## STAY CONNECTED Stay Connected with God 1 John 2:5-6, 14-17

United Community Church

Ron Burks, 1-8-22

<u>Truth</u>: You can stay connected with God by abiding in Him and His Word and when you are abiding in Him, you will obey Him.

Our theme for 2023 is Stay Connected: with God, with People, and with the Body of Christ.

Why does God want His followers to stay Connected with Him? Because God's sacrificial love for us requires our sacrificial love for Him in return. Our love for Him is confirmed by bearing spiritual fruit (Galatians 5:16-25), exercising your spiritual gifts in the church, demonstrating spiritual virtues (2 Peter 1:3-8), and practicing the spiritual disciplines of prayer, Bible study, obedience, fellowship with the body of Christ, and disciple making.

## How Do We Stay Connected with God?

- $\circ$  Through the Bible
  - Read the Bible through in a year
  - Read your daily Bible devotions
  - Study the Word of God
- Through Prayer
  - Petition God for you and your needs
  - Intercede for others
  - Practice spiritual warfare prayer
  - Seek the Holy Spirit to help you grow in your walk with Christ by putting off sin and putting on the character of God
- Through Obedience "by your fruit" and "keeping His commandments" you know where you are in relationship to God

## **BOTTOM LINE**

Will you commit to stay connected to God through the Word, through prayer, and through obedience in 2023?