

I have come so that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly. Jesus Christ

KEYS TO ABUNDANT LIFE

Apply these Biblical truths to Walk with God Each Day and Experience His Plan for Your Life

V. How to Experience Fellowship with Other Believers

A. The Universal Church: All True Believers Everywhere at All Times

1. **Read Matthew 16:13-19.** In verse 18, Jesus says that Peter is “petros” (a Greek work, meaning “pebble” or “stone”), and then He says that His Church will be built on this “petra” (a different Greek word, meaning “large rock, boulder, bedrock”). What is this foundation rock upon which the Christian Church rests? (Hint: verse 16)

2. **Read 1 Peter 2:4-10.** Who does Peter say is the “Cornerstone” or foundation of the Church? _____
According to verse 9, why has God called us out to be His people?

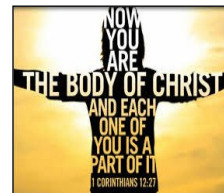
3. Paul frequently refers to the Church as the Body of Christ.
Read Ephesians 5:23. Who is the only head? _____
Read 1 Cor. 12:12, 27. Who are members of the Body? _____
Read 1 Cor. 12:13. How do we become members of Christ’s Body, the Church? _____
4. **Read John 17:20-23.** How should all Christians view and treat each other? _____

B. The Local Church: A Group of Believers Meeting Regularly for Worship, Instruction, Mutual Encouragement and Ministry

1. Read Hebrews 10:25. What are Christians **not** to do?

2. Local Christian assemblies have always practiced the symbolic rite of water baptism.
Read Matthew 28:18-19. Who is to be baptized? _____
3. **Read 1 Cor. 11:23-26.** What is the purpose of the Lord’s Supper or Communion service? _____
Every Christian is saved and lives wholly by faith in Jesus Christ. The local church practices two simple yet meaningful ordinances by which we can outwardly express our faith in Him and our submission to His leadership. Through water baptism, we publicly proclaim and portray our unity with Christ. In the communion service, we regularly recall Jesus’ suffering and death for our sins and His promise to come again.
4. **Read Ephesians 4:15-16.** Can I grow to spiritual maturity without regular fellowship with other Christians?
 Yes No Not sure

Remembering that God’s Spirit dwells in every believer makes me see the importance of Christian fellowship and active participation in the life of a local congregation. God uses other Christians to help me grow, and He will use me to help meet their needs. Mutual edification in the context of Christian love and acceptance is a vital part of God’s plan for our spiritual growth and for the extension of His Kingdom.



5. Write a one-sentence description of the following local churches:
Jerusalem (Acts 4:32-33) _____
Thessalonica (1 Thes. 1:6-10) _____
Laodicea (Rev. 3:14-17) _____

Today, as in Bible days, not all churches are vital or even really Christian. In order to enjoy spiritual growth and in obedience to God’s plan for your life, attend a local church that worships God and exalts Christ, teaches the Bible, explains clearly what a Christian is and how to become one, and that provides genuine and healthy, loving, joyful relationships.

NOTES AND QUESTIONS:

FAITH IN ACTION

- Memorize Hebrews 10:25
- Read John 13-15, keeping your Quiet Time Journal.
- Attend Bible Study and worship services this week, and ask God to lead you to the local church where He wants you to grow and serve at this time.