

1. Connect to Community
2. Build Community
3. Protect Community

Community is the intentional setting aside of personal interest and desires and the joining with one another for the common purpose of honoring Jesus Christ.

1 John 5:1 *Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is *begotten of Him. (Born again – John 3)*

"The **saved are born of God** because He drew them to His Son. The saved are born of God because of His grace. The saved are born of God because He gave us the faith to believe. The saved are born of God and the world knows this because of the love that we show our brothers." Jim Allen

John 1:12 *But as many as received Him, (Christ) to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: ¹³ who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*

Believe + Receive = **Become**

Believe is Πιστεύω (Gr: *pisteuo*) to place trust in. It is a verb in the "present" meaning, an action that continues. It is trust Christ with our life; it is a submission, a sweet surrender to Him.

James 2:19 *But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. ¹⁹ You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! ²⁰ But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?*

"Faith in Christ" is the promise of salvation. (Paul's writings)

"Works for Christ" is the proof of salvation. (James' writings)

Many proclaim to know God's Son. John writes that our view and response to God's Church and God's commands is the real test, not our mere words.

Soul Searching Questions: (Psalm 139:23-24)

1. Do I claim to know Christ as my personal Savior and why?
2. Do I love God's Church? Why or Why Not?
3. How do I see God's Commandments?

1 John 5:2-5 *By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. ³ For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. ⁴ For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is*

the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵ Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

Psalm 119 – Magnifying God’s Word!

1 Timothy 4:8-9 *For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come. ⁹ This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance.*

Disciplines to apply during the Singing and Preaching.

1. Confession and Repentance
2. Praise and Thanks
3. Prayer of renewed commitment

1 John 5:6-8 *This is He who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth. ⁷ For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. ⁸ And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one.*

1 John 5:9-13 *If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is the witness of God which He has testified of His Son. ¹⁰ He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son. ¹¹ And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. ¹² He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. ¹³ These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.*

In Jesus, we learn just how far God the Father would go to rescue sinful, rebellious mankind.

1 John 5:14-15 *Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.*

1 John 5:16-17 *If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death. There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that. ¹⁷ All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not leading to death.*

1 John 5:18-21 *We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him. ¹⁹ We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one. ²⁰ And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life. ²¹ Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.*

My Assignment for the week:

1. Read **Psalm 119** and note how David viewed God's Word. Write down five verses that impressed upon your heart.
2. Read and study **1 John 5**.
3. Review your Study Guide.