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Theme: The formula for a successful Christian Church.

Scripture: Romans 12:3-21.

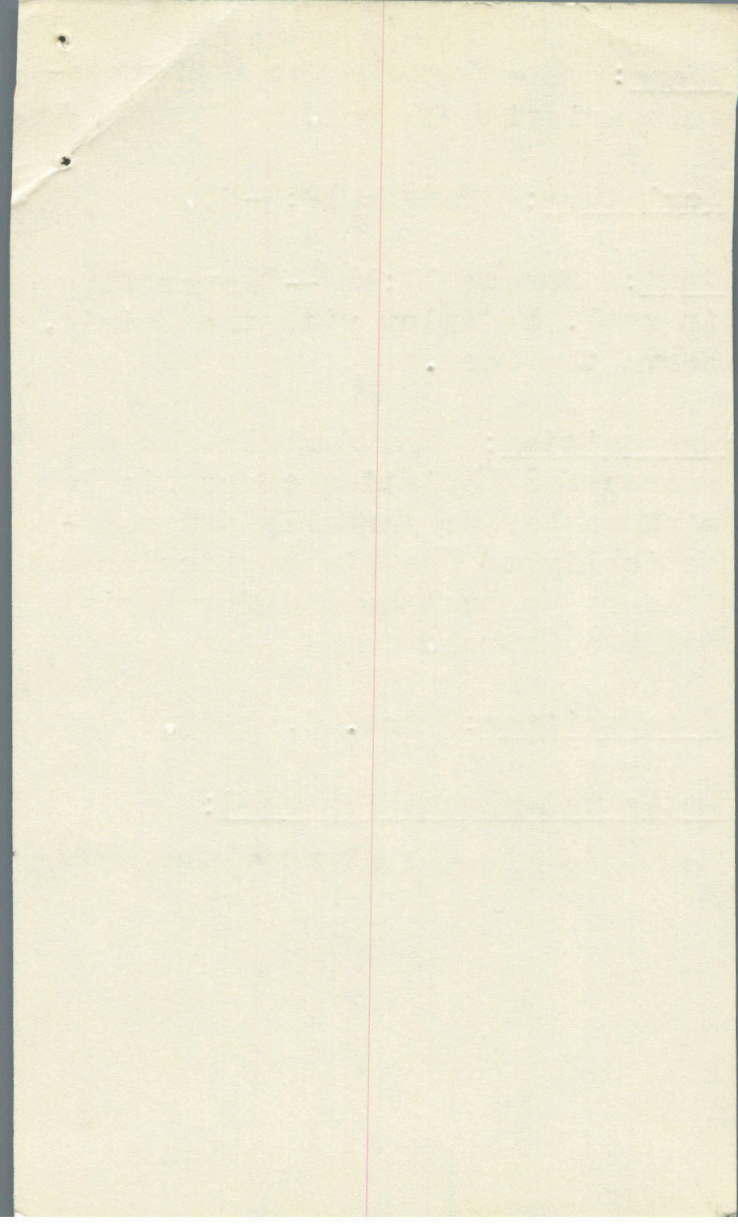
Text: Romans 12:11 — "Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord."

Proposition: The formula for a successful Christian church is for each member prayerfully and energetically to use his particular talents as best he can for Christ and the Church.

Date written: Oct. 8, 1955.

Dates and places preached:

MT. View ch., Cheyenne, Wyo., Oct. 8, 55



Introduction:

1. No. 276 in Public Speakers Treasure Chest: What is HNO₃? "I have it on the tip of my tongue." "You better spit it out. It's nitric acid."

2. In chemistry a formula is a combination of symbols telling of what a substance is made. Two types of chemical formulas:

a. Empirical --of what and how many atoms of each to molecule.

