

CONNECTED – Uniting People - February 11, 2018

*Living a “connected” life is at the heart of Kings Circle. We desire for you to stay connected to God & people based on **5 Biblical purposes:** **Knowing God, Relating to God, Growing in God, Serving & Sharing God***

*Together, we want to help you connect to God & people
Let's all work together to help people make a connection!*

John 15:4 MSG “Live in Me. Make your home in Me just as I do in you. In the same way that a branch can't bear grapes by itself but only by being joined to the vine, you can't bear fruit unless you're joined w/ Me. **5** “I'm the Vine, you're the branches. When you're joined w/ Me & I w/ you, the relation intimate & organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant. Separated, you can't produce a thing.

The relationship between the vine, the branches & the fruit shows the condition of the connection. The relationship between Jesus, us & our productivity shows the condition of our connection. Jesus establishes a connection w/ us to Himself through the Holy Spirit. Through this union we communicate, worship, share our needs, listen for His guidance & grow closer to Him. Successful connection is moving us closer to God, not moving Him closer to us.

God's power enables our success, as long as we stay connected to Him.

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Energizer bunny commercials; little bunny's beating a drum; announcer says, He's still going! Across deserts & over mountains. The point of the commercial is not the bunny, it's the battery. Because weak batteries cause problems. Cars with weak batteries have problems starting...it takes a good battery to get the car started. Old Sony Walkmans- tape players with weak batteries will drag. Flashlights will go dim, portable radios will fade. Cell phones with weak batteries cause us to panic! Why?....because the battery is the power source.

But even a good battery is only half the solution!!

In my early 20s I went out to start my car, “click”, my roommate said it’s the battery; I buy a new battery...click, click. Mechanic comes and tells me my battery is fine, it’s bad cables, my connection was bad.

We have to have a good connection to our power source!
Jesus is our power source. We have to live in the spirit. Keep solid connection & keep the spiritual power flowing that’s available to us!
All this power under the hood and we have old rusty, corroded cables.

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When you stay connected to God—united w/ Jesus—all the power of heaven is at your disposal. Come on!! Think how wonderful it’d be to have such harmony w/ God that you knew what He wanted you to do & your prayers were answered. According to Jesus, that kind of prayer power’s available to every believer. It’s available to us if we’ll make our union w/ God the most important thing in our lives.

*To be connected to God, His church, & His people **means:***

1. We have His **POWER.**

2 Peter 1:3 By His divine power, God’s given us everything we need for living a godly life. We’ve received all this by coming to know Him, the one who called us to Himself by means of His marvelous glory & excellence

Ephesians 3:19 May you experience the love of Christ, though it’s too great to understand fully. Then you’ll be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God. 20 Now all glory to God, who’s able, through His mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.

When we say, "I got connections", it means that we have access to resources, people, power & strength. It means we can win. When we're connected to Jesus & His church, it means we're strong & can get things done. Our faith gets nourishment & strength from Jesus, the church & other believers. As our faith increases, it bears fruit to benefit ourselves & the lives of others.

2. We have His **PRESENCE.**

1 John 4:15 All who declare that Jesus is the Son of God have God living in them, & they live in God. **16** We know how much God loves us, & we have put our trust in His love. God is love, & all who live in love live in God, & God lives in them. **17** As we live in God, our love grows more perfect. We will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face Him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world.

We're not alone. He shares our lives. He's here for us, just like all of you are here for each other. When we abide w/ Christ, we have a close, daily relationship w/ Him. We become a branch of the vine. Our wants are His wants, we pray according to His words, & He's pleased w/ our prayers.

3. We have a life of His **PRODUCTIVITY.**

Galatians 5:22 Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, & self-control.

3 ways you can stay connected to God; every day; all the time:

1. Stay Connected to God by Accepting Jesus' Love

John 14:21 AMP The person who has My commands & keeps them is the one who really loves Me; whoever really loves Me will be loved by My Father, & I too will love him & will show (reveal, manifest) Myself to him. I'll let Myself be clearly seen by him & make Myself real to him.

You don't have to be shy about your relationship w/ Jesus. You can be confident of God's love for you & His desire to bless you. Life in Jesus is simple. It has one responsibility: the responsibility of remaining in union. If you stay in union w/ Him, He'll take care of everything else.

2. Stay Connected to God by Praying

John 15:7 If you remain in Me & My words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, & it will be granted! **8** When you produce much fruit, you're My true disciples. This brings great glory to My Father.

It's time to talk directly to God. Instead of relying on anyone else to tell you what God wants for your life, start a direct conversation with Him. Tell Him what is on your mind. Tell Him your concerns. Ask for what you need & even what you want. Pray for the needs of others. And believe that what you ask will be answered. (Our Seek Prayer Nights...)

3. Stay Connected to God by Stopping All Compromise

Mark 4:18 The seed that fell among the thorns represents others who hear God's word, **19** but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life, the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things, so no fruit is produced.

Refuse to allow the things of the world—material possessions, career position, sinful pursuits, ungodly relationships or social standing—to eat away at your time with God. Get His Word into your heart so deeply that no one else's opinion is important.

When you incorporate these steps into your life, staying connected to God is simple & you're able to keep that vital connection & then trust Him to take care of the rest.

We need to be connected to the Jesus & His Word to fulfill our divine purpose. The greatest battles aren't fought against outside opposition, but rather in our own choice to yield our will to God. Let's start our days filled w/ the Word of God, seeking first the Kingdom of God before anything else. Wouldn't we have the most amazing life if we started our days supercharged in the Lord & completely connected to the ultimate of all power sources? The connection that's always reliable, never subject to error, the one that can't break down or become obsolete. The one source that can never be hacked, breeched, or compromised! The highly functional, trustworthy, super intelligent, miraculous, omniscient kind of connection that can never fail! God's the power source & as we plug into God we become fully functional. We require the recharging that we get from being connected to Jesus every day. Then we'll be anointed & equipped to handle all things through Him. Stay fully connected to the divine love & wisdom of our Heavenly Father, by wholeheartedly trusting in Him. By praying, reading The Word, & following His deep & divine purpose for our lives, we'll stay rooted in Him. Worship Him and surrender our days to Jesus. Without Him we can do nothing. Stay connected to God & LIVE!

James 4:8 Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands...; purify your hearts, your loyalty is divided between God and the world.

James makes a bold statement; if we draw near to God, He'll draw near to us. God isn't going to do everything for you. Just like in marriage, both the husband & the wife must be willing to join together, spend quality time, & be willing to communicate. The same thing in our connection w/ God. He's always willing & able, but we have to do our part & start drawing near, plugging in, & seeking communion.