



**The following myths often distract us from dealing with low spiritual passion:**

Myth #1: *We can't be as alive now as we were years ago because we don't have as many people.*

Myth #2: *Our pastor's sermons are dull, that's why we aren't passionate.*

Myth #3: *We stopped being passionate about Christ when...*

Myth #4: *We are...(denomination or ethnicity), we don't get passionate.*

Myth #5 *We are old, we don't get passionate.*

**Like many other church problems, Low Spiritual Passion is deeply rooted in the congregation's culture. To change it we have to change the whole dynamics of the church.**

**Rules for understanding systems:**

- 1) *The system is designed for the results you are receiving*
- 2) *The longer you travel in the current direction; the more normal it will feel*
- 3) *To implement lasting change you must use a distributed strategy*

**Seek to increase the following four *Lift Points for Spiritual Passion*:**

1. **Prayer with Expectation:** Every congregation prays, but many disembodied their prayers by failing to expect results.
2. **Scripture with Relevance:** Every time scripture is read in worship or in a church program, there should be an emphasis on the fact that it is relevant to our daily lives.
3. **Witness with Joy:** Nothing goes without saying. How and how often we talk about our faith and our church experience becomes a feed back loop for intensifying spiritual passion.
4. **Worship with Passion:** Worship doesn't have to be loud or contemporary, but each aspect of worship should reflect the emotional content of what religion deals with. Spiritual things are emotionally charged things.

**Next Steps:**

1. Spend 15 minutes in discussion about spiritual passion and your congregation at your next church council meeting. This is what is known as "naming the problem." Be sure and be ready to defuse any of the above "*Myths*" that emerge.
2. Implement at least one change directed towards one of the four *Lift Points* above.
3. Study Ezekiel's Bones by Bill Kemp in at least one of your congregation's small groups.