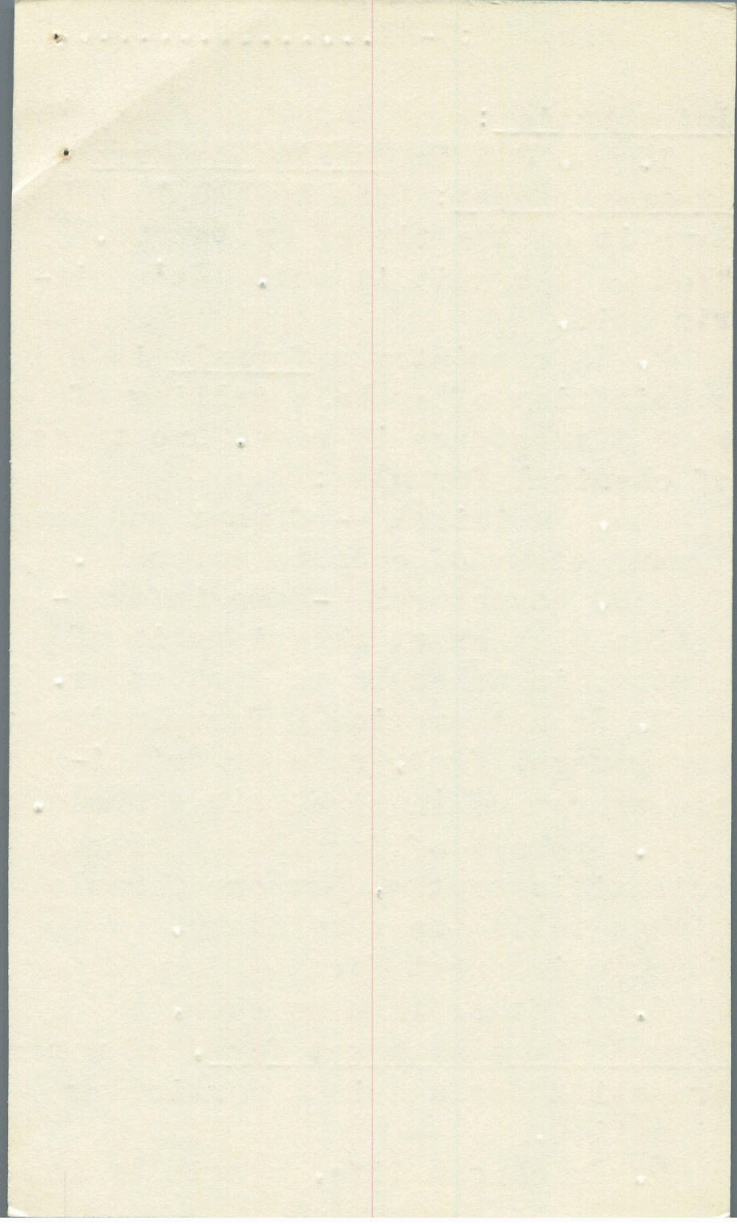
b. Structural --same information plus exact relationship of atoms in molecule to each other.

3. In mathematics a formula is any general fact, rule or principle expressed in algebraic symbols.

4. Symbols of formulas express scientific truths, but one formula always tells the same story. A formula is a set form

5. In other than science, a formula is also a set form, of words or action for use in a particular situation.

6. In church life, specially in



new church, would be nice to have a formula to insure a successful church.

7. With Scriptural help, as in Romans 12:3-21, and as in text, Romans 12:11, will search for formula for a successful church.

