God will sustain you | Dream Team Conference Session 2

Celebrate last night | short recap of content | Being revived is great but it must be sustained… Lit camp fires don't stay lit just by hoping they stay lit | GOD WILL SUSTAIN YOU | what do you picture? Most of us default to something private.

Something supernatural & personal, just us and God, Him reaching down and doing something to get us through.

Last night we also saw that God doesn't just do it–He invites us into partnership with Him. He has always been a God who moves with His people, not just over them. | Sustaining has never been a solo assignment | Genesis 1

God designs Adam, places him in a garden that is perfectly engineered to sustain him (food, purpose, communion with God). Everything Adam needs is right there. | **Yet God looks at the whole thing and says it is not good.**

The garden could feed him, but it couldn't sustain him. Because sustaining has never been solo. So He creates Eve. God doesn't create things to be self-sufficient, but He does create them to be self-sustaining, and self-sustaining always requires community. | Not a church growth strategy; it's a creation principle.

Which means when life happens, God's primary method of sustaining you is not just a private moment between you and Him. It's the person sitting next to you right now. It's the team you serve on every Sunday. It's the community He placed you in, designed from the very beginning to be the way He keeps His people going.

God sustains His people through His people. | before I show you that in Scripture, I need to own something first.

For years, I told people — from that stage, in conversations, in rooms not that different from this one — that pastoral care wasn't really my thing. I said it casually, I said it often, and I said it publicly enough that it became part of how people in this church understood care. What I didn't realize was that every time I said it, I was handing everyone around me a definition of care that was too small–one that made it feel like real care could only come from someone with a title, which meant that everything you were already doing for one another didn't "fully count." | That's on me

I wasn't wrong about my wiring–I was wrong about my definition, and today I'm shifting our definition through the sharpening of God's Word. | Acts 2 Context

The church was brand new–three thousand people had just given their lives to Jesus in a single day, and nobody had a plan for what came next. No building, no budget, no staff team, no strategy–just people, brand new believers trying to figure out what it meant to belong to this thing. | **What emerged wasn't a pastoral care program–it was a community.**

"All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved." Acts 2:42-47 NLT

Lack of "awe" is from no longer doing the things that brought it–Revelation "remember, repent, return to your first love."

Ending–Every single day, people were coming to faith. The church was growing daily, not because of a program or a polished Sunday morning experience, but because of the way these people were living with and for one another.

Their devotion to each other was the engine of the growth of the church. What they did for one another is directly connected to what God did through them.

Care happens in proximity more than a platform | Notice they were devoted to the apostles' teaching, not care… if care only happens from those with a title, it will be impossible for them to be well cared for–they devoted to the teaching and devoted themselves to one another… Fellowship, shared meals, prayer, generosity, presence

showing up in the ordinary and the sacred. | The crazy thing about care is that it's do different for every person in the room… Imagine you just lost your job. You're not "in crisis" or you're not falling apart–you're just bummed, in your head, and you need to feel like somebody sees you. Three options are in front of you.

Option A: a group of your people show up to your house unannounced, they bring food, they fill the room, and nobody talks about the job unless you bring it up first.

Option B: one person reaches out and asks you to coffee. Just the two of you, no agenda, just time and space to say whatever you need to say.

Option C: your phone starts lighting up. Not a group chat, just individual people who matter to you, one by one, letting you know they're thinking about you and they're ready whenever you want to talk.

Raise your hand for the one that actually helps you. | A, B, C

This entire room had a different definition of care— could one person or even a small team, with a title, show up in the way that every single person in this room needs? Imagine if all of that pressure rested on the shoulders of just a few?"

God perfectly designed the body to care for itself and gave it leaders to equip you to do it! Acts 6 confirms it even further. The apostles got so overwhelmed trying to run a food distribution ministry that they couldn't give themselves to prayer and the Word. So they appointed others to carry that responsibility because God never intended one group of people to carry what He designed an entire body to share. | The early church didn't have a care department–they had a community.

A community of ordinary people devoted to one another, and that's what God used to sustain thousands of brand new believers and grow the church daily. God's always sustained His people–His people, and He is still doing it–through you.

I think the church has a definition problem when it comes to care | 2 definitions ONE SLIDE

Care is shared responsibility of the entire church where people are seen, known, and supported in everyday life.
It doesn't require a title or a degree or a platform. It requires presence, attention, and a willingness to stay in the story with someone. This belongs to every person in this room.

Pastoral care is when recognized spiritual leaders step in to provide guidance, correction, protection, or direction that requires spiritual authority and maturity. | It's not more important than care; it's just a different kind, reserved for moments that need something the body alone isn't equipped to carry.

