



A MINISTRY OF LOUISA CHRISTIAN CHURCH
A VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN CHURCH DISCIPLES OF CHRIST CONGREGATION

The Disciple

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Finding God in Everyday Life

From the Online Spirituality
of Creighton University

There are 4 **key elements** in finding God in our everyday lives.

- The realization, the conviction, that God is there. After that, it is all very easy.
- A belief in the Good News - that Jesus won a victory over sin and death by his dying and rising for us.
- Dying to Self.
- Careful *practice*.

God is there.

Once I really realize God is there, and become convinced of it, my heart hungers to *find* God there. Once my appetite is whet, I desire to find God in a much different way than I look for my car keys. What I'm really desiring is *intimacy* with God. I want to know I'm not alone in my life. I want to be *connected* with God.

How is God there? Or, "who am I connecting with?" God made this whole world and gave life to each and every one of us who lives in it. God made us with *purpose* - that we be happy with God forever. So, we are not looking for or connecting with a God who is distant or indifferent. Our God is passionately engaged in drawing us to the fulness of life we were created for. We are seeking to find a God who **loves us** and is always seeking intimacy with us. It is simple. A sense of *absence* vanishes when I am open to a sense of *presence*.



*No eye has
seen, nor ear
heard, nor the
heart of man
imagined,
what God has
prepared for
those who
love Him*

1 Corinthians 2:9

Living in the Good News.

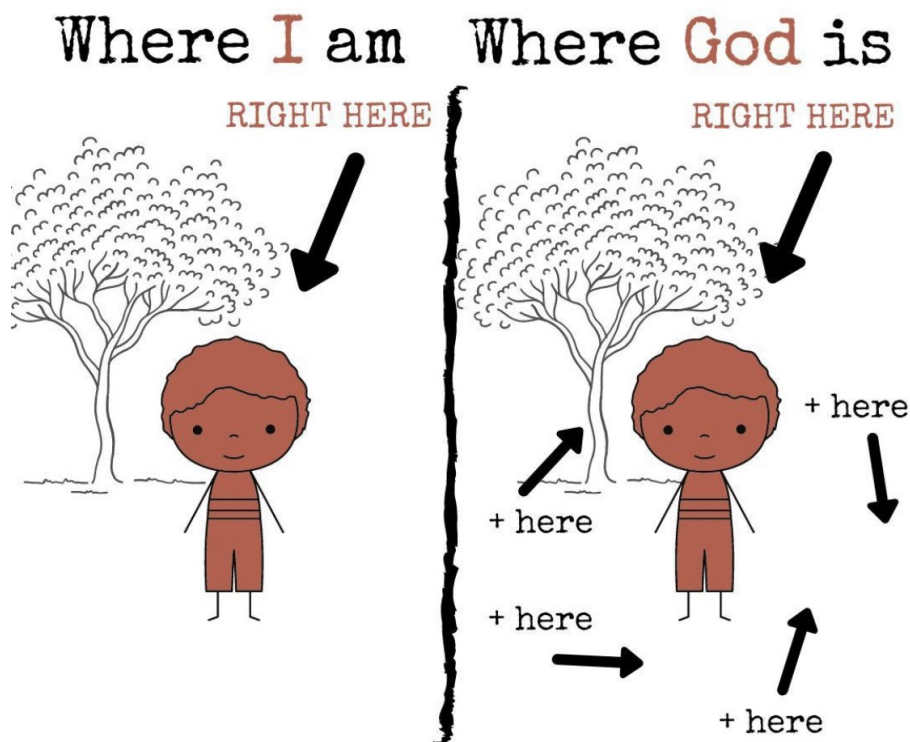
I can hardly go through a single day without encountering the reality of sin and death - in me and in the world around me. One way to *cope* is to join in our culture's denial of the reality of sin and death. Our faith gives us another way. We have come to believe that Jesus is Lord, most especially where sin and death seem to prevail. We have come to believe that we can open our eyes and act fearlessly in the face of death. We have come to believe we have nothing to fear. We have come to believe that it is precisely in the places where we encounter the greatest darkness or brokenness or confusion that we will find God. There we discover our Savior. There we experience the Good News. It is in those everyday places - where we *taste* frailty, unreliability, emptiness - that we find God's love is most powerfully present. Attentive faith finds the gift being offered in every human situation: a love and a peace the world can not give.

