



A SEASON  
to HARVEST

A close-up photograph of several golden wheat stalks, showing the intricate details of the grain and the feathery awns. The lighting is warm, highlighting the golden-brown hues of the wheat. The text is overlaid on the bottom half of the image.

The Season after  
**PENTECOST**  
A Season of Christ's Harvest



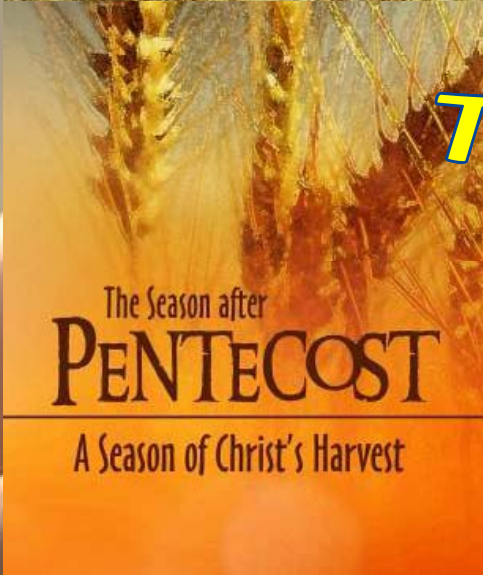
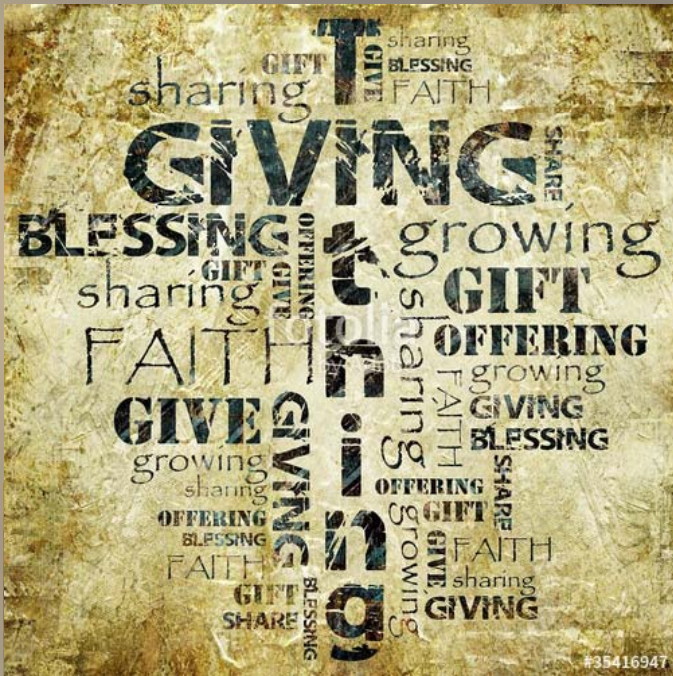
- 1. Why do we gather?*
- 2. Why do we give?*
- 3. Why do we reconcile?*
- 4. Why do we remember the past?*
- 5. Why do we serve?*
- 6. Why do we give thanks?*
- 7. Why do we make commitment?*

# *Leaving Vital Faith...*

*Sermon Series*







*Time to Give!*

“For it is  
in  
*giving*  
that  
we  
*receive.*”  
*- St. Francis of Assisi*

 LIVING A  
**STEWARDSHIP**  
*Life*  
It is all about your heart...  
Everything we have is a gift from God  
that we are to use to help others.



WHEN YOU LEARN,  
**TEACH.**  
WHEN YOU GET,  
**GIVE.**

~MAYA ANGELOU

WE MAKE A  
**LIVING** BY  
**WHAT WE GET,**  
BUT WE MAKE A  
**LIFE** BY  
**WHAT WE GIVE.**

~WINSTON CHURCHILL

No-one has  
ever become  
poor by giving.


~Anne Frank



A pink daisy flower is positioned in the upper center of the slide. To its right, a hand is shown in a pointing gesture, with the index finger directed towards the flower. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.

# *Deuteronomy 30:1-15*

## *How to Succeed in the Land God Gives*

A statue of a shepherd, likely Moses, stands on a rocky outcrop. He is wearing a dark, draped robe and holding a long staff. His right arm is raised in a gesture of blessing or proclamation. The background shows a vast, green valley with rolling hills and a winding river, under a cloudy sky.


