

## Five Foundational Verses

I. Hebrews 10:19–25 (NLT) *A Call to Persevere*

<sup>19</sup> And so, dear brothers and sisters, we can boldly **enter heaven's Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus.** <sup>20</sup> By his death, Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through the curtain into the Most Holy Place. <sup>21</sup> And since we have a great High Priest who rules over God's house, <sup>22</sup> **let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him.** For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water.

<sup>23</sup> **Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm,** for God can be trusted to keep his promise. <sup>24</sup> **Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works.** <sup>25</sup> **And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.**

II. Psalm 122:1 (NLT) <sup>1</sup> **I was glad** when they said to me,  
“Let us go to the house of the LORD.”

III. Luke 9:23 (NLT) <sup>23</sup> Then he said to the crowd, **“If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me.**

[Being a Christian, really means surrendering to Christ and doing what He wants us to do.](#)

IV. Romans 12:1–2 (NLT) *A Living Sacrifice to God*

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to **give your bodies to God** because of all he has done for you. **Let them be a living and holy sacrifice**—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. <sup>2</sup> Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, **but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.** Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

[We give our self to Jesus, and we allow the work He wants to transform us and change the way we think. There is a work of transformation that needs to happen in us to change our thinking to something much better.](#)

V. Acts 2:42–47 (NLT) **The Believers Form a Community**

<sup>42</sup> 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.

<sup>43</sup> A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. <sup>44</sup> And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. <sup>45</sup> They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. <sup>46</sup> 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—<sup>47</sup> 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.

The New Testament Church is started here. This level of connection and unity is the plan.

Scriptures specifically tell us to Love, Care for, Admonish, Teach, Encourage, Pray for .... One Another!

(Here are some of those scriptures)

John 13:34–35 (NLT) <sup>34</sup> So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. <sup>35</sup> Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”

1 Corinthians 12:25–27 (NLT) <sup>25</sup> This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other. <sup>26</sup> If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad. <sup>27</sup> All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it.

Romans 15:14 (NLT) *Paul's Reason for Writing*

<sup>14</sup> I am fully convinced, my dear brothers and sisters, that you are full of goodness. You know these things so well you can teach (*admonish in other translations*) each other all about them.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NLT) <sup>11</sup> So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.

James 5:16 (NLT) <sup>16</sup> Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.

Ephesians 4:11–12 (NLT) <sup>11</sup> Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. <sup>12</sup> Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.

Romans 12:3–5 (NLT)

<sup>3</sup> Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us. <sup>4</sup> Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, <sup>5</sup> so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.

Scriptures specifically tell us to **Love, Care for, Admonish, Teach, Encourage, Pray for .... One Another!**  
How would we do that if we are disconnected? those things are planned for us do in the church family.

### What Happens When We Gather?

When We Gather, We:\_\_\_\_\_

#### 1. Experience God's Presence & We Worship

Matthew 18:20 (NLT) <sup>20</sup> For where **two or three gather together** as my followers, I am **there among them.**"

Hebrews 10:19-22. <sup>19</sup> And so, dear brothers and sisters, we can boldly enter heaven's Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus. <sup>20</sup> By his death, Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through the curtain into the Most Holy Place. <sup>21</sup> And since we have a great High Priest who rules over God's house, <sup>22</sup> **let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him.** For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water.

John 4:23-24 (NLT)

<sup>23</sup> But the time is coming—indeed it's here now—when **true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth.** The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. <sup>24</sup> For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth."

#### 2. Receive God's Word – (Written and Spoken)

Hebrews 4:12 (NLT) <sup>12</sup> For the **word of God is alive and powerful.** It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.

Psalms 119:105 (NLT) <sup>105</sup> Your **word is a lamp to guide my feet**  
and **a light for my path.**

John 16:13-15 (NLT) <sup>13</sup> When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. <sup>14</sup> He will bring me glory by **telling you whatever he receives from me.** <sup>15</sup> All that belongs to the Father is mine; this is why I said, '**The Spirit will tell you whatever he receives from me.**'

#### 3. Pray Together

Matthew 18:19 (NLT) <sup>19</sup> “I also tell you this: **If two of you agree** here on earth concerning anything you ask, my Father in heaven will do it for you.

James 5:14–15 (NLT) <sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> Such a prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make you well. And if you have committed any sins, you will be forgiven. <sup>16</sup> Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.

#### 4. Build Our Faith

Jude 20 (NLT) <sup>20</sup> But you, dear friends, must **build each other up in your most holy faith**, pray in the power of the Holy Spirit,

1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NLT) <sup>11</sup> So **encourage each other and build each other up**, just as you are already doing.

Romans 10:17 (NLT) <sup>17</sup> So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ.

Faith is built by hearing what God is doing.

#### 5. Grow and Change

Philippians 1:6, 9-10 (NLT) <sup>6</sup> And I am certain that God, who **began the good work within you, will continue his work** until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

<sup>9</sup> I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that **you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding**. <sup>10</sup> For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ’s return.

#### 6. Share Our Gifts With Others

The scripture lists many gifts we have been given. The plan is that we connect our gifts with others who need them.

#### 7. Receive From Others

You don’t have all the gifting you need for you. But others have some that are designed to minister to you.

God places His family together and gifts us in various ways so that we support one another as the parts of our body support its other parts. All work together for the good. If you are a Christian, God has a plan for you in His family!

**Prayer Questions:**

1. Do I really see the people who make up the church as fellow members of the body of Christ? Do I see them the way God wants me to see them?
2. Am I willing to give my time and giftings to individuals in the body of Christ (the church family)?
3. Am I willing to receive gifts and ministry from individuals within body of Christ?