Less Self-absorbed.

When I don't fear death as much, I am less afraid of dying to myself. It sounds so obvious. When I'm absorbed with myself - my needs, how much attention I'm getting, doing things my way, everything in reference to me - it is pretty difficult to find God. The "space" inside of me is pre-occupied. However, as my openness to and hunger for a loving presence grows, I am de-selfish and freer. Often my self-pity or self-focus comes out of a fear that I won't have "enough." I fear any "emptiness" so I "fill" it quickly. However, when I ask to be emptied, I discover an empowering fullness. When I become more and more focused on how very much is being offered me in the loving presence of Jesus, discovered in every part of my day, I discover the power of Augustine's prayer: "O Lord, Our God, you have created us for yourself and our hearts are restless until they rest in you."

Practice, Practice, Practice.

Practice makes the difference. What did we ever "get good at" that didn't involve lots of practice? Changing my patterns, my habits, my routines may be difficult, but I know that I am very resilient and quite resourceful when I really want something. **Choice** is the key. Making the choice to adopt some new patterns allows it to happen. God is always choosing to be with me, in any way, in any situation I will be open to. The choice to get better at meeting God there is all mine.



10 Reasons to Go to Church

(Even When You Don't Feel Like It)

By Rhonda Stoppe

“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.” (Hebrews 10:25)

“I don’t go to church anymore. They’re all hypocrites!” Tara said to Pastor Tim. On more than one occasion Pastor Tim had heard this sort of comment. He’d be first to agree the church is made up of people who were not perfect—neither was he for that matter. But each time Pastor Tim heard such comments, his heart would break because he knew the incredible value of doing life together with the body of Christ.

Pastor Tim had long ago learned how Satan uses people and circumstances to disappoint Christians to pull them away from the very people God would use to bless, train, and encourage them at church. But recognizing the enemy’s schemes did not ease the sorrow of his (or any pastor’s) heart for his people.

Maybe you don’t have issues with anyone at church; you’re just really busy on weekends doing other things—good things. Attending your kid’s soccer games, going on family getaways, and fixing stuff around the house are all “good things” but if they regularly take you away from church attendance, you would do well to realize you’re choosing the captivity of activity over what God says is more important.

Going to church is not about getting your attendance gold star, nor is it about gaining God’s favor for the week because you assembled together with His people. Church is not a place to go, rather it is a living body where God wants you to become a part—for your good and His glory. **Let’s look at only 10 of many reasons to go to church—even when you don’t feel like it.**

1. To Hear the Preaching of the Word

If the word of God is quick, powerful, and sharper than a sword (Hebrews 4:12), then hearing the preaching of Scripture is vital to your spiritual well-being. God instructed His ministers to preach Truth with urgency. It is through the preaching of sound doctrine that the Word of God:

- Penetrates hearts and transforms lives
- Calls sinners to repentance
- Encourages the downtrodden
- Inspires the Lord’s servants to love and serve Christ
- Lights the way God would have you go

When facing certain death, the Apostle Paul revealed the importance of preaching with this final instruction to Timothy: *“Preach the word; be urgent in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine” (2 Timothy 4:2).*

*Please note if you are physically unable to attend church, watching it on television or online is a wonderful resource. Especially if the church where you are a member streams it’s sermons weekly. This allows you to stay in communion with your church family, learning what they are learning, and growing as they grow

2. To Participate in Corporate Worship

Worshiping God alone is wonderful, but nothing can replace the beauty of coming together corporately to worship Him with others who also have His Spirit in them through the redeeming work of salvation.

Jesus said those who worship must worship in Spirit and in Truth (John 4:24). In order to truly worship God the way He demands requires some soul searching. All too often, people think worship is rooted in *feeling* like they’ve been with God. So they flock to churches that help them muster up those feelings. Sadly, if the church doesn’t continue to create an environment that stirs their emotions, many move on to find another church—or worse yet stop attending altogether.