### Deuteronomy

*See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess.*

*Deuteronomy 30:15-16*



***Deuteronomy 30:1-15***  
***Return to the Lord & Obey Him***



Deuteronomy

*and when you and your children return to the LORD your God and obey him with all your heart and with all your soul according to everything I command you today, then the LORD your God will restore your fortunes and have compassion on you and gather you again from all the nations where he scattered you.*

*Deuteronomy 30:2-3*





***Deuteronomy 30:1-15***  
***It is not too difficult beyond Your Reach***

***Leave Vital  
Faith & Practices***

Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach. No, the Word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so that you may obey it.

**Deuteronomy 30:11**



*1. For abundant life make an every effort to gather.*



*Leaving Vital Faith and Practices  
Part 1. Why Do We Gather?*

# 1. For abundant life make an every effort to gather.



Among U.S. adults who attend religious services at least once or twice a month, % who say \_\_\_\_\_ is a "very important" reason they ATTEND religious services



*Leaving Vital Faith and Practices*  
*Part 1. Why Do We Gather?*

# 1. For abundant life make an every effort to gather.



Nominal Christians are okay with reading the Bible until they read something that hurts a little.

BRANDON KELLEY

Among U.S. adults who attend religious services a few times a year or less often, % who say \_\_\_\_\_ is a "very important" reason they DO NOT attend more often



Source: Survey conducted Dec. 4-18, 2017, among U.S. adults.  
"Why Americans Go (and Don't Go) to Religious Services"

*Leaving Vital Faith and Practices*  
*Part 1. Why Do We Gather?*



1. *For abundant life make an every effort to gather.*

THIS IS THE DAY  
THAT THE LORD  
HAS MADE; LET US  
REJOICE  
& BE GLAD IN IT

PSALM 118:24

**THE 8<sup>TH</sup> DAY!**

The First Day of the Week  
The First Day after Creation

Give God your time and  
He will give you His triumphs

*Leaving Vital Faith and Practices*  
*Part 1. Why Do We Gather?*

*2. Turn to God who will restore your fortunes.*

*Leaving Vital Faith and Practices  
Part 1. Why Do We Gather?*

## 2. Turn to God who will restore your fortunes.

*"I am with one who is contrite  
and lowly in spirit, to revive  
the spirit of the lowly and to  
revive the heart of the  
contrite.*

*I will not accuse forever, nor  
will I always be angry, ... but I  
will heal him; I will guide him  
and restore comfort to him,*

*...  
Peace, peace, to those far and  
near," says the LORD. And I  
will heal them."*

*Isaiah 57:15-19*

The Lord  
nurses them  
when they are  
sick and  
restores them  
to health.

Psalms 41:3

*Leaving Vital Faith and Practices*  
*Part 1. Why Do We Gather?*



## 2. Turn to God who will restore your fortunes.

**Luke 19:3** He wanted to see who Jesus was, but being a short man he could not, because of the crowd.

**The woman said,  
"I know that Messiah is  
coming. When he comes, he  
will explain everything to us."**

**Then Jesus declared,  
"I, the one speaking to  
you- I am he"**

*John 4:25-26*

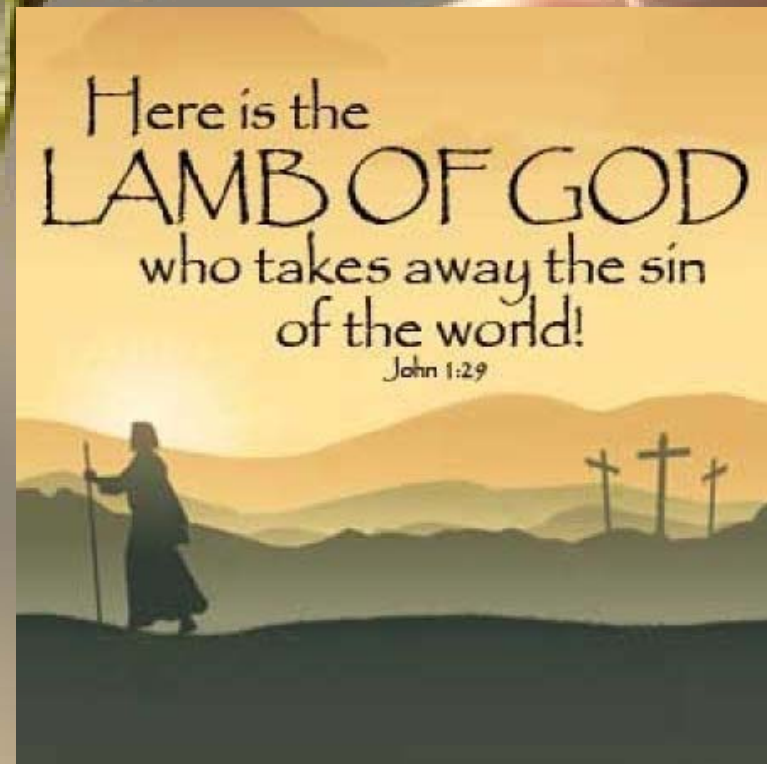
The whole town gathered at the door, and Jesus healed many who had various diseases.

