



White Hot Why

Leadership Behavior: Leaders Are All In

Text: *"We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work." John 9:4 ESV*

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field." Matthew 13:44 ESV

Jesus left a sense of urgency within His disciples that compelled them to forsake all for the gospel. It was that urgency that enabled the ancient church to not only survive, it caused it to thrive even against impossible odds. Embracing that same sense of urgency is the difference between a church that lives or dies.

Carey Nieuwhof writes the following:

Effective churches have a white hot sense of mission. It's far more than a piece of paper on a wall or something the board recites at annual meetings, it lives daily in the soul of countless people in the congregation. It motivates all the action in the organization. It consumes people.

Often a church that has stopped growing has lost the urgency behind its mission. This is doubly sad in the case of a church because our mission is actually Christ's mission...it's the spread of the Gospel into the world for which Jesus died.

Leaders and congregations that are effective in accomplishing their mission are consumed by their mission. It always burns white hot.

Of all the attributes of a growing, thriving church, there is perhaps no greater as a predictor of success or failure than this, "Do you have a WHITE HOT WHY?". There is no stopping a church with a white hot sense of mission!

Your Why Matters

Everything we do in life can be broken down into three concentric circles. There is WHAT we do. Followed by HOW we do it, and ultimately, at the core, WHY we do it. WHAT we do and HOW we do are easier to identify and define.

Companies produce goods or services - that's WHAT they do and they have a system for doing it. Artists produce music, paintings, sculptures - that's WHAT they do and they have a process they follow.

Churches produce disciples - it's WHAT we do and we have strategy for accomplishing it.

What is not so clear is the driving force behind what we do —your WHY.

Our why speaks to the deeper motive or drive that compels us. It is connected to a deeply felt cause, belief or purpose. It is the core of our motivation.

A Cause - a movement for which a person is prepared to defend or advocate

For the disciples this was Jesus's mission to seek and to save that which was lost.

A Belief - a deeply held conviction that guides your life

For the disciples this was the belief that Jesus was the prophesied, resurrected Messiah and that His kingdom was far above all things.

A Purpose - a reason for being

For the disciples this was connecting with God's will for their life. He called them to be apostles and entrusted them to carry His message.

What Is *Your White Hot Why?*

I'm struck by the story of Richard Sterns, former president of World Vision. World Vision is an international Christian organization that works to raise communities out of poverty. Sterns came to World Vision after stepping down as CEO of Lenox, an American tableware company that produces fine china. Sterns went from putting plates on the tables of the world's wealthiest people, to putting food on the plates of the world's most impoverished people.

Sterns described his life before World Vision like this, "I lived with my wife and five children in a ten-bedroom house on five acres just outside of Philadelphia. I drove a Jaguar to work every day, and my business travel took me to places such as Paris, Tokyo, London, and Florence. I flew first-class and stayed in the best hotels. I was respected in my community, attended a venerable suburban church, and sat on the board of my kids' Christian school. I was one of the good guys—you might say a "poster child" for the successful Christian life" (Sterns, Pg 8, *The Hole in Our Gospel*).

Why would a man and family who had achieved the pinnacle of American success abandon such a prestigious position to serve the poor? For Richard it was a willingness to accept that God's call on his life was not living the American dream. He was frustrated living someone else's why.

His why is best communicated in his own words, a paraphrase of Matthew 25:35-40:

For I was hungry, while you had all you needed. I was thirsty, but you drank bottled water. I was a stranger, and you wanted me deported. I needed clothes, but you needed more clothes. I was sick, and you pointed out the behaviors that led to my sickness. I was in prison, and you said I was getting what I deserved.

Life is too short to live someone else's why!

As a church we have clearly defined WHAT we do.

Our mission is clear. So clear that we can express it in a single word - revival. Revival as Jesus defined revival in John 10:10, "I have come that you might have life and life more abundantly". Our mission is Jesus's mission. We are a life giving church! We are passionate about living life to its fullest and seeing others discover life in all its fullness.

As a church we have clearly defined HOW we do what we do.

We don't invent something new, but follow the New Testament pattern. Colossians 1:28 says, "Christ is our message! We preach to awaken hearts and bring every person into the full understanding of truth. It has become my inspiration and passion in ministry to labor with a tireless intensity, with his power flowing through me, to present to every believer the revelation of being his perfect one in Jesus Christ." (TPT)

We **AQUIRE** through preaching the gospel and giving an invitation

We **CONNECT** through Grace groups

We **TRAIN** through Grace Equip classes and SUM

We **SEND** into leadership, service and ministry

What isn't so clear is our WHY.

We have a deep held conviction that every family needs a strong healthy church. We believe that the local church is the best way to transform our surrounding community. We embrace the cause of Christ through the local church. It is here where we come together to experience a corporate move of God that leads to individual moves of God.

How about your WHY?

Here are a few questions to help identify:

- What matters most to you in life?
- What moves you?
- What stirs your soul?
- What do you feel really passionate about?
- What activities bring you the most fulfillment?
- What gets you up and out of bed every morning?
- What inspires you to put yourself out there every day?
- How does your why personally connect within our corporate why?

Working hard for something we don't care about is called stress. Working hard for something we do care about is called passion. - Simon Sinek