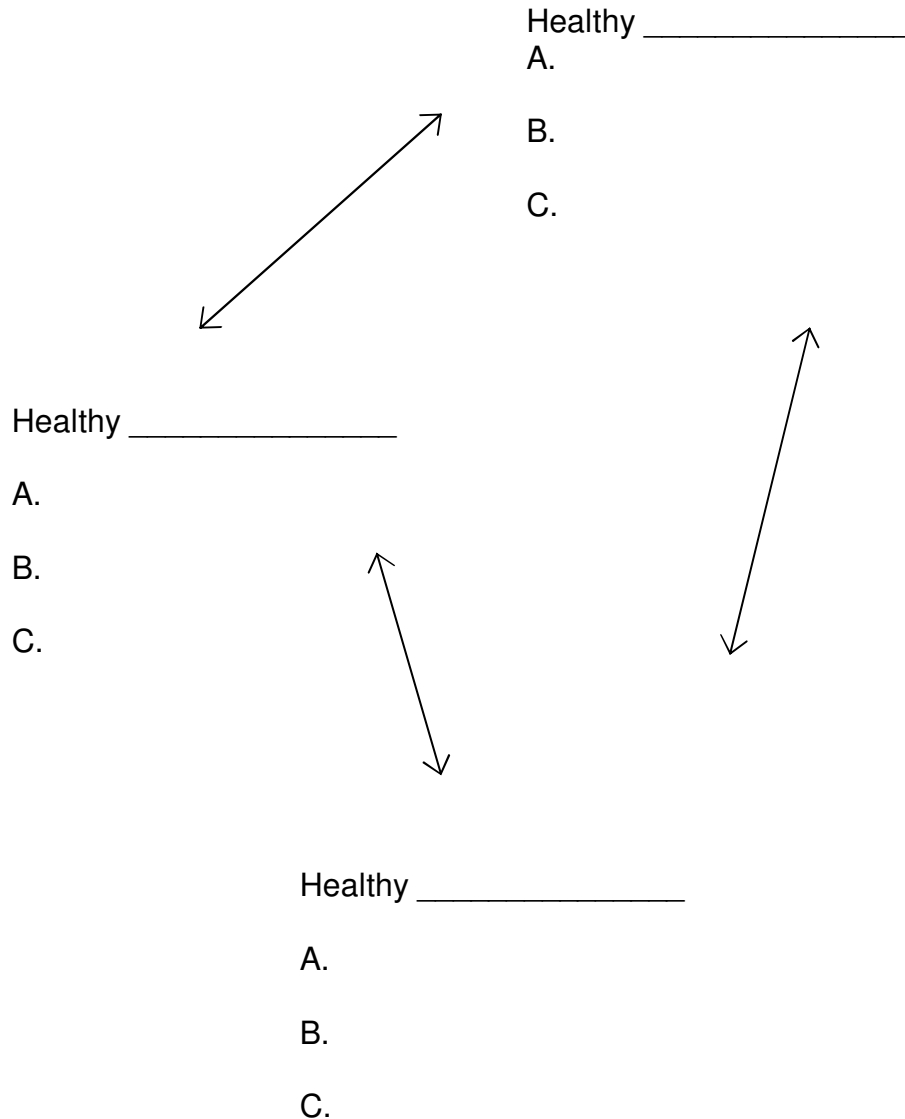


Signs of Success



"The soul that is alone . . . is like the burning coal that is alone. It will grow colder rather than hotter."
--St. John of the Cross

"The condition of the church may be very accurately gauged by its prayer meetings. So is the prayer meeting a grace-ometer, and from it we may judge of the amount of divine working among a people. If God be near a church, it must pray. And if he be not there, one of the first tokens of his absence will be slothfulness in prayer."

--Charles Spurgeon, quoted by Jim Cymbala, *Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire*, p. 28

"When I look for a church, I look for one that understands the need to look outward. Indeed, I have come to believe that outreach may be the most important factor in a church's succeeding or failing. In a paradox of faith, the one who shares love comes away enriched, not impoverished."

--Philip Yancey

"What our world is waiting for, and what the church seems reluctant to offer, is not more incessant talk about objective truth, but an embodied witness that clearly demonstrates why anyone should care about any of this in the first place. The fact that most of our non-Christian neighbors cannot pick us out from the rest of their non-Christian neighbors—or if they can what makes us pick-outable are matters relatively incidental to the gospel—suggests that they are right in refusing to accept what we say we believe but which our lives make a lie."

--Philip D. Kenneson, *Christian Apologetics in the Postmodern World*, pp. 166-167

"The holiest moment of the church service is the moment when god's people—strengthened by preaching and (worship)—go out of the church door into the world to be the Church. We don't go to church; we are the church."

—Ernest Southcott, quoted by Charles Colson, *Being the Body*, p. 305

"The vitality of a congregation is not found in its size or in its programs or budget. The vitality of a congregation is found in its fulfillment of God's purpose for the church. A church that has five thousand members and is growing may be just as unhealthy and ineffective as a church that has only fifty members and is declining. Conversely, a church with fifty members who are fulfilling God's mission can be as healthy and dynamic as a church with thousands of members. Churches do not close because they lack members and financial resources. Churches close when they are no longer being effective in fulfilling God's purpose for them. . . . The task of the church is to come alongside of people and teach them how to have an in-depth relationship with God."

--Glenn Daman, *Shepherding the Small Church*, p. 16, 24