8. Must look for one element at a time, as in qualitative chemistry.

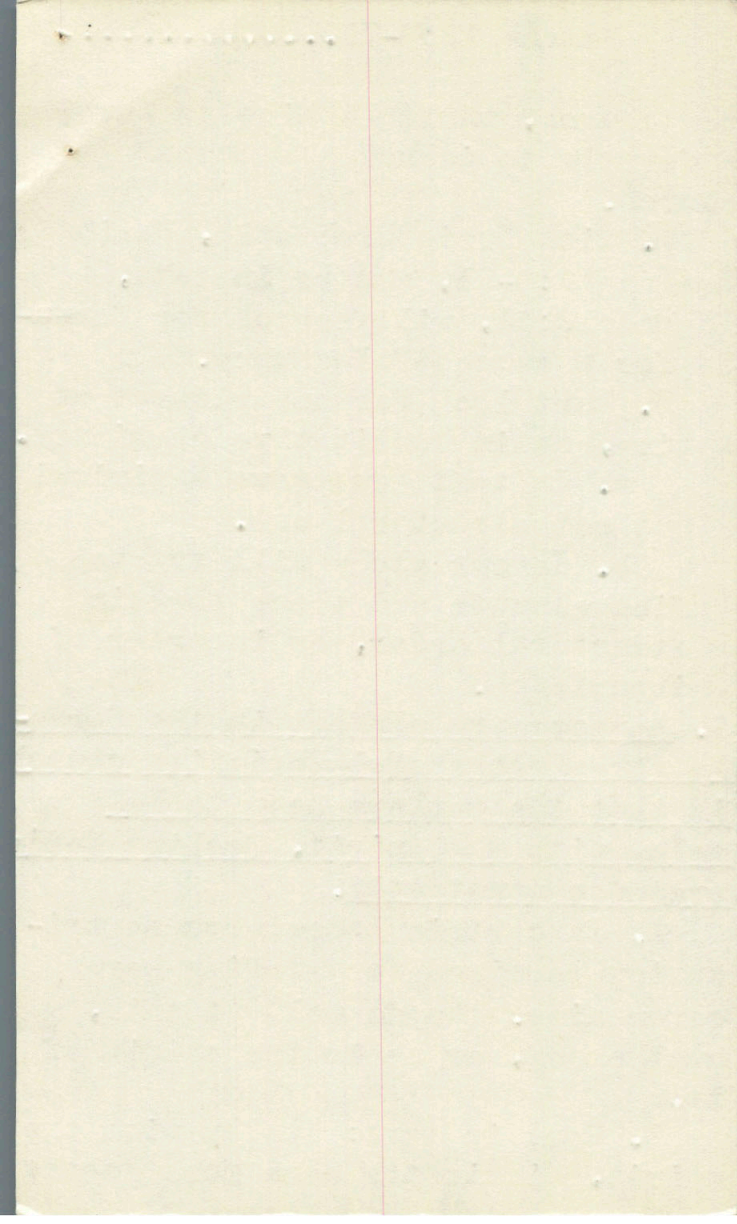
a. In text Paul gave empirical but not structural one.

b. In our study will try to find elements and place them in structural order, or in order of importance.

I. A necessary element in the formula for a successful Christian church is that the members need to be aglow with the Spirit, feeling God's presence constantly.

1. In certain Lodge work memorization required for staging key ceremonies. To do well at this, must enjoy, or be in the spirit of it.

2. Paul in text: "aglow with the spirit," indicates need for a sense



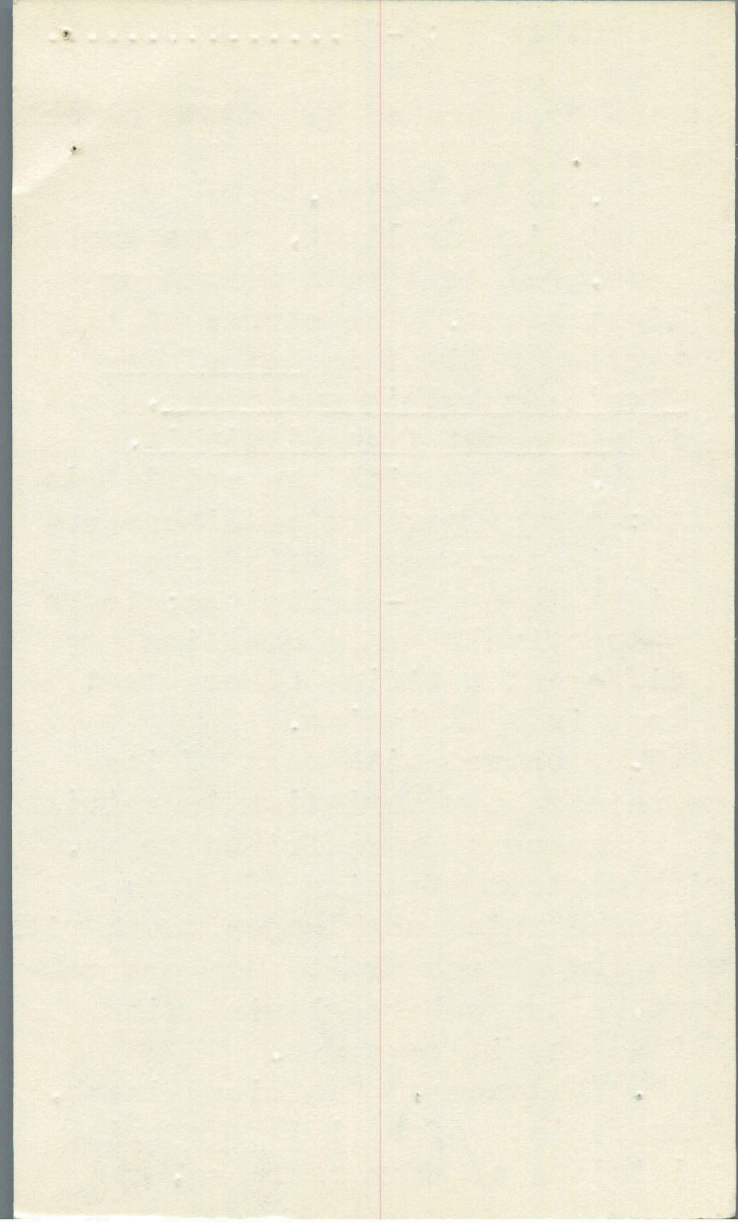
of the presence of God among church members.