Realize that worshiping God comes as a response to our humble gratitude for His love for us. Knowing God and His character as revealed in Scripture will stir in His children a heart of thankfulness that is expressed in worship that brings Him glory—rather than a self-serving emotional experience. The Spirit causes true worshipers to long to come together with other believers to honor Christ. If God’s Spirit does not stir in you a desire to worship God both privately and corporately, it’s time to ask Him to show you why.

3. Because Iron Sharpens Iron

That is what Proverbs 27:17 tells us. Meeting regularly with other believers is a source of encouragement and strength. But know this: when iron rubs against iron, not only does it become sharper, it also causes sparks! It’s just part of the process.

Jesus said, *“Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks” (Matthew 12:34)*. When you live in community with other Christians you *will* get bumped. And what spills out of you is what’s in your heart. God uses our interactions with others to show us the areas He would have us repent and turn to reflect more the image of His Son. Working alongside Christians in a church fellowship is a wonderful way to grow your love for God and for others. And it is also God’s way of showing you areas He wants to mature your walk with Christ.

If you’ve stopped attending church because people hurt you, didn’t measure up to your expectations, or are hypocritical, know that the enemy has you right where he wants you. Satan’s tactic is to divide and conquer. If he can pull you from the flock, you are vulnerable to his deceptions and attacks. Satan will use your lack of love for God’s people to quench your love for God.



4. To Exercise Your Gift

From preaching to encouraging, hospitality to administration, God equips His children with gifts to serve Christ. (See 1 Corinthians 12 and Romans 12:6). When a church body is healthy, its members realize they are part of the congregation not only to receive but also to be a blessing.

Statistics reveal that in most churches, 20 percent of the people do 80 percent of the work. This is not to guilt you into “getting involved” at your church, rather it is to inspire you. Imagine, God has supernaturally gifted you so that He can glorify Himself through you as you serve Christ (Ephesians 2:10).

Many see work happening at church and think, *They really don't need me*. Don't be deceived. A well running ministry may appear to have all its bases covered—and it might. But if you look closely you'll discover many individuals who are doing more work than they'd like simply because today, just as in Jesus' day, *“the harvest is truly great but the workers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers...”* (Luke 10:2). Your willingness to minister in your church with what God has gifted you is likely the answer to someone's prayer for God to send more workers to help with the harvest.

5. To Encourage Your Pastor

The pastor's heart of the Apostle Paul comes through when he says, *“I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now... And it is right for me to feel this way about you all for I hold you in my heart”* (see Philippians 1:3-7). Can't you just hear Paul's affection for these precious people who partnered with him in spreading the glorious gospel of grace?

In the same way, when you become a partner in ministry with your pastor you bring joy to his heart, grow his love for you, and cause him to joyfully thank God for your faithful service to Christ.

6. To Find Godly Mentors

In the church you'll discover many people who have walked the road ahead of you. Their wisdom, insights, and even vulnerability to teach you from their mistakes is one way God provides to help you grow. Titus chapter 2 is a great place to learn how much God values mentorship. It is His plan for the older men and women to come alongside of the younger to train them in godliness, and guide them toward building a life of no regrets.

And not only is the church a wonderful place to find amazing mentors, it is also the place God wants to use you to mentor someone else. With one eye looking to godly older women for guidance, and your other eye on who God might want you to mentor, don't be surprised at the opportunities He will give you. *“No eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love Him”* (1 Corinthians 2:9).

7. To Teach Your Kids to Love the Church

If you want to teach your kids to love God, they need to see that you love God. And if you want them to learn to love God's people, they have to observe you loving God's people. Luke 6:40 says the student will become *like* his teacher. Notice Jesus didn't say the student will become as the teacher teaches him to be, rather he will be *like* his teacher. In her book *Caught Not Taught* author Julie Rupp says, “Our children will learn more about faith from watching us live out our own faith journey... than from us telling them about God.”

