

Hebrews 10:25 (NIV) commands,

Not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

This verse is a clear exhortation to the early church—and to us today—to remain committed to Christian fellowship. The Greek word translated as “meeting together” (ἐπισυναγωγή, *episynagōgē*) refers specifically to a purposeful gathering of believers, emphasizing the importance of corporate worship, teaching, mutual encouragement, and accountability.

The Importance of the Church Community

God created us as relational beings made for community (Genesis 2:18). While personal faith is essential, the New Testament consistently shows that salvation and spiritual growth happen within the body of Christ—the church (Ephesians 4:11-16). The church is not merely a building but the gathered people of God, united by the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:12-27).

Satan's primary strategy is to isolate believers from the community, because separation weakens faith and makes individuals vulnerable to discouragement and deception (John 10:10).

Common Spiritual Traps to Watch For

“Worship Services Take Too Long”

If you find yourself resenting the length or depth of worship, recognize this as a spiritual attack. God calls His people to offer themselves as living sacrifices (Romans 12:1), which includes dedicating time to Him. The Lord's Day (Sunday) is especially sacred, meant to be fully devoted to worship and rest (Exodus 20:8-11). Satan wants to steal your time and attention, distracting you from growing in God's presence.

“Hearing Negative News About Others”

Conflict and imperfection exist in every church because it is made up of broken people saved by grace (Romans 3:23). The early church faced struggles and disagreements (Acts 15; Galatians 2), yet believers were called to unity (Ephesians 4:3) and forgiveness

(Colossians 3:13). Choosing to walk away because of conflict forfeits your part in God's redemptive work through the community.

“Being Offended by Others in Church”

Jesus warned that offenses will come (Luke 17:1-2), but He calls His followers to humility and reconciliation (Matthew 18:15-17). The church is a place where saints grow through patience and love, not perfection. Leaving over minor grievances echoes the Pharisees' rejection of Jesus over small matters, missing the greater kingdom purpose.

“Fear of Giving Offerings”

Giving is an act of worship and trust in God's provision (2 Corinthians 9:6-7). While there are corrupt individuals, your giving honors God, not humans. Jesus taught about the heart behind the gift (Mark 12:41-44) and promised blessings to cheerful givers. The storehouse principle in Malachi 3:10 links faithful giving with God's abundant provision.

The Blessings of Gathering Together

1. Strengthening Faith through Fellowship

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV) emphasizes mutual encouragement. The Christian life is a marathon, not a sprint. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 teaches the power of partnership and community, highlighting God's design for believers to support and uplift each other. The church equips believers with gifts for ministry and spiritual growth (Ephesians 4:11-13).

Prayer gatherings multiply spiritual power (Matthew 18:19-20) because agreement in prayer aligns believers with God's will and manifests His presence.

2. Receiving God's Blessings Through Unity

Matthew 18:18-20 (NIV) shows that spiritual authority and blessing are linked to unity and collective agreement in Christ's name. This reflects the corporate nature of salvation and kingdom work. The binding and loosing authority reflects the role of the church as God's instrument on earth (Matthew 16:18-19).

God delights in unity (Psalm 133:1) because it reflects the perfect unity of the Trinity (John 17:20-23). Isolation is contrary to God's

plan and leaves believers vulnerable to Satan's attacks (1 Peter 5:8).

Final Encouragement

Stay connected to the church body. Your presence matters—not just for your own growth but for the strengthening of others.

Remember Paul's admonition:

For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.(Romans 12:4-5, NIV)

Reject the enemy's lies that tempt you to isolate. God's design is community, encouragement, and shared faith.

Maranatha! The Lord is coming!

LET US NOT FORSAKE MEETING TOGETHER

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