a. To be "aglow," when used about fire or light, means to be seen, and to spread warmth or light about. The source of the warmth or light is not of the fire's or bulb's own power, and is given out from within it.

b. "Aglow with the spirit" is to show a warm friendliness and a brighter, more satisfactory light than non-Christians; to be attractively and compellingly different notifies others that here is a Christian.

3. A church with most of its members really Christian in spirit is a church of warm friendliness, with a strong feeling of God's presence which challenges those with whom the church or its members contact. Its members glowing with faith make it that way.

4. "Coldness," "unfriendliness," "uncertainty of belief" are prime criticisms of many churches, and



people away from them. People "aglow with the spirit" have a different church.

5. A successful church must have a large section of the membership of folks who are "aglow with the spirit."

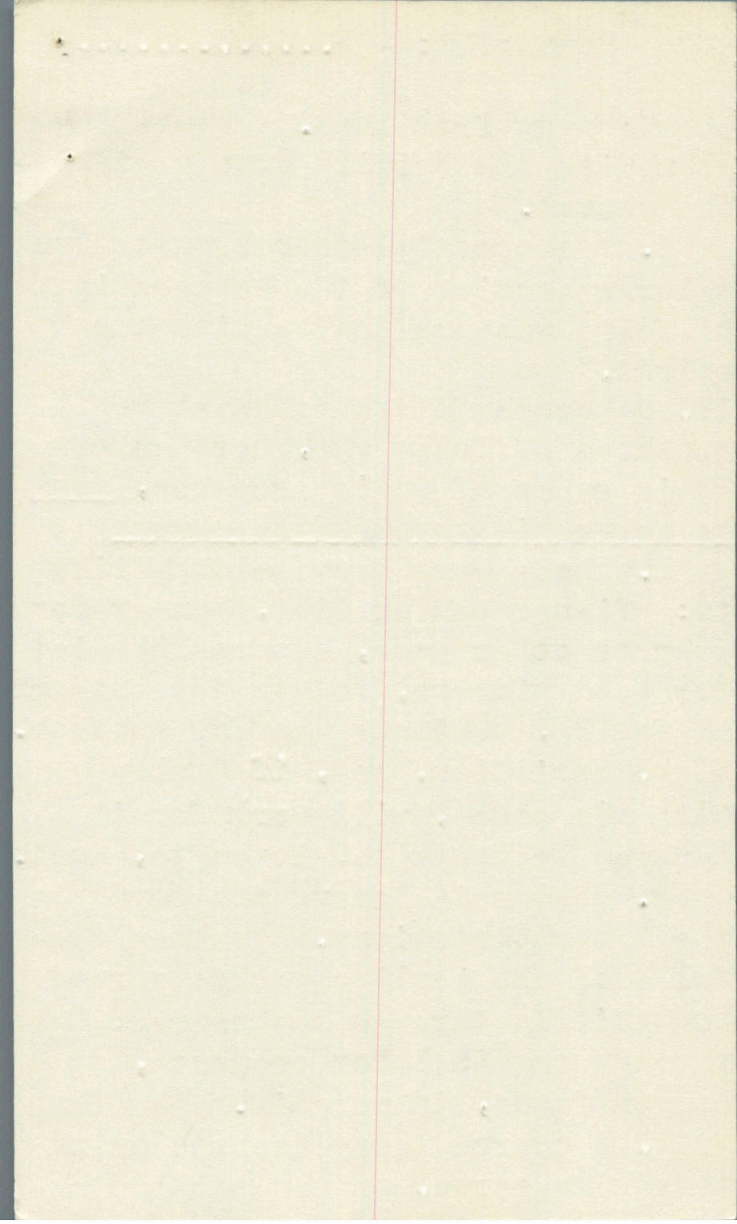
II. A successful church must be composed of folks who, because of their sense of God's presence, seek to serve Him through the church

