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HANDOUTS
SESSION ONE, TWO, & THREE

NAME: _____

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Life in the Body / Exaltation of Christ / Ps 145:title–21

In the Old and New Testaments, we find fourteen vital responsibilities for God’s people. First, as a member of the our Lord’s church, it is crucial that you worship and Exalt God!

Introduction

Ephesians 1:13–14 LSB

¹³ In Him, you also, after listening to the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴ who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, unto the redemption of *God’s own* possession, to the praise of His glory.

Ephesians 2:4–6 LSB

⁴ But God, being rich in mercy because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶ and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus,

Ephesians 4:8 LSB

⁸ Therefore it says, “WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH, HE LED CAPTIVE A HOST OF CAPTIVES, *And* HE GAVE GIFTS TO MEN.”

We Christians are the Church and whatever we do is what the Church is doing. The matter, therefore, is for each of us a personal one. Any forward step in the Church must begin with the individual. ~ **A. W. Tozer**

Proposition and Outline:

In the Old and New Testaments, we find fourteen vital responsibilities for God’s people. As a member of our Lord’s church, it is crucial that you:

- **Worship and Exalt God [Current Session]**
- **Pray Devotedly**
- **Be Equipped**
- **Gather with Believers**
- **Serve the Church**
- **Equip Others**
- **Encourage Fellow Believers Spiritually**
- **Support One Another Physically**
- **Foster Unity and Peace**
- **Give Generously**

- **Live Accountably**
- **Hold Others Accountable**
- **Maintain a Good Witness**
- **Preach the Gospel**

It is Crucial That You Worship and Exalt God

Isaiah 25:1 LSB

¹ O Yahweh, You are my God; I will exalt You, I will give thanks to Your name; For You have worked wonders, Counsels *formed* long ago, with perfect faithfulness.

Philippians 2:9–11 LSB

⁹ Therefore, God also highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and that EVERY TONGUE WILL CONFESS that Jesus Christ is LORD, to the glory of God the Father.

Revelation 4:10–11 LSB

¹⁰ the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying, ¹¹ “Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power, for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created.”

Psalms 29:1–2 LSB

¹ Ascribe to Yahweh, O sons of the mighty, Ascribe to Yahweh glory and strength. ² Ascribe to Yahweh the glory of His name; Worship Yahweh in the splendor of holiness.

Psalms 34:1–3 LSB

¹ I will bless Yahweh at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. ² My soul will make its boast in Yahweh; The humble will hear it and rejoice. ³ O magnify Yahweh with me, And let us exalt His name together.

Psalms 95:6–8 LSB

⁶ Come, let us worship and bow down, Let us kneel before Yahweh our Maker. ⁷ For He is our God, And we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand. Today, if you hear His voice, ⁸ Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, As in the day of Massah in the wilderness,

Psalms 99:5 LSB

⁵ Exalt Yahweh our God And worship at the footstool of His feet; Holy is He.

[Ps 145](#)

David's personal commitment to exaltation

Psalms 145:1–2 LSB

¹ I will exalt You, my God, O King, And I will bless Your name forever and ever. ² Every day I will bless You, And I will praise Your name forever and ever.

Application Principles

- **Commit to Daily Praise**

Like David, we must make a personal commitment to exalt and bless God every day. This is not a one-time act but a continual daily decision to recognize God's greatness and offer Him our praise.

- **Acknowledge God as your Personal King**

Just as David declared that God is "my God, O King," we too must acknowledge God as our personal Lord and King. This involves surrendering every area of our lives to His authority and trusting in His sovereignty.

- **Worship God Personally and Publicly**

Personal exaltation of God leads to corporate worship. When we are passionate about praising God privately, it naturally overflows into public worship, inspiring others to join in exalting Him.

- **Develop a Habit of Eternal Praise**

David commits to blessing God's name "forever and ever." We are called to develop a mindset of eternal praise, recognizing that our worship of God today will continue into eternity.

- **Praise God in Every Season**

David's commitment to daily praise highlights the importance of exalting God in all circumstances. Whether in times of joy or trial, we must be intentional about lifting His name high.

David's Personal Declaration of Yahweh's greatness

Psalm 145:3 LSB

³ Great is Yahweh, and highly to be praised, And His greatness is unsearchable.

Psalm 145:4 LSB

⁴ One generation shall laud Your works to another, And shall declare Your mighty deeds.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 LSB

⁴ "Hear, O Israel! Yahweh is our God, Yahweh is one! ⁵ "You shall love Yahweh your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶ "These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. ⁷ "You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall speak of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. ⁸ "You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as phylacteries between your eyes. ⁹ "You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Psalm 145:5 LSB

⁵ On the glorious splendor of Your majesty And on the words of Your wondrous deeds, I will muse.

David's Praise is Infectious

Psalm 145:6 LSB

⁶ Men shall speak of the strength of Your fearsome acts, And I will recount Your greatness.

Psalm 145:7 LSB

⁷ They shall pour forth the memory of Your abundant goodness And will shout joyfully of Your righteousness.

