

START GOING TO CHURCH

The Bible describes the spiritual struggle we constantly face with our enemy as a war. Satan's objective is to defeat us and take us into bondage (Genesis 4:7). In order to win the war, it is imperative for you to have a strategic plan for victory. The best strategy is simple and straightforward. In this three week series, I want to expose you to God's plan. It involves three simple steps to victory. The first step advised you to **Stop Believing Lies**. The second one encouraged you to **Keep Believing the Truth**. Today's message asks you to consider the strength God provides for us through His Church. The Bible calls it His Body, His Bride, His Assembly, His Flock, His People, His House, His Sanctuary and maybe some others I may have overlooked. There is a reason or, as you will discover today, several reasons why we should attend as often as possible. My effort today is not intended to discourage those of you who, for many reasons, may only be able to watch our media broadcasts. We have gone to great effort and expense to provide this wonderful tool, and I am glad you watch and trust that you are strengthened as you do.

THREE REASONS TO GO TO CHURCH

1. **God's Presence**

Exodus 25:8-9,22; Matthew 18:19-20; Genesis 33: 1- 5,13-15

The presence of God has always been vital to His people. We all understand that God is everywhere. He is OMNIPRESENT. Also, there is His INNER PRESENCE in His children. The Holy Spirit lives within us. The emphasis of this concept is what we'll label as His MANIFEST PRESENCE. This is His presence, which is made known to us when we come together.

2. **God's Power**

Matthew 18:19-20; Psalms 92:13-14

So many people want and need the power of God in their life, but they won't go to Church. Jesus shares some vital information about this in Matthew 18. He informs us that if two Believers spiritually agree concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by His Father in Heaven. Wow! Now that's powerful! He then continues, "Because where two or three are gathered together in His name, I am there in the midst of them." Jesus is saying that the reason what you ask is done is because He's standing right there with you. His presence is there, and, when His presence is there, His power is there.

3. **God's People**

1 Peter 2:9-10; Romans 9:24-26;

Matthew 22:34-40; 1 Corinthians 14:26; Numbers 10:1-2, 9, 17; 31:6; Hebrews 10:23-25

There's an old song that reflects the way many people feel about their relationship with God. Country artist, Tom T. Hall, shared this classic in 1972. The chorus says it all. "Well, me and Jesus got our own thing goin'. Me and Jesus got it all worked out. Me and Jesus got our own thing goin'. We don't need anybody to tell us what it's all about!" There's only one thing wrong with that way of thinking. God did not set it up that way. The only thing that God created and said that it was NOT GOOD was when He created man and MAN WAS ALONE.