

# Why Should I Go To Church

5-Day Devotional - 1.18.26

## Day 1

### The Bride He Chose

**Reading:** Ephesians 5:25-27

**Devotional:**

Jesus didn't just save the church—He chose her. This isn't a transaction; it's a love story. Christ gave Himself up for the church, not out of obligation but affection. Today, reflect on this profound truth: you are wanted, not just saved. God didn't rescue you to manage you from a distance; He desires relationship with you. When we understand that we're chosen, our response shifts from duty to delight. Ask yourself: Do I see my relationship with Christ as merely following rules, or as responding to Someone who passionately loves me? Let this truth transform how you approach worship, service, and fellowship. You belong to Him, and He delights in you.

**Reflection:**

Do I truly live as someone who is wanted and delighted in by Jesus, or do I relate to Him mainly out of obligation and rule-keeping?

## Day 2

### The Body You Belong To

**Reading:** 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

**Devotional:**

The church isn't an event you attend; it's a body you belong to. Paul's imagery is intentional—we are members of one another, interconnected and interdependent. You cannot say you love the Head (Christ) while dismissing the body (the church). When one part suffers, we all suffer; when one rejoices, we all celebrate. Today, consider: Am I treating church as something I consume or a family I'm committed to? Authentic faith requires authentic community. Your gifts, presence, and participation matter—not because the church needs to function, but because you need the body to grow. Isolation weakens; connection strengthens. Find your place in the body and commit to it fully.

**Reflection:**

In what ways am I actively contributing to the church as a body I belong to, rather than treating it as something I simply attend or consume?

## Day 3

### The Habit of Gathering

**Reading:** Hebrews 10:23-25

#### **Devotional:**

Drifting away from God rarely begins with rebellion—it starts with neglect. The writer of Hebrews warns against the habit of forsaking assembly, because consistent gathering protects us from spiritual drift. What we make room for reveals what we truly love. Sporadic attendance often signals divided affection. Today, examine your patterns: What gets your consistent "yes"? What do you rearrange your life around? Love isn't measured by feelings but by faithful choices. The gathering of believers isn't optional for the committed Christian; it's oxygen for the soul. As you see the day of Christ's return approaching, let urgency fuel your faithfulness. Don't just attend—anticipate. Let gathering with God's people be a joy, not a burden.

#### **Reflection:**

What patterns in my life reveal what I love most, and how does my commitment to gathering with God's people reflect—or challenge—those priorities?

## Day 4

### Restoring First Love

**Reading:** Revelation 2:1-7

#### **Devotional:**

Jesus commended the Ephesian church for their deeds, perseverance, and doctrinal purity. Yet He had one devastating critique: "You have forsaken the love you had at first." You can be busy for God yet distant from God. Activity without intimacy, structure without surrender, presence without passion—these mark a heart that has drifted. Today, Jesus asks you the same question He asked the Ephesians: Where is your first love? Have good things replaced the best thing? Have programs replaced passion? Remember the heights from which you've fallen. Repent—change your mind and direction. Return to doing the things you did at first. Let today be a reset, a recommitment to loving Jesus above all else, with the fervor you once had.

#### **Reflection:**

What has subtly replaced intimacy with Jesus in my life, and what is one "first love" practice I need to return to?

# Day 5

## Love Shows Up

**Reading:** Psalm 122:1; John 14:15

### Devotional:

David declared, "I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD.'" His response wasn't obligation but celebration. Jesus said, "If you love me, keep my commands"—not out of fear, but love. Love always finds its way into the room. What you consistently choose reveals what you truly love. Today, honestly assess: Does gathering with God's people feel burdensome or beautiful? If it feels optional, it may reveal a heart issue, not a calendar issue. You don't miss what you love; you make room for it. As Christ prepares a place for His bride, are you preparing your heart for His return? Let love pull you toward His presence and His people. Commit today to showing up—not perfectly, but faithfully.

### Reflection:

What do my choices about showing up—especially in worship and community—reveal about my love for Jesus, and what faithful step is He inviting me to take next?