8. To be a Light to Your Community

Jesus said the world will know we are His disciples by our love for one another, so of course Satan wants to destroy any sense of love and community in the body of Christ. When you commit to loving God and loving others, the light shining from your Christ-honoring love is what the Spirit can use to draw others to know Jesus.

Everyone is looking for acceptance and a place to belong. Whether people admit it or not, they all long to be known and loved for who they are. When God's people commit to fiercely love each other by covering sins with love and readily forgiving each other, their love will be a light that shines brightly in a crooked and perverse generation. Let it begin with you.

9. To Bear Each Other's Burdens

Galatians 6:2 teaches us to bear each other's burdens to fulfill the law of Christ. Life can be hard, right? In a moment everything can change. Just when things are going great, a phone call, diagnosis, or a host of other mishaps can leave you feeling afraid and alone. But to those who are a part of a church family never feel alone. When life is going great, they have the affirmation of others. And when life throws a curve, they're blessed by loving concern, support, and prayer.

My heart goes out to those who we've seen come to church when life is hard and then when their needs are met, they fall away again—only to come back when there's another next disaster. While we are happy to help them, we know the real help they need is a genuine relationship with Jesus and His people. If you're accustomed to only going to church when you have a need, why don't you try going when you're doing okay? Maybe God will use you to be an encouragement to others who are looking for help.

10. Because God Says To

Hebrews 10:25 says, *“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”* I don't think the writer of Hebrews could make any more clear God's desire to have you regularly assemble together with His people. Realize that God wanting you to regularly attend church is for your good. He wants you, and His people, to exhort one another especially as the days grow darker and the time of Christ's return approaches.

Think of the underground church in other countries. I remember one man from China explaining how they had to sing hymns no louder than a whisper for fear they would be discovered. Discovery would mean physical abuse, their children and possessions seized, and imprisonment—yet still they met together. Their story should stir our hearts to see the value and incredible privilege we have to meet openly together to worship God and hear the preaching of the Word.

Oh, that God would capture our hearts in a new and fresh way. I pray His Spirit stirs in us a zeal and commitment to meet together with God's people to praise Him, love others, and shine brightly the hope of Christ to a generation who is desperate to believe that what we say we believe is true—is in fact true.

My Lord God,
I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it
will end.

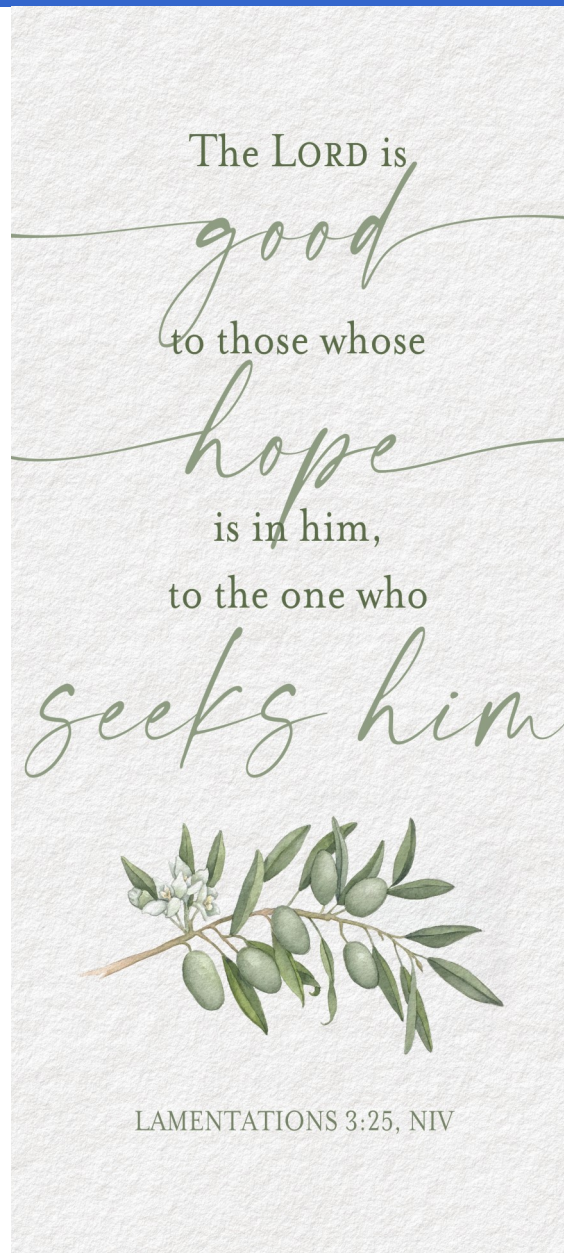
Nor do I really know myself,
and the fact that I think I am
following your will
does not mean that I am
actually doing so.
But I believe that the desire
to please you
does in fact please you.