Psalm 145:8-9 LSB

⁸ Yahweh is gracious and compassionate; Slow to anger and great in lovingkindness. ⁹ Yahweh is good to all, And His compassions are over all His works.

Exodus 34:6-7 LSB

⁶ Then Yahweh passed by in front of him and called out, "Yahweh, Yahweh God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; ⁷ who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression, and sin; yet He will by no means leave *the guilty* unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations."

John 1:14 LSB

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Psalms 145:10-13 LSB

¹⁰ All Your works, O Yahweh, shall give thanks to You, And Your holy ones shall bless You. ¹¹ They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom And talk of Your might; ¹² To make known to the sons of men His mighty deeds And the glory of the majesty of His kingdom. ¹³ Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, And Your dominion *endures* from generation to every generation.

Revelation 22:3-4 LSB

³ And there will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His slaves will serve Him; ⁴ and they will see His face, and His name *will be* on their foreheads.

Psalms 145:14-15 LSB

¹⁴ Yahweh sustains all who fall And raises up all who are bowed down. ¹⁵ The eyes of all wait on You, And You give them their food in due time.

Psalms 145:16 LSB

¹⁶ You open Your hand And satisfy the desire of every living thing.

Psalms 145:17-20 LSB

¹⁷ Yahweh is righteous in all His ways And holy in all His works. ¹⁸ Yahweh is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth. ¹⁹ He will work out the desire of those who fear Him; He will hear their cry for help and He will save them. ²⁰ Yahweh keeps all who love Him, But all the wicked He will destroy.

Application Principles

• Your Personal Worship is the Priority

Just like David, we must begin with a personal commitment to praise and exalt the Lord. It starts in our hearts before it can spread to others. Take time daily to reflect on the greatness of God and offer Him the praise He deserves.

• You Should Strive to Pass On the Legacy of God's Greatness

As David reminds us, we have a responsibility to pass on the knowledge of God's works to the next generation. We should consider how to diligently teach your children, family, or others about God's mighty deeds.

• You Should Continually Meditate on God's Majesty

David declared he would "muse" on God's majesty and wondrous works ([Psalm 145:5](#)). We too should regularly meditate on who God is and what He has done. You should contemplate God's splendor in creation, His grace in salvation, and His faithfulness in your life.

• You Should Recognize that Praise Is Infectious

David's personal praise led to corporate worship ([Psalm 145:6-7](#)). When we passionately worship God, it influences others. You should recognize how your praise inspires others in your family and church to join in magnifying God's name.

• You should Recognize God's Common Grace

David highlights Yahweh's provision and care for all His creation, even those who are undeserving. As believers, we must recognize God's common grace in our world—His provision, protection, and blessings—and respond with gratitude that He cares for His creation.

- **You should declare God's Righteousness and Nearness To Others**

In [Psalm 145:17-18](#), David declares that God is righteous in all His ways and near to all who call upon Him in truth. You should reflect upon how these truths have impacted your life and encourage others with them.

- **You Should live with Eternal Perspective**

David's vision of Yahweh's everlasting kingdom ([Psalm 145:13](#)) points us to the ultimate fulfillment of God's reign in the new heaven and new earth. This eternal perspective should shape how you live today, knowing that your worship, service, and witness are part of God's eternal plan.

- **You Should Proclaim God's Holiness and Judgment**

While God is gracious, compassionate, and loving, [Psalm 145:20](#) also reminds us that He will destroy the wicked. Are you proclaiming the whole counsel of God—His love and His justice? In your conversations and witness, share both the hope of salvation and the reality of God's judgment.

Additional Quotes

... the Christian church seems to have a variety of concerns, but in reality it has only one reason for being—and that is to show forth the life and mercy and grace of Jesus Christ. ~ **A. W. Tozer**

This gift of God was entrusted to the Church that all the members might receive of him and be made alive; and none are partakers of him who do not assemble with the Church but defraud themselves of life. ~ **Irenaeus**

I have no hesitation again in asserting that the failure of the church to have a greater impact upon the life of men and women in the world today is due entirely to the fact that her own life is not in order. ~ **David Martyn Lloyd-Jones (Welsh Preacher and Writer)**

If you are to say that everybody who lives a good life is a Christian, then you must scrap the New Testament and do away with the Christian church since it is not necessary. ~ **David Martyn Lloyd-Jones (Welsh Preacher and Writer)**

Paradoxically, however, in church life, there is a tendency to gravitate to a few superstar pastors and church leaders, and to become somewhat uncritical disciples of them. ~ **Millard J. Erickson**

A church that is soundly rooted cannot be destroyed, but nothing can save a church whose root is dried up. No stimulation, no advertising campaigns, no gifts of money and no beautiful edifice can bring back life to the rootless tree. ~ **A. W. Tozer**

Revival, above everything else, is a glorification of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is the restoration of him to the centre of the life of the Church. ~ **David Martyn Lloyd-Jones (Welsh Preacher and Writer)**

Dwelling within the church, the Holy Spirit imparts his life to it. ~ **Millard J. Erickson**

