

COMMITMENT

...Putting Down Roots



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Hebrews 10:23-25

... Let us hold unswervingly

Life seems to be designed to knock us off our faith. To keep us from making consistent steady progress in our relationship with God.



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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.



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What is the key to not swerving off course?

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.



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... Spurring one another on

Hebrews 10:24

Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.



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... Spurring one another on

Spurs were used as an encouragement and as a motivational technique that helps keep the horse focussed.



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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.



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We are to encourage one another, even to prod and poke each other forward so that together we make steady progress in our relationship with God whilst doing good.



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

We need to be committed into a church
family where we can be a part of an
authentic community.



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

This is what being in community is all about. Opening ourselves up to another's gentle poking and prodding. Giving those close to us and who care for us to speak into our lives helping us to stay on track.

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

Some people fail to commit to put their roots down into a church – because of accountability.

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



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

Hebrews 10:24

Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.



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... 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.



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**... 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.*

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Sequoia Redwood Trees



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Sequoia Redwood Trees

- 2.5 metres to as much as 6 metres in diameter
- some as tall as 115 metres high
- the mature Sequoia roots are on average 1.5 metres deep
- the roots can spread up to 75 metres wide



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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. Trouble has a knack of finding us!



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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.



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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.



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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.

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



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... Application

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

But how?

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Specifically, we call people to four basic commitments:

1. The Membership Commitment

This is a commitment to Jesus Christ and the church family.

Ephesians 2:19 *'Consequently', you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household.*



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2. The Maturity Commitment

This is a commitment to developing Godly habits necessary for spiritual growth.

1 Timothy 4:7 *Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourselves to be Godly.*



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3. The Ministry Commitment

This is a commitment to use our gifts and abilities to serve God and His people, and to share the Good News with those who are lost.

1 Peter 4:10 *Each one should use whatever gift he (she) has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.*



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4. The Mission Commitment

This is a commitment to serve the Lord in the field of ministry He has equipped us for.

2 Corinthians 10:13 *But we will not boast of authority we do not have. Our goal is to stay within the boundaries of God's plan for us, and this plan includes our working there with you.*



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