



Pt 3: **By Connecting with Others**

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Connecting with God - *“Getting to know God in a meaningful and life changing way.”*

True community has to be intentional and nurtured.

We need to connect others for support and encouragement to spur us on in our relationship with God. The Bible calls this spiritual connection – fellowship.

Intentional community is a core responsibility of being an active member of a church family.

The Bible says creating authentic community is a spiritual *‘discipline.’*

Hebrews 10:23-25

... Let us hold unswervingly

Life seems to be designed to dent our faith. Even the most experienced Christian can stray off course. What is the key to not swerving off course?

Hebrews 10:23 (msg) *So let's do it - full of belief, confident that we're presentable inside and out. Let's keep a firm grip on the promises that keep us going. He always keeps His word.*

A key to not swerving is standing firm in God, knowing that as we trust in Him, He will help guide us and keep us on track.

Hebrews 10:24 *Let us consider how we may spur one another on...*

... Spurring one another on

A cowboy would use the spurs on the back of his boots to motivate a reluctant horse to ride forward or to turn left or right.

The spurs were used as an encouragement. They were used as a motivational technique that helps keep the horse focussed.

We are to spur one another on ... but onto what? **Hebrews 10:24** *Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.*

This is what intentional community is; riding together spurring one another on and staying on course.

... Intentional community is deciding to put down roots.

Becoming committed into a church family where we can be a part of an authentic community.

We will have a much better chance when life throws us a curve ball to stay on track when we are in a life giving circle of friends that care for us.

This is why as a Christ follower we need to make a firm decision to put down our spiritual roots deep into a church family.

It is being accountable to one another to stay on track.

Mutual encouragement is one way how God designed us to grow.

Hebrews 10:24 *Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.*

... We are spurred on to love and good deeds

God never designed us to live life in isolation but in community. Nor is our faith meant to be isolated or private. Whilst our relationship with God is personal – the outworking of our Christian life is to be public.

... Living in isolation is a recipe for swerving off course

Hebrews 10:25 *Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

We need to be interlocked with one another in community to be able to withstand the enormous weight and pressure life forces upon us.

Trouble will find us. We don't have to go looking for it!

Ecclesiastes 4:12 *A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.*

Hebrews 10:25 *Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

If we don't have our roots down in a spiritual family where we are connected tightly, then when trouble comes we will tend to drift away.

To drift away from those who are there to support us and sadly drift away from the presence of God.

Genuine loving relationships provide the care that people need and the context in which life transformation can take place.

... Application

Will you commit to putting down your spiritual roots into our church family?