

- Romans 12:5 (GWT)

DAY 17: A PLACE TO BELONG

* *You are called to belong, not just believe.*

- Ephesians 2:19 (NKJV)
- 1 Timothy 3:15b (GWT)

* IT IS ALL ABOUT FAMILY...BELONGING TO GOD'S FAMILY!

Why Church Is So Important:

1. A church family identifies you as a genuine believer.
2. A church family moves you out of self-centered isolation.
3. A church family helps you develop spiritual muscle.
4. The body of Christ needs you.
5. You will share in Christ's mission in the world.
6. A church family will help keep you from backsliding.

God Created the Church to Meet Your Five Deepest Needs:

1. A purpose to live for.
2. People to live with.
3. Principles to live by.
4. A profession to live out.
5. Power to live on.

God's Purposes for His Church are Identical to His Five Purposes for You:

1. Worship helps you focus on God.
2. Fellowship helps you face life's problems.
3. Discipleship helps fortify your faith.
4. Ministry helps find your talents.
5. Evangelism helps fulfill your mission.

DAY 18: Experiencing Life Together

- Psalm 133:1 (MSG)

Life is meant to be shared. Real fellowship is more than just showing up for services. It is experiencing life together. It is being honest about who you are and what is happening in your life. Here's a point to ponder: "I Need Others In My Life!"

DAY 19: Cultivating Community

- James 3:18 (MSG)

Community Requires Commitment: *It takes both God's power and our effort to produce a loving community.*

1. Cultivating community requires honesty.
2. Cultivating community takes humility.
3. Cultivating community takes courtesy.
4. Cultivating community takes confidentiality.
5. Cultivating community takes frequency.

DAY 20: Restoring Broken Fellowship

- 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 (NKJV)

Relationships are always worth restoring. This chapter should be given extra time to ponder and meditate on.

DAY 21: Protecting Day 21...PROTECTING YOUR CHURCH:

- Ephesians 4:1-6 (NKJV)

It is Your Job to Protect the Unity of Your Church:

1. Focus on what we have in common, not our differences.
2. Be realistic in your expectations.
3. Choose to encourage rather than criticize.
4. Refuse to listen to gossip.
5. Practice God's method for conflict resolution.
6. Support your pastor and leaders.

"Nothing on earth is more valuable to God than his church."

"We must passionately love the church in spite of its imperfections."

"There is nothing else on the earth like the church!"