1. These work because they like to: fisherman for fish, hunter for deer or other game, camera hobbyist for good picture, father for support of family, business man for success.

2. Christian, too, if "aglow" with his cause, will work for it because he wants to, loves to, must.

3. Paul said "serve the Lord" to the Roman Christians. We know the folks of the early churches served God chiefly through the church: through common labor projects, common funds, in worship.

4. A church today depends on ~~the~~ those who serve.



a. They serve, almost always, because they want to. Churches, at least in this country, can't force people to help them.

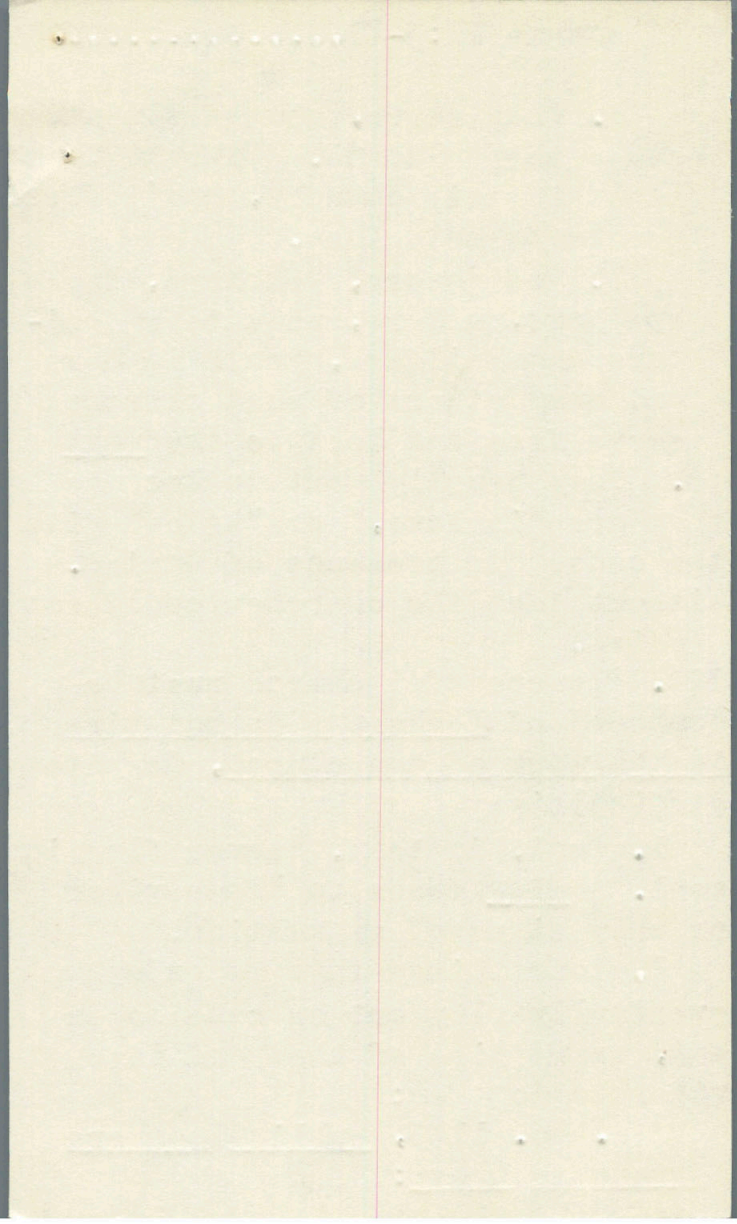
b. The donors, teachers, lay speakers, ushers, volunteer janitors and builders, youth leaders and many others of most churches serve free and because they want to. They usually want to because they are "in love," or "aglow" with the cause and presence of Christ. Without them the churches could not exist.

