

“Calling People Higher”

Part 2: Increase through Involvement



We grow through making and keeping
commitments.

- *calling people higher*



All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer.—Acts 2:42 (NLT)

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**Where does God
want me to commit
to being present?**



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➤ Weekly worship.

On the first day of the week, we gathered with the local believers to share in the Lord's Supper.—Acts 20:7 (NLT)

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➤ Regular discipleship.

Afterward Jesus went up on a mountain and called out the ones he wanted to go with him. And they came to him. Then he appointed twelve of them and called them his apostles. They were to accompany him....—Mark 3:13-14 (NLT)

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➤ Frequent fellowship.

This is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another.—1 John 3:11 (NIV)

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**How does God want
me to be present?**



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➤ Honestly.

"It's who you are and the way you live that count before God. Your worship must engage your spirit in the pursuit of truth. That's the kind of people the Father is out looking for: those who are simply and honestly themselves before him in their worship. God is sheer being itself—Spirit. Those who worship him must do it out of their very being, their spirits, their true selves, in adoration."—John 4:23-24 (MSG)

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➤ Humbly.

Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker; for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.—Psalm 95:6-7 (NIV)

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➤ Expectantly/Passionately.

One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.—Psalm 27:4 (NIV)

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One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to have dinner with him, so Jesus went to his home and sat down to eat. When a certain immoral woman from that city heard he was eating there, she brought a beautiful alabaster jar filled with expensive perfume. Then she knelt behind him at his feet, weeping. Her tears fell on his feet, and she wiped them off with her hair. Then she

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kept kissing his feet and putting perfume on them.

When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet, he would know what kind of woman is touching him. She’s a sinner!”

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*Then Jesus answered his thoughts.
“Simon,” he said to the Pharisee, “I have
something to say to you.”*

“Go ahead, Teacher,” Simon replied.

*Then Jesus told him this story: “A man
loaned money to two people—500 pieces
of silver to one and 50 pieces to the other.
But neither of them could repay him, so he
kindly forgave them both, canceling their*

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debts. Who do you suppose loved him more after that?"

Simon answered, "I suppose the one for whom he canceled the larger debt."

"That's right," Jesus said. Then he turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Look at this woman kneeling here. When I entered your home, you didn't offer me water to wash the dust from my feet,

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but she has washed them with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You didn't greet me with a kiss, but from the time I first came in, she has not stopped kissing my feet. You neglected the courtesy of olive oil to anoint my head, but she has anointed my feet with rare perfume.

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*“I tell you, her sins—and they are many—
have been forgiven, so she has shown me
much love. But a person who is forgiven
little shows only little love.”—Luke 7:36-47
(NLT)*

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**Why does God care
whether or not I
am present?**



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- Spiritual growth takes place in the soil of relationships.

Jesus went to Nazareth, where he had been raised. On the Sabbath he went to the synagogue as he normally did and stood up to read.—Luke 4:16 (CEB)

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Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage one another all the more, since you see that the Day of the Lord is coming nearer.—Hebrews 10:25 (GNT)

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