Peter 2:1 Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, 2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,**

4. How important was prayer in the life of Daniel. He prayed even when it was against the king’s law.

5. How important was prayer in the life of Jesus. He prayed before selecting the 12 disciples, in the Garden of Gethsemane.

**C) Begin a small study group in your home.**

1. Ask fellow Christians to come over for an informal Bible Study, your neighbors.

2. Way to reach out to others, and strengthen fellow Christians.

**Acts 11:26 And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.**

**D) Volunteer to teach a class or take part in a more public way.**

1. Wednesday night invitations, offer to help in a class, just be involved in the work.

2. It will encourage others and make you stronger.

**Ephesians 4:16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.**

**E) Be positive**

1. Easy to give in to despair, grumble, complain.

a. Don’t like the songs, song leader, sermons to long or too shallow or not deep enough.

b. People aren’t friendly, clicks in the congregation, etc.

2. You be like Barnabas. Everybody knows what his name means “Son of encouragement” Acts 4.36. You be the encourager.

a. Be the one to walk to the other side of the building.

b. Be the one to greet the visitors.

c. Be the one to tell others how well they are doing,

**F) Instead of pointing our problems, offer solutions**

1. Problem solvers are needed.

2. Don’t be alarmed if your solutions don’t always work.

**G) Find outside sources to be encouraged, recharge your spiritual batteries.**

1. Wilburton, Ok is where a song leading school is conducted each year. Lots of folks come all cross the nation to be there. Many are not song leaders but the live in isolated areas, in small congregations. They came to be around Christians.

2. Take vacations to go to lectureships, be around other Christians.

**Proverbs 27:17 As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.**

3. Perhaps it is just taking time to be with that special friend who helps to life up your spirits.

**Ecclesiastes 4:9 Two are better than one, Because they have a good reward for their labor. 10 For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, For he has no one to help him up. 11 Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; But how can one be warm alone? 12 Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.**

Conclusion: Spiritual bodies are born, are fed God’s word, they grow. How about you?