III. A successful church must be composed of folks who do not tire in the work of the church, despite difficulties

1. Paul, in text, "never flag in zeal." Flag means to "lose vigor or show signs of exhaustion."

2. Some things that we enjoy eventually play out or come to an end, or we tire of them and lose vigor to do them:

a. No. 1149, Public Speakers
Treasure Chest:



The golfer

"Who's that stranger, mother dear-
Look, he knows us, ain't he queer?"

"Hush, my own, don't talk so wild;

That's your father, dearest child!"

"That's my father? No such thing!

Father died away last spring."

"Father didn't die, you dub;

Father joined a golfing club.

Now the club is closed, so he

Has no place to go, you see.

No place left for him to roam,

That is why he's coming home."

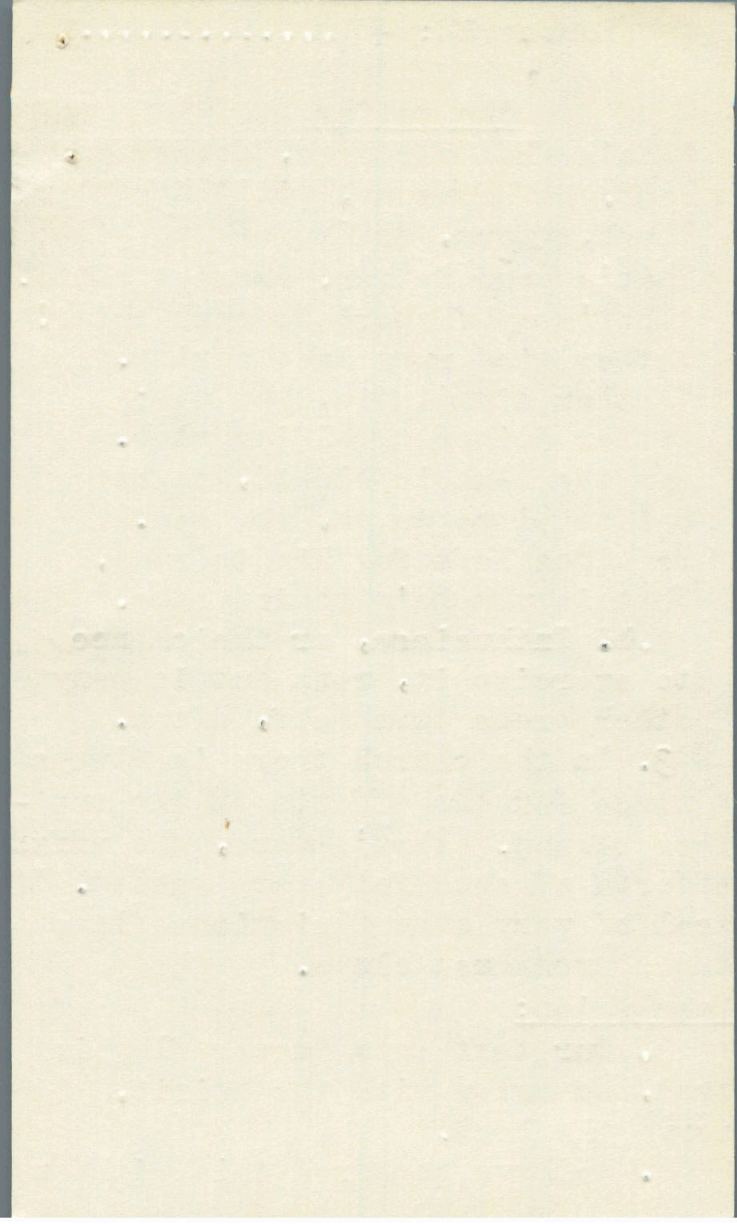
3. b. In **Enthusiasm**, or the **chance**
to **exercise it**, runs out in many
other areas than golf, often.