Paul's whole conception of the Church is that it is a place where God is working in the hearts of men and women. ~ **David Martyn Lloyd-Jones (Welsh Preacher and Writer)**

We Christians are the Church and whatever we do is what the Church is doing. The matter, therefore, is for each of us a personal one. Any forward step in the Church must begin with the individual. ~ **A. W. Tozer**

Of all the dreams that ever deluded men, and probably of all blasphemies that ever were uttered, there has never been one which is more absurd and which is more fruitful in all manner of mischief than the idea that the Bishop of Rome can be the head of the church of Jesus Christ. No, these popes die, and how could the church live if its head were dead? The true Head ever lives, and the church ever lives in him.—**Charles Spurgeon**

All belong to the visible church, but all do not belong to the invisible church. ~ **David Martyn Lloyd-Jones (Welsh Preacher and Writer)**

Large or small—it must be an assembly of believers brought together through a Name to worship a Presence. The blessed thing is that God does not ask whether it is a big church or a little church. ~ **A. W. Tozer**

The most significant gifts in the church's life in every era are ordinarily natural abilities sanctified. ~ **J. I. Packer**

It is absolutely essential that a church perceive itself as an institution established for the glory of God. I fear that the church in America has descended from that lofty purpose and focused instead on humanity. ~ **John F. MacArthur**

Now suppose we are ready to admit that we are in a rut. You say, "Well, what is the church doing?" I don't know, because it is the individual that matters. You see, the church is composed of this fellow that lives out here a little way and those two people who live out there in Scarborough and the five who live in Rexdale and the seven who live up in Willowdale and the 14 who live out east. That is the church. What the church does is what the individuals do. How well or how sick the church is depends on how well or how sick the individuals are. In other words, it depends upon how you are. ~ **A. W. Tozer**

The dead church holds to the shell of truth without surrendering the will to it, while the church that wills to do God's will is immediately blessed with a visitation of spiritual powers. ~ **A. W. Tozer**

It is not the form that makes the church or its service. The Presence and the Name—these make the church. ~ **A. W. Tozer**

The problem is not hostility to the church; it is indifference. For many the church is simply irrelevant; it is not even worth criticizing, it is simply to be ignored. ~ **William Barclay (New Testament Scholar)**

Church unity is internal; church union, external. The former is the result of spiritual and organic growth; the latter is to a great extent the product of the organizing activity of men. ~ **Louis Berkhof (American Calvinist Theologian)**

Oh, without prayer what are the church's agencies, but the stretching out of a dead man's arm, or the lifting up of the lid of a blind man's eye? Only when the Holy Spirit comes is there any life and force and power. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

The Christian church cannot rise to its true stature in accomplishing the purposes of God when its members operate largely through the gifts of nature, neglecting the true gifts and graces of the Spirit of God.

Much of the religious activity we see in the churches is not the eternal working of the Eternal Spirit, but the mortal working of man's mortal mind—and that is raw tragedy! ~ **A. W. Tozer**

For the very reason that the church is one body, anything that tends to introduce division is an evil, however harmless, or even useful, it may appear to be. Yet the average evangelical church is divided into fragments which live and work separate from, and sometimes in opposition to, each other. In some churches there is simply no time or place for the worship and service of all members unitedly. These churches are organized to make such unity impossible. ~ **A. W. Tozer**

You cannot deny that the life and vitality of the Christian church lie in the spiritual leadership of men anointed of the Holy Ghost. I dare to tell you that there is danger in too much democracy in the life of the church.

I am sure that some of you with a strong Baptist background will curl up like a burning leaf in the autumn to hear me say this, but that is all right: I am half Baptist myself!

But I do not believe that God expects the Christian church to thrive and mature and grow just on plain democratic principles. If you will check around you will find that even those who hold to democracy in their church policy never get beyond first base unless they have leaders within the denomination who are anointed men, strongly spiritual in leadership. ~ **A. W. Tozer**

Revival may occur in the local church, too. When a fair percentage of the members of any local church begin to pray more, lead holier lives, love each other more fervently, serve God and their fellow men with greater zeal, and seek to be holy and Christlike, then you have revival on the church level. I am happy to say this does occur sometimes.

And revival may occur in the individual believer's life. Wherever a careless, fleshly Christian suddenly pulls his life together, turns on himself and seeks the face of God in penitence and tears, you have the beginning of a personal revival... Christian leaders can help to bring about revival by refusing to pander to the carnal tastes of the religious public and going on a holy crusade for a purified church. If leaders have the courage to follow Christ all the way, they can be a powerful instrument of the Holy Ghost to bring about real revival. ~ **A. W. Tozer**

Let him who wants a true church cling to the Word by which everything is upheld. ~ **Martin Luther (Founder of the German Reformation)**

Brandon Phillips

Life in the Body / Exaltation of Christ

In the Old and New Testaments, we find fourteen vital responsibilities for God's people.

