

LESSON ONE

You've Got To Get Connected

ROMANS 12:5

“Even though we are many individuals, Christ makes us one body and individuals who are connected to each other.”

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SPIRITUALLY CONNECTED

1. IT'S LIKE BEING

“In Christ you are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.”

Ephesians 2:22 (NRSV)

“You are a building that rests on the apostles and prophets as its foundation, with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is welded together and rises into a sacred temple in the Lord, and in him you are yourselves built into this to form a dwelling for God.”

Ephesians 2:20-22 (Moffat)

IN BUILDINGS, a disconnected frame _____

2. IT'S LIKE BEING

*“... In Christ's Body we're all connected to each other.
When you lie to others, you end up lying to yourself.”*

Ephesians 4:25 (Mes)

“Just as there are many parts to our bodies, so it is with Christ's Body. We are all parts of it, and it takes every one of us to make it complete, for we each have different work to do.

So we belong to each other, and each of us needs all the others.”

Romans 12:4-5 (LB)

“They are not connected to Christ, the head of the Body. But we are joined together in his body by his strong sinews, and we grow only as we get our nourishment and strength from God.”

Colossians 2:19 (NLT)

IN A BODY, a disconnected part _____

3. IT'S LIKE BEING

Jesus “Live in me, and I will live in you. A branch cannot produce any fruit by itself. It has to stay attached to the vine. In the same way, you cannot produce fruit unless you live in me:”

John 15:4 (GW)

“God’s Spirit joins himself to our spirits to declare that we are God’s children.”

Romans 8:16 (TEV)

ON PLANTS, a disconnected branch _____

4. IT’S LIKE BEING _____

*“I want you to know how people who are members
of God’s family must live. God’s family is the church...”*

1 Timothy 3:15 (GW)

*“You will all be joined together, and you will give glory to God the Father of our Lord Jesus
Christ. Christ accepted you, so you should accept each other, which will bring glory to God.”*

Romans 15:6-7 (NCV)

INA FAMILY, a disconnected member _____

*“I beg you, brothers and sisters... to be completely joined together by
having the same kind of thinking and the same PURPOSE.”*

1 Corinthians 1:10 (NCV)

LESSON TWO

The Prayer Of Connection

*“During those dark times, it was not even safe to travel.
Problems troubled the nation on every hand.”*

2 Chronicles 15:5 NLT

*“... Listen, all you people... The Lord will stay with you as long as you stay with him!
If you seek him, you will find him. But if you abandon him, he will abandon you...
For a long time, Israel had been without the true God... and without God’s law. But in
their distress they turned to the Lord and sought him and he was found by them.”*

2 Chronicles 15:2-5

1ST ANTIDOTE TO NATIONAL RECESSION: _____

“This is how you should pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.”

Matthew 6:9 (NIV)

GOD IS A _____ NOT A _____

WE CAN CONNECT WITH GOD BECAUSE...

1. HE IS A _____

*“As a father has compassion on his children,
so the Lord has compassion on those who honor Him...”*

Psalms 103:13 (NIV)

“Cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you!”

1 Peter 5:7 (NIV)

*“So don’t worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat? ...or what shall we wear?’...
Your heavenly Father knows you need these things.”*

Matt. 6:31-32 (NIV)

2. HE IS A _____

*“Every good and perfect gift ... is from the Father ...
who does not change like shifting shadows.”*

James 1:17 (NIV)

“Even if we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown Himself.”

2 Timothy 2:13 (NIV)

“...God will never go back on his promises.”

Romans 11:29 (LB)

“My God is changeless in his love for me...”

Psalms 59:10 (LB)

3. HE IS A

“God did this so people would ... reach out for Him and find Him, since He is not far from each of us.”

Acts 17:27 (NIV)

• HE IS NEVER TOO BUSY FOR ME.

“The Lord is near to all who call on him...”

Ps. 145:18 (NIV)

• HE LOVES TO MEET MY NEEDS.

“If you...know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!”

Matt. 7:11 (NIV)

• HE IS SYMPATHETIC TO MY HURTS.

“The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.”

Ps. 34:18 (NIV)

4. HE IS A

“For nothing is impossible with God.”

Luke 1:37 (NIV)

“(God) is able to do far more than we would ever dare to ask or even dream of – infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, or hopes!”

