

Summary

This sermon focuses on three foundational practices that position a church for a genuine move of God: obedience, unity, and prayer. Drawing from Acts 1:12-14, the pastor uses the story of Coach John Wooden's attention to small details as a launching point to show that seemingly small spiritual disciplines carry enormous weight. Just as Wooden insisted on the correct way to put on socks and shoes to prevent larger problems down the road, God calls His people to faithfulness in the small things so that greater blessings can follow. A central concern of the message is the danger of spiritual indifference, or lukewarmness, which the pastor identifies as the Spirit of the age. Referencing Revelation 3, he warns that a church that is neither hot nor cold risks being spit out of God's mouth. Using the historical backdrop of Israel's repeated cycles of disobedience in the books of Judges, Kings, and Ezra, the pastor urges the congregation to guard against the slow drift away from passionate pursuit of God. The call is clear: be zealous, repent of indifference, and return to the simple but powerful triangle of obedience, unity, and prayer.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You today with open hearts and willing spirits. We ask that You quiet the noise of our busy lives and help each person in this group to be truly present. Holy Spirit, move among us as we discuss Your Word. Where there is indifference, ignite passion. Where there is distraction, bring focus. Lord, we do not want to simply talk about You today. We want to encounter You. Have Your way in this conversation, and let what You want us to receive take root deeply in each of our hearts. In Jesus' name, amen.

Ice Breaker

What is one small habit or routine in your life that, if you skip it, throws off your entire day?

Key Verses

- Acts 1:12-14
- John 14:15
- Revelation 3:15-19

Questions

- Coach Wooden believed that getting the small things right prevented bigger problems later. What are some small spiritual habits in your own life that you think have a bigger impact than they might appear?
- The pastor described a vision of a blueprint that represented three things: obedience, unity, and prayer. Which of these three do you find most natural, and which do you find most challenging? Why?
- In Acts 1:14, the disciples are described as being 'with one accord' in prayer. What does genuine unity in a church or small group look like in practice, and what tends to get in the way of it?
- The pastor said that obedience is a demonstration of love, referencing John 14:15. Is there an area of your life right now where you sense God asking for obedience but you have been hesitant to follow through?
- The pastor identified 'indifference' as the Spirit of the age and connected it to the lukewarm church in Revelation 3. How would you personally describe the difference between being lukewarm and being genuinely passionate for God?
- Jesus said in Revelation 3:17 that the lukewarm church thought they were rich and in need of nothing, yet they were actually poor, blind, and naked. In what ways can comfort and success quietly erode our spiritual hunger without us even noticing?
- The pastor shared that God told Him, 'Your soul is in turmoil. You have to be at peace to come in here.' What does it look like for you to cultivate inner peace so that you can hear God's voice more clearly?
- Revelation 3:19 says, 'Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline. So be zealous and repent.' How do you personally respond when God convicts you of spiritual drift? What helps you move from conviction to genuine change?

Life Application

This week, choose one of the three areas from the sermon (obedience, unity, or prayer) where you know you have been drifting. Write it down and take one concrete step toward it every day. If it is obedience, identify something specific God has been asking of you and do it. If it is unity, reach out to someone in your church or group with whom you have had distance or tension. If it is prayer, set aside a dedicated time each day, even just ten minutes, to simply be still and talk with God. At your next group meeting, share what you did and what you noticed.

Key Takeaways

- Small things matter deeply to God. Faithfulness in the little details of spiritual life, such as obedience, unity, and prayer, creates the conditions for God to move in greater ways.
- Obedience is not optional for those who love God. Jesus said in John 14:15 that keeping His commandments is the evidence of our love for Him, and God looks for obedience before He pours out blessing.
- Spiritual indifference, or lukewarmness, is one of the greatest dangers facing believers today. Jesus warned the church in Revelation 3 that being neither hot nor cold would result in being spit out of His mouth.
- Unity among believers is a powerful spiritual force. The disciples in Acts 1 were in one accord before the Holy Spirit was poured out, showing that God moves through a people who are genuinely united.
- Pursuing peace before God is essential to hearing His voice. The pastor's personal experience showed that inner turmoil blocks our ability to receive from God, while a posture of peace opens the door to clarity and communion.

Ending Prayer

Lord, thank You for the time we have shared together today around Your Word. We confess that it is easy to drift into indifference without even realizing it, and we ask for Your forgiveness where we have been lukewarm. Stir up a fresh passion in each of us. Help us to walk in obedience, to pursue unity with one another, and to commit ourselves to prayer. We believe that You are ready to move in and through this group and this church, and we do not want small things to knock us off track. Keep our hearts tender, our ears open, and our eyes fixed on You. We trust You with the blueprint. In Jesus' name, amen.