Introduction

Ephesians 4:11 LSB

¹¹ And He Himself gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers,

Ephesians 4:12 LSB

¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ,

Proposition and Outline:

In the Old and New Testaments, we find fourteen vital responsibilities for God's people. As a member of the our Lord's church, it is crucial that you:

- **Worship and Exalt God [Session I]**
- **Pray Devotedly [Session II]**
- **Gather with Believers [Session II]**
- **Be Equipped [Session III]**
- **Serve the Church [Session III]**
- **Equip Others [Session III]**
- **Encourage Fellow Believers Spiritually**
- **Support One Another Physically**
- **Foster Unity and Peace**
- **Give Generously**
- **Live Accountably**
- **Hold Others Accountable**
- **Maintain a Good Witness**
- **Preach the Gospel**

It Is Crucial That You Pray Devotedly

Remember that prayer is your best means of study. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

Pray often, for prayer is a shield to the soul, a sacrifice to God, and a scourge to Satan. Prayer will cease a man from sin; or sin will cease a man from prayer. ~ **John Bunyan**

No man can do a great and enduring work for God who is not a man of prayer. ~ **Edward McKendree Bounds (American Methodist Episcopal Minister)**

Our prayers should begin with exaltation

Matthew 6:9 LSB

⁹ “Pray, then, in this way: ‘Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

Matthew 6:10 LSB

¹⁰ ‘Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.

Matthew 6:11 LSB

¹¹ ‘Give us this day our daily bread.

Psalms 145:18–19 LSB

¹⁸ Yahweh is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth. ¹⁹ He will work out the desire of those who fear Him; He will hear their cry for help and He will save them.

James 5:16 LSB

¹⁶ Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

James 1:2–4 LSB

² Consider it all joy, my brothers, when you encounter various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith brings about perseverance. ⁴ And let perseverance have *its* perfect work, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

James 1:5 LSB

⁵ But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

Psalms 145:14 LSB

¹⁴ Yahweh sustains all who fall And raises up all who are bowed down.

James 1:6 LSB

⁶ But he must ask in faith, doubting nothing, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind.

James 1:7 LSB

⁷ For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord,

James 1:8 LSB

⁸ *being* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

James 3:13–16 LSB

¹³ Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good conduct his works in the gentleness of wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. ¹⁵ This wisdom is not coming down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. ¹⁶ For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil practice.

James 3:17–18 LSB

¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruits, without doubting, without hypocrisy. ¹⁸ And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Basic Principles of Prayer

- **Recognize God's Sovereign Authority and Holiness**

Jesus reminds us to approach God with reverence, acknowledging His power and authority over our lives.

- **Exalt God's Kingdom and Will Above Your Own**

Before bringing your personal needs to God, you are called to pray for His kingdom and will: "Your kingdom come. Your will be done" ([Matthew 6:10](#)). Your prayers should prioritize God's will and purpose for your life. You must align yourself with His plans rather than your personal desires.

- **Acknowledge Your Dependence on God for Daily Provision**

While praying for your daily needs ([Matthew 6:11](#)), do so knowing that God is your provider. He will provide all you need. Even in our requests, we continue to exalt His role as the one who sustains and cares for us.

- **Call Upon God in Truth and Trust in His Nearness**

David's model in [Psalm 145](#) emphasizes calling upon God in truth and recognizing that Yahweh is near to those who do so ([Psalm 145:18](#)). Effective prayer involves exalting God for His greatness, knowing that He hears and responds to our cries for help.

- **Seek God's Wisdom in Times of Trial**

In moments of difficulty, James reminds us to turn to God for wisdom ([James 1:5](#)). We should approach God in prayer, asking for guidance and understanding in faith, trusting that He will provide what we need to navigate life's challenges.

- **Pray in Faith, Trusting God to Answer**

James teaches us that prayer must be rooted in faith, not doubting God's ability or willingness to answer ([James 1:6-7](#)). When we pray, we must trust in God's wisdom and provision, believing that He gives generously to those who ask without reproach.

It is Crucial that You Gather with Believers

The Early Church's Pattern

Acts 2:41-42 LSB

⁴¹ So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. ⁴² And they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

Acts 2:46-47 LSB

⁴⁶ And daily devoting themselves with one accord in the temple and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number daily those who were being saved.

Exhortation from Hebrews

[Hebrews 2:1-4](#) — The Warning Against Drifting Away From Christ

Hebrews 2:1-4 LSB

¹ For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away. ² For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every trespass and disobedience received a just penalty, ³ how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? That *salvation*, first spoken by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard, ⁴ God also

testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.

