

I RESOLVE...To Build STRONGER RELATIONSHIPS in 2026

January 4, 2026



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James 4:8 NKJV, “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.”

James 4:8 NLT, “Come close to God and He will come close to you.”

RELATIONSHIPS

1. God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone.” He created the first Relationship outside of the Relationship He had with Adam.
2. Relationships are both valuable Assets and crucial Resources. Yet, we do not spend enough time developing and strengthening our Relationships.
 - a. Many of you are here today because of a Relationship.

- Someone you know attends or has attended this church.
- b. Many jobs are acquired due to relationships.
- c. We buy and sell based off of relationships.
- d. Some attended a certain University or went into a particular branch of the military because of a relationship.
- 3. Whether we realize it or not, RELATIONSHIPS have a huge impact on our lives.
- 4. Therefore, it is essential that we have and develop STRONG and HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS!
- 5. Either we choose to Build and Develop Strong Relationships or we just find ourselves falling in the trap of Unhealthy Relationships. Either way, we are going to be in RELATIONSHIPS!
 - a. I can choose to build and align myself with healthy Relationships at School, or I can just “fall” into any relationship with any crowd.
 - b. I can choose to Build and Develop Strong Relationships in the workplace or the corporate world, or I can just “fall” into any relationship.
 - c. I can choose to Build and Develop Strong Relationships in my Christian Walk with God, or I can just “fall” into any relationship.
 - d. I can choose to Build and Develop Strong Relationships with Christ, or I can just “fall” into any spiritual relationship.

Remember - We are a spirit, We have a soul, and we dwell in a body. We WILL worship someone/something. We must choose to Build and Develop a Strong Relationship with Christ in 2026!
- 6. I RESOLVE...To Build STRONGER RELATIONSHIPS in 2026!

THE HEALTH OF ANY/ALL RELATIONSHIPS START WITH A STRONG RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CREATOR

1. The health and vitality of any Relationship will depend on the Strength of our Relationship with Christ!
 - a. We will not be the Spouse/Parent we are destined to be unless we have a Strong and Healthy Relationship with Christ
 - b. We will not be the Minister, Friend, Co-worker, etc. we are destined to be unless we Develop and Build a Healthy Relationship with Christ.
 - c. Matthew 6:33 NKJV, “But seek first the kingdom of God and

His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

d. Matthew 6:33 AMP, “But first and most importantly see (aim at, strive after) His kingdom and His righteousness (His way of doing and being right - the attitude and character of God), and all these things will be given to you also.”

e. We cannot and will not be effective if we are trying to “pour out” of any empty vessel.

f. Strong Relationships start with a Healthy Relationship with Christ!

2. Your/My SPIRITUAL HEALTH (RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD) is the Key to Success in 2026!

STEPS TO A STRONG RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST

1. **COMMUNICATION** - Bible calls this Prayer
 - a. Communication is a central key to any Relationship!
 - b. I Thessalonians 5:17 NKJV, “Pray without Ceasing.”
 - c. Luke 5:16, “So He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed.” Other examples: Matthew 14:23, Mark 1:35, John 17:1
 - d. On Purpose RESOLVE TO DEVELOP AND STRENGTHEN your Personal Prayer Time in 2026!
 - e. Doesn't always have to be in a “formal” setting. Greeting in the morning. What can I do for you? Can you assist me/help me with this? Worship on way to work. Simply find ways/time to talk to God.
 - f, Yet, at other time, you need to “Get Away” (separate yourself) to spend quality time with the Lord. Slow Down - Make Time!
2. **READ THE WORD**
 - a. The Word of God (Bible) is a Contract between God and Mankind. When we accept Jesus as our Savior, we become citizens of the Kingdom of God and therefore we have access to the Contract and everything contained in it.
 - b. Reading and Understanding the Contract allows us to understand the Authority we have in Christ.
 - c. When we understand our Authority, we walk in greater Power.
 - d, Remember, Satan is a liar and the father of all lies.
 - e. Greater is He that is in You, than he that is in the World.

- f. READ THE WORD - Start 15 minutes a day, 30 minutes a day?
- g. Bible apps - Lakeside app has a Bible reading plan
- h. Most apps now provide audio - you can listen to the Word while you are getting ready for work in the morning, driving to work, taking the kids to school, etc. Replace “entertainment (no thinking)” with God’s Word - His Contract

3. **FAST**

- a. MARK 9:14-29, Boy is Healed. The disciples could not heal the boy, When they asked why, Jesus said “This kind can come out by nothing but prayer AND fasting.”
- b. Fasting makes our flesh cringe
- c. Fasting is a Spiritual act of “Putting the Flesh in it’s Place”
- d. Fasting is replacing something the flesh wants (most often food) with Prayer, Scripture and Worship
- e. 21 Day Fast - Daniel Fast - Next 21 Days Set aside time/times to FAST (Daniel 1:8-21, Daniel 10:1-9)

4. **Worship**

- a. Worship is the language of love and devotion to God. Through our Worship, we acknowledge Him as our Lord, King, and Savior and we are strengthened.
- b. Our relationship with God is strengthened through Worship
- c. John 4:23-24NKJV, “But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is a Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”
- d. Worship brought walls down. Worship stopped armies. Worship confuses the enemy. Worship empowers the Child of God.
- e. RESOLVE to Strengthen and Develop your Worship in 2026!

GOD’S FIRST CREATED RELATIONSHIP

1. God created Adam, yet said, “It is not good for the man to be alone.” So He created Woman - He Created Eve - He Created the RELATIONSHIP of Marriage as the First Created Relationship outside of the Relationship between God and man.
2. Satan doesn’t tempt Adam at first, but waits until Eve is created and then approaches Eve. Satan then lies to Eve, who takes the “bait” and eats from the tree.
3. God multiplies through Relationships. Satan waited for the

Relationship to tempt.

4. Husbands / Wives, RESOLVE to Build and Strengthen Your RELATIONSHIP in 2026!
 - a. Our Relationship with God is Number 1
 - b. The Relationship with our Spouse MUST come Next!
5. **Steps to God-Centered Marriage**
 - 1) GOD FIRST - Pray, Worship, Attend Church TOGETHER - Joshua said, "As for me and MY HOUSE..."
 - 2) RESOLVE (Plan) TOGETHER
 - 3) COMMUNICATE - Watch your words - With the same tongue you can build up or tear down...
 - 4) DATE AGAIN! - Find alone time - the Health of your family depend on the Health of your marriage!
 - 5) LAUGH TOGETHER / CRY TOGETHER - It's Going to get Tough. God brings opposites together to form the "Team" in the Marriage RELATIONSHIP
 - 6) RESPECT and EMBRACE the DIFFERENCES - Understand God knew what He was doing. He saw and still sees something in you that you might not be able to see yourselves.
 - 7) DON'T GIVE UP - RESOLVE TO BUILD AND STRENGTHEN YOUR MARRIAGE IN 2026!



COMMUNION

LUKE 22:19-20

Luke 22:19-20, And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." Likewise he also took the cup after supper, saying, "this cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for

you.”