Ephesians 3:20 (LB)

GOD SENT JESUS TO MAKE THE CONNECTION:

“God is on one side and all the people on the other side, and Christ Jesus, himself man, is between them to bring them together; by giving his life for all mankind.”

1 Timothy 2:5-6 (LB)

“We are children of God through faith in Jesus Christ.”

Galatians 3:26 (LB)

LESSON THREE

The Prayer Of Surrender

“Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.”

Matthew 6:10 (KJV)

SOURCES OF STRESS

GOD'S KINGDOM IS WHEREVER

SURRENDERING TO JESUS MEANS...

1.

“Let go, and know that I am God. I rule the nations. I rule the earth.”

Psalm 46:10 (GW)

THE SERENITY PRAYER

*“God grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change,
the courage to change the things I can,
and the wisdom to know the difference.
Living one day at a time,
enjoying one moment at a time
accepting hardship as a pathway to peace
taking as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is,
not as I would have it;
trusting that You will make all things right
if I surrender to your will
so that I may be reasonably happy in this life,
and supremely happy with You forever in the next. Amen.*

Reinhold Niebuhr

“If a person’s thinking is controlled by his sinful self, then there is death. But if his thinking is controlled by the Spirit, then there is life and peace.”

Romans 8:6 (ICB)

2.

*“...I have learned to be satisfied with the things I have and with everything that happens.
I know how to live when I am poor, and I know how to live when I have plenty.
I have learned the secret of being happy at any time in everything that happens ...
I can do all things through Christ, because he gives me strength.”*

Philippians 4:11-13 (NCV)

“Surrender yourself to the Lord, and wait patiently for him.”

Psalm 37:7a (GW)

3.

*“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.
And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.”*

1 John 3:16 (NIV)

*“...Give yourselves to God... surrender your whole being to him
to be used for righteous purposes.”*

Romans 6:13 (TEV)

*“God will give you all you need from day to day if you live
for him and make the Kingdom of God your primary concern.”*

Matthew 6:33 (NLT)

4.

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.
In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.”*

Proverbs 3:5-6 (ESV)

*“The Lord takes care of those who obey him, and gives them eternal rewards
that last forever. They will survive through hard times and will
have more than enough even in a time of famine.”*

Psalm 37:18-19 (TEV)

Jesus: “...You must give up everything you have to be my follower.”

Luke 14:33 (NCV)

*“But let me assure you that no one has ever given up anything...
for love of me and to tell others the Good News, who won't be given back,
a hundred times over... and in the world to come he shall have eternal life.”*

Mark 10:29-30 (LB)

— LESSON FOUR —

The Prayer Of Dependence

“Give us today our daily bread.”

Matthew 6:11 (NIV)

BREAD REPRESENTS

•

Psalm 104:25-28 (LB), Proverbs 14:23 (Mes)

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Deuteronomy 8:3 (NLT)

•

1 Corinthians 10:16 (Amp)

•

Luke 22:19 (TEV)

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO DEPEND ON GOD?

1.

•

“GIVE us today our daily bread”

•

“God will supply all that you ever need from his glorious resources in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 4:19 (Ph)

•

“If you were asked by your son for bread, would you give him a stone? How much more likely is it that your heavenly Father will give good things to those who ask him?”

Matthew 7:11 (NIV)

•

“...You do not have because you do not ask God!”

James 4:2 (NIV)

2.

“Give us TODAY our DAILY bread.”

“Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, thanking him for all he has done...And fix your thoughts on what is true and honorable and right. Think about things that are pure and lovely and admirable, and excellent and worthy of praise.”

Philippians 4: 6 & 8 (NLT)

1ST

“Don’t be anxious about tomorrow. God will take care of your tomorrow too. Live one day at a time.”

Matthew 6:34 (LB)

2ND

“Since God didn’t spare even his own Son for us but gave him up for us all, won’t he also surely give us everything else?”

Romans 8:32 (LB)

3RD

“I can’t count the times you have faithfully rescued me... I will tell everyone how good you are, and of your constant, daily care.”

Psalms 71:15 (LB)

4TH

“He will keep in perfect peace all those who trust in him, whose thoughts turn often to the Lord!”

Isaiah 26:3 (LB)

3.

“Give us today OUR daily bread.”

“God, who supplies seed for the sower and bread to eat, will also supply you with all the seed you need and will make it grow and produce a rich harvest from your generosity. He will always make you rich enough to be generous at all times so that many will thank God for your gifts ... This service you perform will not only meet the needs of God’s people, but also produce an outpouring of gratitude to God.”