[Hebrews 3:7-4:13](#) — The Warning Against Unbelief and Hardening of Your Hearts

Hebrews 3:7-4:13 LSB

⁷ Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, “TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, ⁸ DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME, AS IN THE DAY OF TRIAL IN THE WILDERNESS, ⁹ WHERE YOUR FATHERS TRIED *Me* BY TESTING *Me*, AND SAW MY WORKS FOR FORTY YEARS. ¹⁰ “THEREFORE I WAS ANGRY WITH THIS GENERATION, AND SAID, ‘THEY ALWAYS GO ASTRAY IN THEIR HEART, AND THEY DID NOT KNOW MY WAYS’; ¹¹ AS I SWORE IN MY WRATH, ‘THEY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST.’” ¹² See *to it* brothers, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. ¹³ But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is *still* called “TODAY,” so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. ¹⁴ For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end, ¹⁵ while it is said, “TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS, AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME.” ¹⁶ For who provoked *Him* when they had heard? Indeed, did not all those who came out of Egypt *led* by Moses? ¹⁷ And with whom was He angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness? ¹⁸ And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who were disobedient? ¹⁹ So we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief. ¹ Therefore, let us fear, lest, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you may seem to have fallen short of it. ² For indeed we have had good news proclaimed to us, just as they also; but the word that was heard did not profit those who were not united with faith among those who heard. ³ For we who have believed enter that rest, just as He has said, “AS I SWORE IN MY WRATH, THEY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST,” although His works were finished from the foundation of the world. ⁴ For He has spoken somewhere in this way concerning the seventh *day*: “AND GOD RESTED ON THE SEVENTH DAY FROM ALL HIS WORKS”; ⁵ and again in this *passage*, “THEY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST.” ⁶ Therefore, since it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly had good news proclaimed to them failed to enter because of disobedience, ⁷ He again determines a certain day, “TODAY,” saying through David after so long a time just as has been said before, “TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS.” ⁸ For if Joshua had given them rest, He would not have spoken of another day after that. ⁹ So there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God. ¹⁰ For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His. ¹¹ Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall into the same example of disobedience. ¹² For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³ And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are uncovered and laid bare to the eyes of Him to whom we have an account *to give*.

[Hebrews 5:11-6:12](#) — The Warning Against Apostasy

Hebrews 5:11-6:12 LSB

¹¹ Concerning him we have much to say, and *it is* hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. ¹² For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. ¹³ For everyone who partakes *only* of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. ¹⁴ But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern both good and evil. ¹ Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, ² of teaching about washings and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment. ³ And this we will do, if God permits. ⁴ For in the case of those once having been enlightened and having tasted of the heavenly gift and having become partakers of the Holy Spirit, ⁵ and having tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, ⁶ and having fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame. ⁷ For ground that drinks the rain which often falls on it and brings forth vegetation useful to those for whose sake it is also tilled, receives a blessing from God; ⁸ but if it yields thorns and thistles, it is unfit and close to being cursed, and its end is to be burned. ⁹ But we are convinced about you, beloved, of things that are better and that belong to salvation, though we are speaking in this way. ¹⁰ For God is not unrighteous so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and continuing to minister to the saints. ¹¹ And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to

realize the full assurance of hope until the end, ¹² so that you may not become dull, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Hebrews 12:25-29 — The Warning Against Refusing God's Voice

Hebrews 12:25-29 LSB

²⁵ See to it that you do not refuse Him who is speaking. For if those did not escape when they refused him who warned *them* on earth, much less *will we escape* who turn away from Him who *warns* from heaven. ²⁶ And His voice shook the earth then, but now He has promised, saying, “YET ONCE MORE I WILL SHAKE NOT ONLY THE EARTH, BUT ALSO THE HEAVEN.” ²⁷ Now this *expression*, “Yet once more,” indicates the removing of those things which can be shaken, as of created things, so that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. ²⁸ Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; ²⁹ for OUR GOD IS A CONSUMING FIRE.

Hebrews 10:26-31 LSB

²⁶ For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, ²⁷ but a terrifying expectation of judgment and THE FURY OF A FIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME THE ADVERSARIES. ²⁸ Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy by *the mouth of two or three witnesses*. ²⁹ How much worse punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has regarded as defiled the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace? ³⁰ For we know Him who said, “VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY.” And again, “THE LORD WILL JUDGE HIS PEOPLE.” ³¹ It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Hebrews 10:21 LSB

²¹ and since *we have* a great priest over the house of God,

Hebrews 10:22-23 LSB

²² let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

Hebrews 10:24-25 LSB

²⁴ And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵ not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*, and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

Hebrews 10:24 NET

²⁴ And let us take thought of how to spur one another on to love and good works,

Hebrews 10:25 LSB

²⁵ not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*, and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

Hebrews 10:25 LSB

²⁵ not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*, and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

Hebrews 10:25 LSB

²⁵ not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*, and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

Application Principles

- **The Local Church Is Essential for Spiritual Growth**

Gathering with believers is not merely a suggestion but a necessity for the health of the church and the individual Christian. The early church, as seen in [Acts 2:41-42](#), set a pattern of devotion to fellowship, teaching, prayer, and breaking bread together. Regular participation in the local church is crucial for spiritual nourishment and communal growth.

- **Physical Gathering Reflects a Biblical Pattern**

In [Acts 2:46-47](#), believers were daily meeting in the temple and sharing meals together, showing that the early church thrived through consistent, physical fellowship.

- **Commitment to a Strong, Biblical Church Is Non-Negotiable**

Believers must commit to attending and supporting strong, biblically faithful churches. If such a church is not available within a reasonable distance, believers should move or plant new churches.