“Are any of you suffering hardships? You should pray. Are any of you happy? You should sing praises. Are any of you sick? You should call for the elders of the church to come and pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord.” James 5:13-14 NLT

James makes it clear that there are moments where pastoral intervention is necessary–something has escalated beyond what peer care can hold, and what's needed is someone with spiritual authority to step in. A marriage on the edge of collapse, a mental health crisis, someone walking away from their faith entirely, a pattern of sin that's become destructive, a grief so heavy it has swallowed someone whole. Those are moments that require a pastor, and knowing that isn't a limitation, it's wisdom.

Not everything needs a person with a title, but some things do , and it’s your spiritual leaders honor to step into the major things in life… I’d encourage you, not to rob your leaders of the opportunity to care for you. “Well they’re busy… or I know they have a lot going on… I don’t want to be a burden…” The enemy uses these things to keep you from freedom

Recap the 2 definitions | some of you struggle with this because you have limited the ways you think God uses you

“So encourage each other and build each other up, **just as you are already doing."** 1 Thessalonians 5:11 NLT

You are caring for one another already

Spend time here with real stories of how the body is caring for one another–you maybe never saw it as care

Most of you have been caring for the people around you this whole time. You just haven't called it that, because the definition you were handed was too small and the standard you were measuring yourself against was never yours to meet.

Paul writes to everyday believers not pastors, not staff, not people with a title or a platform:

"Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2 NLT

Not written to a pastor–they were written to the church, to people exactly like the ones in this room. If you are in the body, you are responsible for the body. That is not a burden placed on you, that is a privilege extended to you!

Many of you have been living it out, whether you realized it or not.

The person you greeted at the door last Sunday, you may have been the first person in months who made them feel like they belonged somewhere. The child you loved on in Propel Kids, for sixty minutes, you were the safest place in the world for a kid whose home doesn't always feel that way. The teammate you noticed was off and sent a text to check on, that wasn't just a nice thing to do. **That was God sustaining someone through you in a moment they needed it!**

Your team, group, the friends inside this church–those are the people God most often uses to sustain you! God never designed one person/office to carry what He built the body to share. Those with the closest proximity often give and receive the most care, but what gets delivered and what gets recognized aren't always the same thing. You need to see what you're doing and what you're receiving as care. The enemy often convinces those experiencing the most care that they are the least cared for | He's crafty

Someone in this room is being sustained by the body and doesn't even know it. **You're receiving care and calling it a coincidence.** Part of what changes today is that we start calling it what it actually is: God, working through His people–sustaining His body through His body.

I want to leave you today equipped to care well for one another | I don't want you to leave today inspired but unsure of what to do with it. So let me make this as practical as I can, Every person in this room can care well for the body with four moves that any Dream Team member can make any Sunday, in any environment, at any level.

Notice. You cannot care for someone you haven't seen. The first act of sustaining is paying attention to who's missing, who's quiet, who walked in today carrying something they can't put down. **You don't need a title to notice.** You just need to be present enough to actually see the people around you. Before you set up a single thing or plug in a single cable on a Sunday morning, look around and ask yourself–who's here, and how are they really doing?

Stay. Most people show up in the hard moment and disappear two weeks later when life moves on, and the casseroles run out. Staying is what separates care from a gesture. A text a month after the loss, asking about the thing you remembered from three weeks ago, remain in the story with someone after everyone else has moved on. The early church met daily,

shared meals, and kept showing up. That kind of sustained presence is one of the most powerful things one person can do for another, and it doesn't require anything other than intentionality.

Connect. If someone in your world is hurting and isolated, your first job is to get them connected. To a group, to a team, to a friend inside this church, where ongoing care can happen naturally over time. You were never meant to be someone's only lifeline, and don't have to be. You just have to be the bridge that gets them to one. Know what's available at Propel groups, teams, and next steps so that when someone needs more than a conversation, you know exactly where to point.

INSERT CARE PROGRAM STUFF

Escalate wisely. This is the move most people hesitate on, and I want to remove every reason to hesitate. There are moments where a situation goes beyond your scope–in those moments, the most caring thing you can do is bring a leader in. You're not giving up on someone, you're getting them the right kind of help. A good handoff includes a warm introduction, a brief summary of what you know, and a commitment to stay connected even after you've brought someone else in. You don't disappear just because a pastor/leader is now involved. Your continued presence in that person's life is part of what sustains them through whatever comes next.

This is how God sustains His body. Through His body. Through you.

Last night God revived you. This morning, God is commissioning you to partner with Him in sustaining His Body.

You are not just a volunteer filling a role on a Sunday morning–You are God's sustaining system for this church. You are how He shows up in someone's ordinary Tuesday, someone's hard season, someone's moment of barely holding on. You are the fuel that keeps the fire burning long after this conference is over, and life has shown back up at the door.

Revival gets you ignited. The body keeps you burning!

That's what we're building at Propel. And you are not just a part of it — you are essential to it. | **PRAYER**