

In verse 31 the place was shaken where they assembled. So, during persecution, the apostles still assembled to pray. Those that believed all had a common goal.

Acts 5:12-14
And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch.
13 And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them.
14 And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.)

More people were added to their number, yet they kept coming together. In essence, an increase in membership did not hinder the gathering of believers together
Acts 5:41-42
Acts 2:41-42
Acts 2:47
Acts 4:23
Acts 6:1
The instruction was to look out among themselves. That is they were to look among the believers in the gathering not an outsider.

Acts 8:1
And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles.

The emphasis of the book of acts concerning the church is the gathering of believers.

Acts 9:31
Acts 11:21-22
Acts 11:26

They assembled themselves with the church that is identified and gathered with the church.

Acts 12:5
Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.

The church gathered to pray for peter

Acts 13:1
Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and

Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

This was also in the gathering of believers.

Acts 14:21-23
And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch,
22 Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.
23 And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.

Luke here recorded that Paul and Barnabas ordained elders in every church, that is, in every assembly of believers.

Thus, the book of acts focuses a whole lot on gatherings. The church progresses with the gatherings. There is a high premium placed on believers gathering. This is where we are taught, trained, nurtured to grow spiritually and equipped for the work of ministry.

Ephesians 4:12
For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: It is evident from the book of acts and epistles that the gathering of believers together cannot be overemphasized. Therefore, the local church or the gathering of believers together must be highly esteemed by every believer.

I hope to see you in church soon.

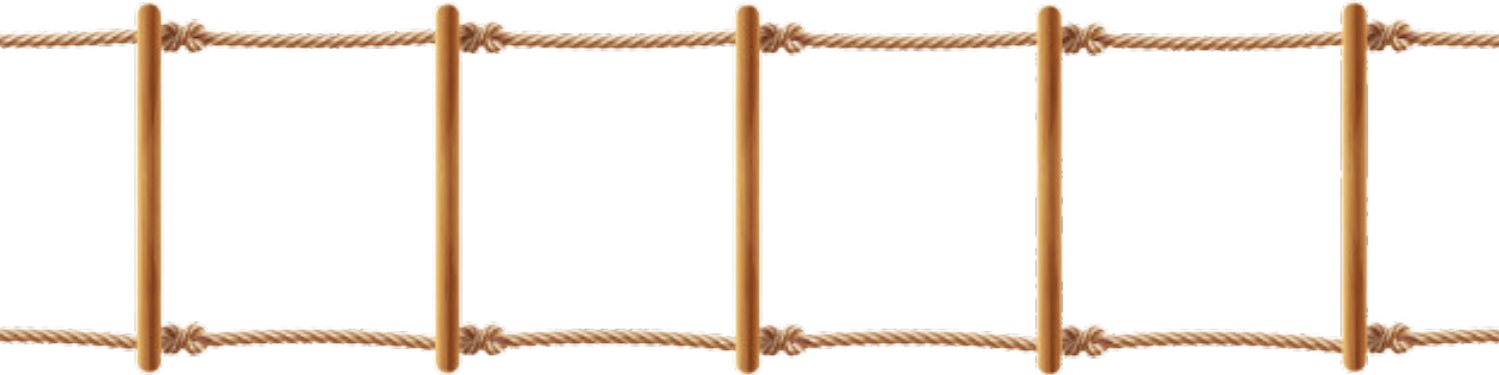
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Our Fellowship with one Another





The church is the body of Christ; this involves members, believers. A man is received into body of Christ when he believes in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.

I Corinthians 12:12-14

- 12** For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also, is Christ.
- 13** For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.
- 14** For the body is not one member, but many.

Ephesians 2:18-19

- 18** For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.
- 19** Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God.

A man is identified with the church by the new birth

Hebrews 2:10-12

- 10** For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.
- 11** For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,
- 12** Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.

Christ by his resurrection has made us sons and calls us brethren, His church.
The word, ‘church’ means to be called out (from death, sin, from this world). We were called out into a people; a family; a gathering.

The gathering of saints is God’s plan for the earth.

Hebrews 10:23-25

- 23** Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)
- 24** And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:
- 25** Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

The word ‘provoke’ here implies to stimulate. The first

thing after salvation is fellowship, we are saved unto fellowship;
into a family.
The word ‘not forsaking’ implies not altering, this involves not to disregard or desert, and it is a function of an attitude. This is as practical as exempting yourself from Christian meetings, because the writer of the book of Hebrews already added that the role of the believer in that assembly is to stimulate others unto love and good works. Paul taught the same truth as ‘edifying’.

1 Corinthians 14:26

How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.

The word ‘assembling’ refers to a physical gathering, used literally for gathering things.
The instruction is not to forsake the gathering of believers; this does not refer to one’s devotion but coming together as the church. This can be referred to as the LOCAL CHURCH, an assembly.

Hebrews 12:22-24

- 22** But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,
- 23** To the general assembly and church of the first-born, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,
- 24** And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

The word assembly in this text means a festival. We are not saved to isolation, but to a family.

THE LOCAL CHURCH IN THE BOOK OF ACTS
In the book of acts, we would observe an emphasis on the local church, men gathered consistently

Acts 1:4

And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.

When Jesus was going to leave the earth physically, he addressed his disciples. The great commission was directed to a gathering

Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.
19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:
20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Mark 16:15-20

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.
16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.
17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues.
18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, they shall recover.
19 So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.
20 And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.
Luke 24:47-49

Same thing in **John 20:21-23** he spoke to them as a congregation.
John 20:21-23
Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.
22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:
23 Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.
Acts 1:4
And, being assembled with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.

We see further examples in the book of acts, when men believed the gospel, the apostles ensured they fellowshiped with them. A gathering usually in place.

Acts 2:1

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

It was recorded that all were saved with one accord in

one place, a gathering.

Acts 2:41-47

- 41** Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.
- 42** And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.
- 43** And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.
- 44** And all that believed were together and had all things common.
- 45** And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.
- 46** And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,
- 47** Praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

They continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine, prayers, breaking of bread and fellowship. When a man is saved, it is unto fellowship. When a mans is saved, it is unto fellowship. This required a coming together, and not through the media.

Acts 4:22-23

For the man was above forty years old, on whom this miracle of healing was shewed.
23 And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them.

After peter and john were threatened not to preach, they went back to their own company. The word ‘company’ here means one’s group, gathering, assembly

Acts 4:29-32

And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,
30 By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.
31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.
32 And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.