- **The Danger of Spiritual Drift**

Christians must pay careful attention to their faith and involvement in the local church to avoid spiritual decline. Without the support of the church community, there is a greater risk of spiritual drift and hardness of heart.

- **The Church Is a Safeguard Against Apostasy**

The warning passages in Hebrews (3:7-4:13, 5:11-6:12) caution against spiritual stagnation and apostasy. The local church serves as a critical environment for encouragement and accountability, helping believers persevere in their faith and grow in spiritual maturity. Isolation from the church increases the risk of falling away.

- **The Local Church Strengthens Individuals and the Body of Christ**

Gathering with believers is not only critical for the health of the church but also for individual spiritual growth. The church serves as a vital community for receiving sound teaching, practicing prayer, and growing in faith. Without the church, both individuals and the broader body of Christ suffer spiritually.

Brandon Phillips

Life in the Body / Exaltation of Christ

In the Old and New Testaments, we find fourteen vital responsibilities for God's people.

Introduction

Proposition and Outline:

In the Old and New Testaments, we find fourteen vital responsibilities for God's people. As a member of our Lord's church, it is crucial that you:

- **Worship and Exalt God**
- **Pray Devotedly**
- **Gather with Believers**
- **Be Equipped**
- **Serve the Church**
- **Equip Others**
- **Encourage Fellow Believers Spiritually**
- **Support One Another Physically**
- **Foster Unity and Peace**
- **Give Generously**
- **Live Accountably**
- **Hold Others Accountable**
- **Maintain a Good Witness**
- **Preach the Gospel**

It is Crucial that You Be Equipped

1 Corinthians 11:1 LSB

¹ Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.

Luke 6:40 LSB

⁴⁰ "A student is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher.

1 Corinthians 8:1 LSB

¹ Now concerning things sacrificed to idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.

Matthew 28:19–20 LSB

¹⁹ “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to keep all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Colossians 1:23 LSB

²³ if indeed you continue in the faith firmly grounded and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister.

Colossians 1:25 LSB

²⁵ of which I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God given to me for you, so that I might fully carry out *the preaching of the word of God*,

Colossians 1:26–27 LSB

²⁶ *that is*, the mystery which has been hidden from the *past* ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints, ²⁷ to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Colossians 1:28 LSB

²⁸ Him we proclaim, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ.

Colossians 1:28 ESV

²⁸ Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

Colossians 1:28 LSB

so that we may present every man complete in Christ.

2 Timothy 3:16–17 LSB

¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be equipped, having been thoroughly equipped for every good work.

1 Peter 2:2 LSB

² like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,

Ephesians 4:11–13 LSB

¹¹ And He Himself gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ,

Ephesians 2:19–20 LSB

¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household, ²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner *stone*,

1 Corinthians 14:2–3 LSB

² For one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands, but in *his* spirit he speaks mysteries. ³ But one who prophesies speaks to men for edification and exhortation and encouragement.

Acts 8:5–6 LSB

⁵ Now Philip went down to the city of Samaria and *began* preaching Christ to them. ⁶ And the crowds with one accord were giving attention to what was being said by Philip, as they heard and saw the signs which he was doing.

Ephesians 4:12 LSB

¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ,

Ephesians 4:13 LSB

¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ,

Colossians 1:28 LSB

²⁸ Him we proclaim, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ.

Application Principles

- **Discipleship is a Lifelong Endeavor**

True Christians are disciples of Christ, continually learning and growing in sanctification.

- **Equipping is for Every Believer**

The need for equipping is not just for “super Christians” but for all members of the body of Christ.

- **Scripture is the Primary Tool for Equipping**

The Word of God is central to the process of equipping believers. It provides the foundation for teaching, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness ([2 Timothy 3:16-17](#)).

- **Equipping Requires Both Warning and Instruction**

Effective equipping involves admonishing (warning) and teaching every believer to live in accordance with the commands of Christ.

- **Equipping the Saints Builds Up the Body of Christ**

Equipping is not just for individual growth but for the collective building up of the body of Christ.

- **The goal of equipping is to present every believer complete in Christ, formed and shaped by His image.**

It is Crucial that You Serve Christ By Serving the Church

Ephesians 4:12 LSB

¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ,

Romans 12:1-3 LSB

¹ Therefore I exhort you, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a sacrifice—living, holy, *and* pleasing to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

Romans 12:1-3 LSB

² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may approve what the will of God is, that which is good and pleasing and perfect. ³ For through the grace given to me I say to each one among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound thinking, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.

Romans 12:4-6 LSB

⁴ For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another, ⁶ but having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us:

Romans 12:6-8 LSB

⁶ whether prophecy, in agreement with the faith; ⁷ or service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸ or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with generosity; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

Application Principles

- **Service is Essential to Spiritual Growth**

Spiritual growth is tied to active service within the church. If you're not serving, you're not growing as you should be.

- **Serving is an Act of Worship**

True worship includes sacrificial service. Serving God in His body, the church, is how we demonstrate our gratitude and worship.

