

THE VITAL SMALL GROUP—PART ONE

HEBREWS 10:19-25

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: Christians are not separate individualists. Instead, they are all called to belong to a body called the Church. In the smaller communities that make up this body of Christ, it is crucial that the Word of God be faithfully proclaimed. However, it is possible to be lost in community with just a “hello” and maybe not reveal that your home was just destroyed by fire. Or an answer to the question “How are you?” may be “I’m fine.” instead of revealing that you really are struggling and need prayer. This is why small groups within the church are vital; and when fully implemented, no one need be left out. (**Romans 12:4, 5, fn 12:4, 5, I Corinthians 12:12, fn 12:12, Colossians 1:28, 29, fn 1:28, 29**)

EXHORTS ONE ANOTHER to go with confidence into the presence of Jesus and experience the Holy Spirit giving full assurance of faith and a new perfect life in Christ that is free from guilt. (**Hebrews 10:19-22, fn 10:19, fn 10:21, 22, Hebrews 9:12-14, fn 9:12-14, fn 9:14, John 14:15-21, fn 14:15, 16**) *How could daily going into the presence of Jesus with confidence strengthen your relationship with Him and relieve you of guilt?*

STIMULATES ONE ANOTHER to hold fast to their profession of hope so that they can be continuously aware of the love of Christ in them resulting in good deeds. (**Hebrews 10:23, 24, fn 10:22-25, Hebrews 6:18, 19, fn 6:18, 19, Romans 5:1-5, fn 5:2-5, Ephesians 2:8-10, fn 2:8-10**) *What is your profession of hope and how could your group stimulate you to love and good deeds?*

ENCOURAGES ONE ANOTHER. My participation in a small group helps to affirm God’s love for me and gives to all visible representation of the grace of Jesus Christ. It can encourage, guide, protect, warn, and give vision. “It is meant to incarnate the love and grace of Jesus when you feel discouraged and alone.” Paul David Tripp, New Morning Mercies: A Daily Gospel Devotional, July 12. Often when I attend a small group, I experience the joy of the Holy Spirit in a unique way. (**Hebrews 10:25, fn 10:25, Hebrews 3:12-14, Ephesians 4:15, 16, fn 4:15, 16, Ephesians 1:13, 14, fn 1:13, 14, I Peter 1:8, 9**) *How is your participation in a small group of most importance to you?*

As you daily study the truths about Jesus, in what ways is the presence of the Holy Spirit revealing to you God’s majesty and glory?