And I hope I have that desire in all
that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything
apart from that desire.

And I know that if I do this you will
lead me by the right road,
though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore will I trust you
always though
I may seem to be lost and in the
shadow of death.
I will not fear,
for you are ever with me,
and you will never leave me
to face my perils alone.

“The Merton Prayer” from [Thoughts
in Solitude](#)

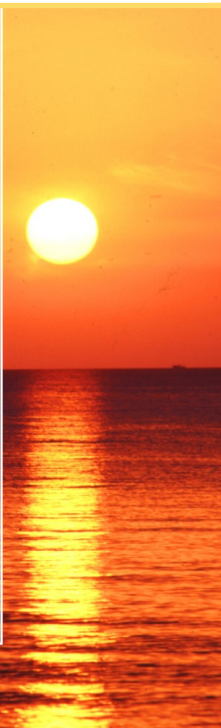


HAPPY
BIRTHDAY

Vincent K.	Oct. 1
Jennifer P.	Oct. 2
Patricia P.	Oct. 3
Odette H.	Oct. 7
Dottie R.	Oct. 11
Kim F.	Oct. 19
Karen N.	Oct. 19
Betty S.	Oct. 28
Tori P.	Oct. 29
Jack S.	Oct. 30

Let us draw
near ... with
a sincere
heart in full
assurance of
faith ... Let
us hold
unswervingly
to the hope
we profess.

Hebrews 10:22-23



Some rabbis say that, at birth, we are each tied to God with a string, and that every time we sin, the string breaks. To those who repent of their sins, especially in the days of Rosh Hashanah, God send the angel Gabriel to make knots in the string, so that the humble and contrite are once again tied to God. Because each one of us fails, because we all lose our way on the path to righteousness from time to time, our strings are full of knots. But, the rabbis like to say, a string with many knots is shorter than one without knots. So the person with many sins but a humble heart is closer to God.

Rachel Held Evans,
A Year of Biblical Womanhood



STUDY GROUP

All Bible studies are held in person as well as continuing on the Zoom platform.

Wednesday
10:30am

Thursday
7:00pm



Board Meeting

Tuesday,
October 12, 2021
At 7:30pm



Louisa Christian Church is excited to offer a variety of Sunday Study groups on Sunday mornings between services. Studies that focus on Christian authors, Bible studies, and Biblical lessons for all ages. Ask Pastor Vincent to help you find a group to join and take some time to grow in knowledge and fellowship.



Service Projects

Men's* Fellowship Group

October 9 ~ Service Project. A service project is planned for October 9th. The group will meet at the church at 9AM. Please let Pastor Vincent know if you can attend this day.

*This group is not exclusively men. Anyone with interest in the activity planned may join the group for the activity, but it is planned by men with the hope of having a time of fellowship.



Outdoor Worship

October Sundays at 9AM
(Contemporary Casual
Worship Service)

Inclement weather will move the service into the LCC Fellowship Hall.

In Person & Online Worship

Sundays at 11 AM

We are meeting safely in the sanctuary for our 11 AM traditional worship service. We invite you to join us.

(Masks please as you move around the sanctuary)

This service is also available online LIVE on Facebook or YouTube.

The service may be viewed anytime. Please subscribe to our YouTube Channel to get reminders about our weekly service.



WORSHIP WITH US In Person & Online