- **Service Reflects Humility**

Humility is demonstrated through service. By serving in the church, we acknowledge our dependence on God and our role within the body.

- **Every Believer is Uniquely Gifted**

Every believer has a role in the church. Identifying and using your spiritual gift is necessary for the body's health and growth.

- **Start Serving to Discover Your Gift**

Service leads to clarity. As you serve, God will reveal your spiritual gifts, often through the affirmation of other believers.

- **Unity in Diversity of Gifts**

The church thrives on the diversity of gifts. Serving with your unique gift contributes to the overall health and unity of the church.

- **Service Builds the Body of Christ**

Service is vital for the church's growth. Your contribution strengthens and edifies the entire body of believers.

It is Crucial that You Equip Others

God has Restricted the Role of Teacher

James 3:1 LSB

¹ Do not, many *of you*, become teachers, my brothers, knowing that we will receive a stricter judgment.

1 Timothy 3:2 LSB

² An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, sensible, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,

1 Timothy 3:6 LSB

⁶ *and* not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation of the devil.

God Still Calls Us to Teach In Our Own Context

- **The husbands should disciple their wives.**

Ephesians 5:25–27 LSB

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, ²⁶ so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she would be holy and blameless.

- **The fathers should disciple their families.**

Ephesians 6:4 LSB

⁴ Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

- **The mothers should disciple their children.**

1 Timothy 2:15 LSB

¹⁵ But she will be saved through the bearing of children, if they continue in faith and love and sanctification with self-restraint.

- **The older women should teach the younger women**

Titus 2:3-4 LSB

³ Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, ⁴ so that they may instruct the young women in sensibility: to love their husbands, to love their children,

- **Faithful men should disciple other men to entrust the treasure to them.**

2 Timothy 2:2 LSB

² And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

Application Principles

- **Equipping is a Continuous Process**

Just as we are equipped by other believers, we are called to pass on that equipping to others. This cycle of being trained and training others is a hallmark of mature Christianity ([2 Timothy 2:2](#)).

- **Public Teaching Requires Caution and Maturity**

Not all believers are called to public teaching ministries. [James 3:1](#) and [1 Timothy 3:6](#) emphasize the weight and responsibility of public teaching. There must be a process of careful discernment before placing individuals in these roles.

- **We Must Teach Others Who Are in Our Care**

While not everyone is called to a public teaching ministry, every believer is called to disciple others within their specific contexts. Husbands are to disciple their wives, fathers their children, older women the younger women, and so on ([Ephesians 5:25-27](#), [Ephesians 6:4](#), [Titus 2:3-4](#)).

- **Discipleship Begins in the Home**

The family is the primary context where discipleship should begin. Husbands, wives, fathers, mothers, and children all play a role in building each other up in the Lord ([Ephesians 5:25-27](#), [Ephesians 6:4](#)).

- **Discipleship is a Lifelong Calling**

Discipleship is not a one-time event but a lifelong calling. Every believer, regardless of their stage in life, is called to continually help others grow in faith and maturity ([Titus 2:3-4](#), [2 Timothy 2:2](#)).

- **Mature Christians Should take on the Role of Equipping Others**

As believers mature in their faith, they should naturally progress from being equipped to equipping others. This is part of God's design for the church ([Ephesians 4:12](#)).

- **Humility and Faithfulness must be demonstrated in Discipleship**

The call to teach and disciple others should be approached with humility and faithfulness, recognizing that we are entrusted with the gospel to share it wisely and faithfully ([2 Timothy 2:2](#)).

It is Crucial that You Encourage Fellow Believers Spiritually

Reasons for the power of the gathering

- **Christ is Present When We Gather.**

Jesus promised that where two or three gather in His name, He is present among them ([Matthew 18:20](#)).

Revelation 1:12-13 LSB

¹² Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands; ¹³ and in the middle of the lampstands I saw one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His chest with a golden sash.

- **The Holy Spirit Ministers to Us As We Gather**

When believers come together, the Holy Spirit actively comforts, convicts, and guides us ([John 16:13](#)).

John 16:13 LSB

¹³ "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak from Himself, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.

- **The Word Does Its Work as We Gather**

The preaching and teaching of God's Word in the church gathering are primary means by which we are transformed and renewed ([2 Timothy 3:16-17](#)).

2 Timothy 3:16-17 LSB

¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be equipped, having been thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Its life was completely defined by the devotion to those spiritual duties which make up the unique identity of the church. Nothing outside the living Lord, the Spirit, and the Word define life for the church. ~ **John F. MacArthur**

NT Support for Encouraging One Another Spiritually

[Gal 6:1-2](#)

Galatians 6:1 LSB

¹ Brothers, even if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, *each of you* looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.

Galatians 5:16 LSB

¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.

Ephesians 5:18-20 LSB

¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; ²⁰ always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;

Colossians 3:16 LSB

¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with gratefulness in your hearts to God.