2 Corinthians 9:10-12 (TEV)

“Share your bread with the hungry and open your homes to the homeless poor. Give clothes to those who have nothing to wear, and do not refuse to help your own relatives. Then my favor will shine on you like the morning sun, and your wounds will be quickly healed. I will always be with you to save you; my presence will protect you on every side.

And when you pray, I will answer you.”

Isaiah 58:7-9 (TEV)

“Cast your bread upon the waters, and after many days you will get it back.”

Ecclesiastes 11:1 (RSV)

*“It is possible to give freely and become more wealthy,
but those who are stingy will lose everything.”*

Proverbs 11:24 (NLT)

THE MODEL FOR OUR CHURCH

“DAILY they continued to meet together and worshiped together in the temple courts. They also fellowshiped together in their homes with communion and eating together, sharing whatever they had with joyful and generous hearts. They praised God together and [as a result] the whole city liked them so every day more and more people were being saved, and DAILY the Lord added to the number of believers in the church.”

Acts 2:46-47 (NIV/NLT/CEV)

LESSON FIVE

The Prayer Of Cleansing

“...Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles us, and run with perseverance the race marked out for us”.
Hebrews 12:1-2 (NIV)

“Forgive us our sins (debts/transgressions)”
Matthew 6:12

PATH TO A FRESH START & CLEAR CONSCIENCE

1. REVIEW

“Let us test and examine our ways.”
Lamentations 3:40a (NLT)

2. REPENT

“Let us turn again in repentance to the Lord. Let us lift our hearts and hands to God in heaven and say, “We have sinned and rebelled...”
Lamentations 3:40b-42a (NLT)

3. RESOLVE

“...if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.” Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to your house.”
Luke 19:8-9 (NIV)

4. RECEIVE

“Let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it.”
Hebrews 4:16 (NLT)

“Since we are justified (acquitted and declared righteous) through faith, let us grasp the fact that we now have peace and reconciliation with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”
Romans 5:1 (Amp)

5. REVEAL

“Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.”
James 5:16a (NIV)

6. REPEAT THESE STEPS REGULARLY

“Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience ... Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are doing, but let us encourage one another...”

Hebrews 10:22-25 (NIV)

LESSON SIX

The Prayer Of Release

“Forgive us our sins, just as we have forgiven those who have sinned against us.”

Matt. 6:12 (NLT)

“Peter came to Jesus and asked, ‘Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?’”

Matthew 18:21 (NIV)

“Jesus answered, ‘...not seven times, but seventy-seven times.’”

Matthew 18:22 (NIV)

WHY MUST I RELEASE THOSE WHO'VE HURT ME?

Matt. 18 -Story of the Unforgiving Servant

1.

“The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.”

Matthew 18:27 (NIV)

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”

Ephesians 4:32 (NIV)

2.

*“‘Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’
In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured...”*

Matthew 18:33-34 (NIV)

*“Some men stay happy until the day they die... others have no happiness at all;
they live and die with bitter hearts.”*

Job 21:23-25 (GN)

3.

*“This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless
you forgive your brother from your heart.”*

Matthew 18:35 (NIV)

*“If you forgive men when they sin against you, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you.
But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”*

Matthew 6:14-15 (NIV)

HOW DO I RELEASE MY HURT?

1.

“...Never avenge yourselves. Leave that to God, for he has said that he will repay those who deserve it...”

Romans 12:19 (LB)

2.

“Be careful that none of you fails to respond to the grace which God gives, for if he does there can very easily spring up in him a bitter spirit which is not only bad in itself but can also poison the lives of many others.”

Hebrews 12:15 (Ph)

“Christ carried our sins in his body on the cross so we would stop living for sin and start living for what is right. And you are healed because of his wounds.”

1 Peter 2:24 (NCV)

3.

“We know that our old life died with Christ on the cross so that our sinful selves would have no power over us and we would not be slaves to sin.”

Romans 6:6 (NCV)

“He canceled the debt, which listed all the rules we failed to follow. He took away that record with its rules and nailed it to the cross.”

Colossians 2:14 (NCV)

— LESSON SEVEN —

The Prayer Of Deliverance

“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.”

Matthew 6:13

“The temptations that come into your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will keep the temptation from becoming so strong that you can’t stand up against it. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you will not give in to it.”