3. In the church there is always
a place for the efforts of the rest-
less person. What's more, the ~~affair~~
efforts of such folks are needed. If
zeal of very many Christians flags
the church must close.

Conclusion:

1. Our text says "never flag in
zeal, be aglow with the Spirit,
serve the Lord."

2. We have compared this with an



empirical formula in chemistry, say it tells of what qualities a successful church must have in its members.

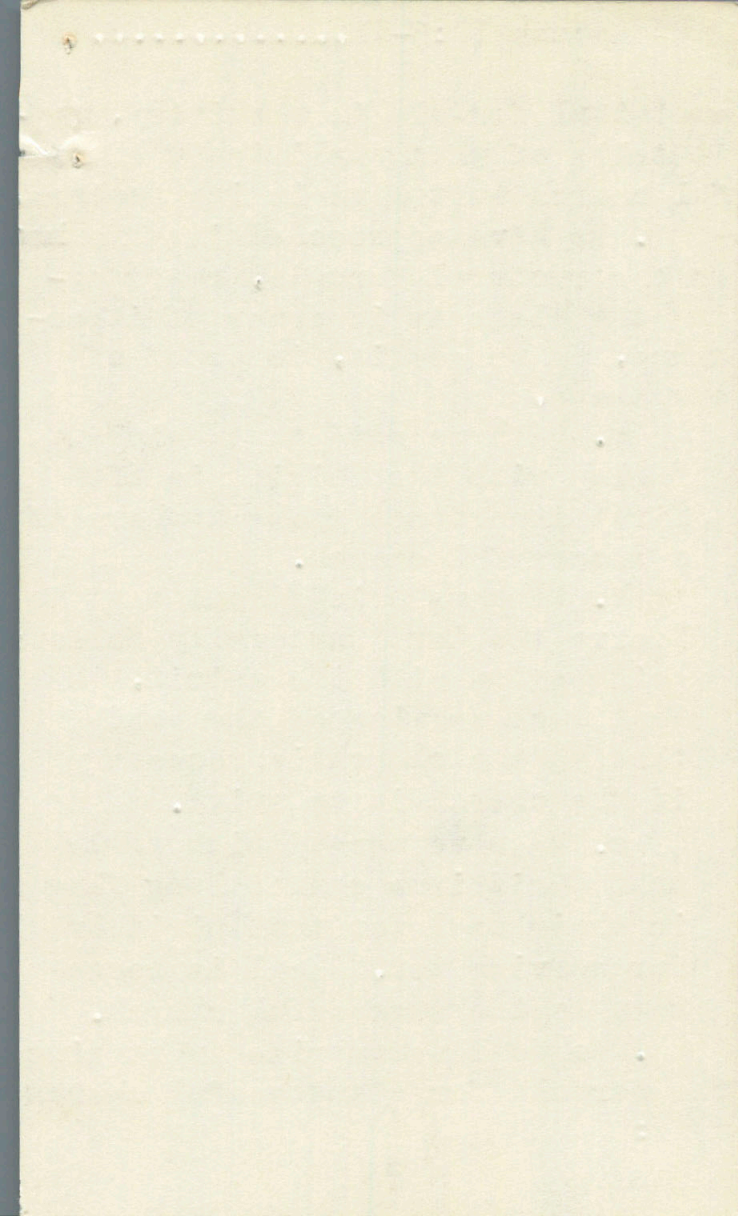
3. We have approached it somewhat as a structural formula, rearranging the elements in order of importance, as we see it, in proof of our theme.

a. We have said that being "aglow with the Spirit" is of first importance among members of a successful church.

b. We have pointed out that to "serve the Lord" naturally follows being aglow with the Spirit, and that such service of the Lord through the church is necessary if the church is to exist.

c. We have agreed with Paul that Christians cannot long flag in their zeal for the Spirit or for serving God. Zeal is necessary to the successful church.

4. We would summarize by stating our formula for a successful church thus:



each member must prayerfully and energetically use his particularly talents as best he can for Christ and the church, never tiring because he is aglow with the Spirit of God within.