Galatians 6:2 LSB

² Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

John 13:34 LSB

³⁴ "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

[Hebrews 10:24-25](#)

Hebrews 10:24 LSB

²⁴ And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,

Hebrews 10:25 LSB

²⁵ not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

[1 Thessalonians 5:11](#)

1 Thessalonians 5:11 LSB

¹¹ Therefore, comfort one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

[James 5:16](#)

James 5:16 LSB

¹⁶ Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

[Colossians 3:16](#)

Colossians 3:16 LSB

¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with gratefulness in your hearts to God.

Application Principles

- **Christ's Presence in the Gathering**

When believers gather, Christ is uniquely present among them, as promised in [Matthew 18:20](#) and seen in [Revelation 1:12-13](#). His presence adds spiritual significance to the church's time together.

- **The Holy Spirit Ministers in the Gathering**

As believers gather, the Holy Spirit actively comforts, convicts, and guides the body ([John 16:13](#)). The Spirit uses the gifts of the congregation to edify and build up the church, especially during corporate gatherings.

- **The Word of God Works Powerfully in the Gathering**

The preaching and teaching of Scripture during church gatherings is a primary means by which believers are transformed and equipped for good works ([2 Timothy 3:16-17](#)).

- **Spiritual Encouragement Comes from the Gathering**

Scripture emphasizes the responsibility of believers to encourage one another spiritually ([Galatians 6:1-2](#), [Hebrews 10:24-25](#)). This encouragement often takes place through the gathered church, as members spur one another toward love and good deeds.

- **We are Called to Bear One Another's Burdens**

Believers are called to bear one another's burdens, particularly spiritual burdens, as seen in [Galatians 6:2](#). This act of love fulfills the law of Christ ([John 13:34](#)).

- **We are Called to Stimulate One Another to Love and Good Deeds**

[Hebrews 10:24-25](#) urges believers to encourage one another toward love and good deeds, which happens most effectively within the context of the church's regular assembly.

We are Called to Comfort and Build Up One Another

[1 Thessalonians 5:11](#) instructs believers to comfort and build up one another, a command that finds its fulfillment in the relationships nurtured through the gathering of the local church.

We are Called to Confession and Prayer for One Another

[James 5:16](#) encourages believers to confess their sins to one another and pray for each other, fostering healing and spiritual growth within the body of Christ.

Admonishing and Teaching One Another with Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs

[Colossians 3:16](#) highlights the importance of teaching and admonishing one another through the Word of Christ, expressed in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs during corporate worship.

It is Crucial to Support One Another Physically

James 1:27 LSB

²⁷ Pure and undefiled religion before *our* God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, *and* to keep oneself unstained by the world.

James 2:14–16 LSB

¹⁴ What use is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for *their* body, what use is that?

James 2:17 LSB

¹⁷ Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead by itself.

James 2:19 LSB

¹⁹ You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.

Application Principles

Caring for Others is a Non-Negotiable of the Christian Life: The biblical command to care for others is not optional. Just as we are called to bear one another's spiritual burdens, we are also called to meet the physical needs of fellow believers. This is foundational to living out genuine Christian faith.

True Religion Involves Practical Acts of Service: [James 1:27](#) defines "pure and undefiled religion" as caring for orphans and widows in their affliction, implying that the true practice of faith involves meeting the tangible, physical needs of others. Visiting the vulnerable involves more than mere presence—it requires active help and compassion.

Faith Without Works is Dead: [James 2:14-17](#) emphasizes that faith must be accompanied by works, specifically in caring for those who lack basic necessities. To merely offer well-wishes without providing tangible help reveals a dead faith. Therefore, faith should produce practical action.

Physical Needs are Important: James challenges believers not to separate spiritual care from physical care. Providing food, clothing, and other physical necessities is a vital part of Christian fellowship, and neglecting this aspect of care demonstrates a lack of true faith.

Believers are Called to Genuine Compassion: The example in [James 2:14-16](#) highlights that superficial expressions of care ("Go in peace") without action are meaningless. True compassion requires practical assistance, not just words.

Faith is Manifested in Good Works: As [James 2:17](#) indicates, faith must be evidenced by works. This principle is central to understanding that genuine faith is not passive but active in service to others.

Closing Our Hearts Reveals a False Faith: A faith that neglects the physical and spiritual needs of others may be demonic in nature, as seen in [James 2:19](#). True faith is always accompanied by action, while a faith devoid of such works may resemble the empty belief of demons.

Conclusion:

We Christians are the Church and whatever we do is what the Church is doing. The matter, therefore, is for each of us a personal one. Any forward step in the Church must begin with the individual. ~ **A. W. Tozer**

Now suppose we are ready to admit that we are in a rut. You say, "Well, what is the church doing?" I don't know, because it is the individual that matters. You see, the church is composed of this fellow that lives out here a little way and those two people who live out there in Scarboro and the five who live in Rexdale and the seven who live up in Willowdale and the 14 who live out east. That is the church. What the church does is what the individuals do. How well or how sick the church is depends on how well or how sick the individuals are. In other words, it depends upon how you are ~ **A. W. Tozer**