



THE POWER OF c·h·a·n·g·e

THE POWER OF C-H-A-N-G-E Part N – Nurtures Meaningful Relationships Acts 2:42-47

Pastor Mark Hartman
September 5, 2010

I. WE HAVE A SPIRITUAL **FAMILY**.

*John 1:12 (NIV) “...To all who received Christ, to those who believed in His name, He gave the **right** to become children of God.”*

*To be God’s child you have to be **born again**.*

(John 1:12; John 3:5-7)

Ephesians 2:19 “... You are a member of God’s very own family ... and you belong in God’s household with every other Christian.”

Revelation 7:9 (NIV) “After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb (of God).”

II. WHY IS THIS NEW FAMILY **SO IMPORTANT** TO OUR DEEPENING RELATIONSHIP TO GOD?

A. We were never intended to live this Christian life **alone**.

*Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, 12 “Two are better off than one ¹⁰ If one of them falls down, the other can help him up. But if someone is **alone** and falls, it’s just too bad, because there is no one to help him.... ¹² Two men can resist an attack that would defeat one man alone. A rope made of three cords is hard to break.”*

B. We need **encouragement** to grow spiritually.

Hebrews 10:25 "Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage one another..."

C. We need other believers **to sharpen** our lives.

*Proverbs 27:17 "People learn from one another just as iron **sharpens** iron."*

*Titus 2:4-5 (TLB) "These older women must **train** the younger women to live quietly, to love their husbands and their children, ⁵ and to be sensible and clean minded, spending their time in their own homes, being kind and obedient to their husbands so that the Christian faith can't be spoken against by those who know them."*

III. HOW DO WE **NURTURE** OUR SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIPS?

A. We spend **consistent time** together inside and outside this church.

Acts 2:42-47 (NASB) "They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. ⁴⁶ Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved."

B. We unite around God's **common purpose**. (Acts 2:46)

Acts 2:46 "And day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart."

C. We help meet each other's **physical** needs. (Acts 2:44-45)

D. We **carry** each other when we are going through hurtful days.

Galatians 6:2 "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."