Mark 1:33-34

One night he went to Jesus and said, "Rabbi, we know that God has sent you to teach us. You could not work these miracles, unless God were with you." - John 3:2

*Leaving Vital Faith and Practices  
Part 1. Why Do We Gather?*

2. Turn to God who will restore your fortunes.



*Leaving Vital Faith and Practices*  
*Part 1. Why Do We Gather?*

*3. Follow all His commands and God will make you most prosperous in all the work of your hand.*

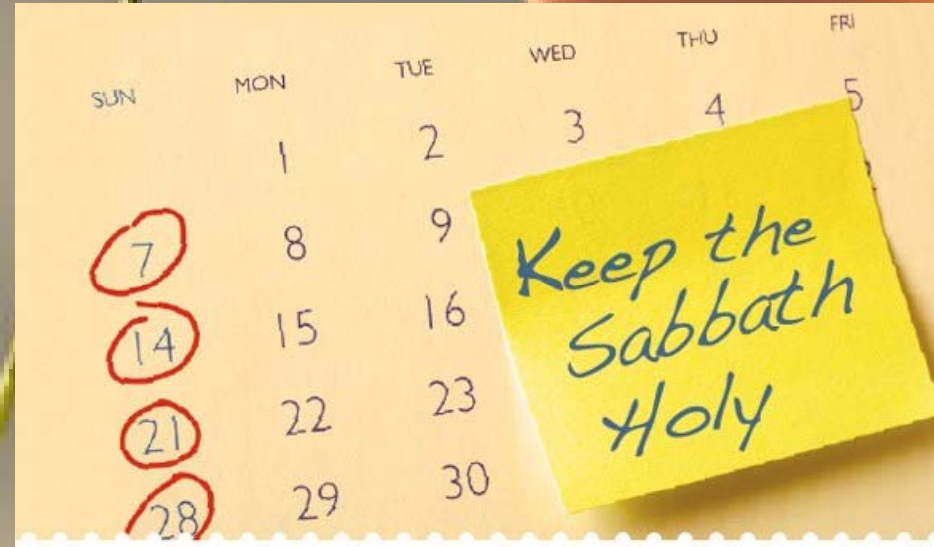
*Leaving Vital Faith and Practices  
Part 1. Why Do We Gather?*



3. Follow all His commands and God will make you most prosperous in all the work of your hand.

### TEN THE COMMANDMENTS

- I. I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD:  
YOU SHALL NOT HAVE  
STRANGE GODS BEFORE ME.
- II. YOU SHALL NOT TAKE  
THE NAME OF THE LORD  
YOUR GOD IN VAIN.
- III. REMEMBER TO KEEP HOLY  
THE LORD'S DAY.
- IV. HONOR YOUR FATHER  
AND YOUR MOTHER.
- V. YOU SHALL NOT KILL
- VI. YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY.
- VII. YOU SHALL NOT STEAL.
- VIII. YOU SHALL NOT BEAR  
FALSE WITNESS  
AGAINST YOUR NEIGHBOR.
- IX. YOU SHALL NOT COVET  
YOUR NEIGHBOR'S WIFE.
- X. YOU SHALL NOT COVET  
YOUR NEIGHBOR'S GOODS.



*Leaving Vital Faith and Practices  
Part 1. Why Do We Gather?*

3. Follow all His commands and God will make you most prosperous in all the work of your hand.

#### The Beatitudes

<sup>2</sup> And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup> "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

<sup>7</sup> "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

#### The Golden Rule

TREAT OTHER PEOPLE THE WAY YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE TREATED

**WITH RESPECT**

*Leaving Vital Faith and Practices*  
*Part 1. Why Do We Gather?*



3. Follow all His commands and God will make you most prosperous in all the work of your hand.



A NEW COMMANDMENT I GIVE TO YOU,  
THAT YOU LOVE ONE ANOTHER;  
*as I have loved you,*  
THAT YOU ALSO LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

— JOHN 13:34 —

*Leaving Vital Faith and Practices*  
*Part 1. Why Do We Gather?*

4. *Life and prosperity depend on the reign of God within you.*



*Leaving Vital Faith and Practices  
Part 1. Why Do We Gather?*



4. *Life and prosperity depend on the reign of God within you.*



*Leaving Vital Faith and Practices  
Part 1. Why Do We Gather?*