1 Corinthians 10:13 (NLT)

1. _____
“Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.”

Matthew 26:41 (NIV)

- _____ am I most tempted?
- _____ am I most tempted?
- _____ is with me when I’m most tempted?
- _____ temporary benefit do I get if I give in?
- _____ do I feel right before I’m tempted?

2. _____
“Plan carefully what you do... Avoid evil and walk straight ahead. Don’t go one step off the right way.”

Proverbs 4:26-27 (TEV)

3. _____
“Above all else, guard your heart, for it affects everything you do.”

Proverbs 4:23 (NLT)

<i>Physically exhausted</i>	<i>0 1 2 3 4</i>	<i>Energetic & in shape</i>
<i>Discouraged or pessimistic</i>	<i>0 1 2 3 4</i>	<i>Encouraged & hopeful</i>
<i>Bored & discontented</i>	<i>0 1 2 3 4</i>	<i>Challenged & contented</i>
<i>Spiritually dry or empty</i>	<i>0 1 2 3 4</i>	<i>Spiritually alive & growing</i>
<i>Alone or distant from others</i>	<i>0 1 2 3 4</i>	<i>Close to those you love</i>
<i>Insecure or unsure</i>	<i>0 1 2 3 4</i>	<i>Confident & secure</i>
<i>Wounded or deeply hurt</i>	<i>0 1 2 3 4</i>	<i>Loved & understood</i>
<i>Bitter or angry</i>	<i>0 1 2 3 4</i>	<i>Forgiven everyone</i>
<i>Sad</i>	<i>0 1 2 3 4</i>	<i>Happy</i>
<i>Like you’ve failed</i>	<i>0 1 2 3 4</i>	<i>Successful</i>

TOTAL:

4.

“Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me.”

Psalm 50:15 (NIV)

“(Jesus) understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same temptations we do, yet he did not sin. So let us come boldly to ... our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and grace to help us when we need it.”

Hebrews 4:15-16 (NLT)

5.

“Thinking about your commands will keep me from doing some foolish things.”

Psalm 119:6 (CEV)

“...We capture every thought... and make it obey Christ.”

2 Corinthians 10:5 (NCV)

“Don’t let evil conquer you, but conquer evil with good.”

Romans 12:21 (GW)

6.

“Two are better than one, because together...if one falls down, the other can help him up. But if someone is alone and falls...there’s no one to help him.”

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 (GN)

“Brothers and sisters, if someone in your group does something wrong, you who are spiritual should go to that person and gently help make him right again. But be careful, because you can be tempted to sin, too. By helping each other with your troubles, you truly obey the law of Christ.”

Galatians 6:1-2 (NCV)

“My dear friends, if you know people who have wandered off from God’s truth, don’t write them off. Go after them. Get them back and you will have rescued precious lives...!”

James 5:19-20 (Mes)

LESSON EIGHT

The Prayer Of Fulfillment

“... For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.”

Matthew 6:13 (KJV)

God's Kingdom is His

God's Power is His

God's Glory is His

“Everything comes from God alone. Everything lives by his power, and everything is for his glory...”

Romans 11:36 (LB)

REAL FULFILLMENT COMES THROUGH...

1.

“You should live in a way that proves you belong to the God who calls you into his kingdom and glory.”

1 Thessalonians 2:12 (GW)

“God will give you all you need from day to day if you live for him and make the Kingdom of God your primary concern.”

Matthew 6:33 (NLT)

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2.

“For the Kingdom of God is not just fancy talk; it is living by God's power.”

1 Corinthians 4:20 (NLT)

“... By his mighty power at work within us, he is able to accomplish infinitely more than we would ever dare to ask or hope.”

Ephesians 3:20 (NLT)

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3.

“Jesus died to defeat sin, and now he lives for the glory of God. So you should consider yourselves dead to sin and able to live for the glory of God through Christ Jesus.”

Romans 6:10-11 (NLT)

HOW?

“Warmly welcome each other into the church, just as Christ has warmly welcomed you; then God will be glorified.”

Romans 15:7(LB)

“God has given each of you some special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other... so that God will be glorified.”

1 Peter 4:10-11 (LB)

“... As God’s grace brings more and more people to Christ... God will receive more and more glory!”

2 Corinthians 4:15 (NLT)

“To God be the glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus for all time, forever and ever! Amen.”

Ephesians 3:21 (TEV)