**Forging New Strategies For A New Day**

**“These are the numbers of the men armed for battle who came to David at Hebron to turn Saul’s kingdom over to him, as the Lord had said…from Issachar, men who understood the times and knew what Israel should do—” ‭‭1 Chronicles‬ ‭12:23, 32‬ ‭NIV‬‬**

**“But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.” ‭‭1 Thessalonians‬ ‭5:4-8‬ ‭NIV‬‬**

* **Our present season as a secular and Church culture**

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1. Modern American Cultural Values

* Independence and freedom
* Privacy
* Egalitarianism
* Timeliness
* Informality
* Achievement and hard work
* Competition
* Future focused
* Change and mobility
* Science and technology
* Regional fashions
* Diversity
* Assertiveness

2. Modern American Morals

* The decrease of Christianity’s influence
* Equality at all costs
* Tolerance of choosing sexual identity
* Intolerance of expressing opinion or conscience
* Intolerance toward adultery
* Agreement concerning moral decay
* The responsibility of controlling nature
* The shift of liberal ideology over traditional ideology

3. Trends in the Church in this season

* Indigenous leadership development vs. traditional colonial methods
* Minuscule mission giving
* Growth of marketplace ministry
* Pentecostal diversity
* Less Christian countries globally
* Church hopping patterns
* Mega-church spotlight
* More Christians in Africa and Asia than traditional Christian countries
* Decaying Church credibility in the West
* The highest level of martyrdom in the history of the Church in the last 100 years
* Division over social issues
* New leadership styles
* Deconstructionism
* Resurgence of Islam
* Technology and its effect on Church life
* Redefinition of local church
* Resurgence of dispensational eschatology
* **What tools do I need as a leader in facing the challenge?**

1. Need to be rooted

“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.” ‭‭Colossians‬ ‭2:6-8‬ ‭NIV‬‬

2. Need to renew our confidence in the power of the Gospel, the

transformational power of Water Baptism, and the release of the

power in the Baptism in the Spirit.

“Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”” ‭‭Acts‬ ‭2:38-39‬ ‭NIV‬‬

3. Need to make our focus to be conformed to the image of Jesus in

our pursuit of building God’s Church

“For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.” ‭‭Romans‬ ‭8:29‬ ‭NIV‬‬

4. Need to give credible answers to 21st century issues

“But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,”

‭‭1 Peter‬ ‭3:15‬ ‭NIV‬‬

5. Need to separate gospel from methods

“And he continued, “You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions!”

‭‭Mark‬ ‭7:9‬ ‭NIV‬‬

6. Need to labor in Word and doctrine

“Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching.” ‭‭1 Timothy‬ ‭4:13‬ ‭NIV‬‬

7. Need to be contextual in our strategy and communication

“Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: “People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.”

‭‭Acts‬ ‭17:22-23‬ ‭NIV‬‬

8. Need to become the soldier, athlete, and hardworking farmer that

Paul exhorted us to become

“You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer. Similarly, anyone who competes as an athlete does not receive the victor’s crown except by competing according to the rules. The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops. Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.” ‭‭2 Timothy‬ ‭2:1, 3-7‬ ‭NIV‬‬

9. Need to become attractional not promotional

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” ‭‭Matthew‬ ‭5:16‬ ‭NIV‬‬