



Wholesome Relationships

Genesis 2; Proverbs 13; 1 Peter 4

Big Idea: How to Get Absolute Confidence God is with You.

Bottom Line: One of God's greatest instruments for increasing your faith is other people.

Review:

Imagine what life would be like if you lived with a fuller, more solid faith and trust that God was with you.

Imagine what life would be like if you trusted that God was for you and that His plans for you are perfect.

At the root of every problem we face is a lack of trust in God.

God is committed to building and increasing your faith.

Five Things God Uses to Grow Your Faith:

1. Practical Teaching
2. Wholesome Relationships
3. Personal (spiritual) Disciplines
4. Servant Ministry
5. Challenging Circumstances

Introduction:

God has, deeply within, even to the biological level, created us to have community in relationships.

Many of us have stories that involve people that God placed in our life to point us to Him. Who was it for you?

Truth:

The need for community started all the way back at creation in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:18).

There are very few themes in the Bible that we see highlighted as much as relationships.

Relationships hold significant influence in our life, *both good and bad*.

*“Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise,
but the companion of fools suffer harm.”*

Proverbs 13:20

Our relationships and the people we surround ourselves with will either help us to flourish or to flop. Be sure that your community is helping you to flourish in loving and following Jesus.

Conclusion:

Invest yourself into building godly relationships.

- This requires that you look at these relationships not only as a means by which you can get something, but that you can bring something to.
- **Read 1 Peter 4** and live by it within your believing relationships as a means by which God will be honored.

Keep healthy boundaries with unbelievers.

- Do not allow relationships with unbelievers to pull you away from godliness.
- Establish boundaries in your unbelieving relationships by verbal communication.
- If you cannot keep to these boundaries, let them out of your life in a loving way.

Leverage your gospel-centered relationships for building the Kingdom.

- Many times in Scripture, relationships are viewed as partnerships for Kingdom-advancement.
- Use every believing relationship to bring Heaven down to Earth.

Application & Next Steps:

- Memorize Proverbs 13:20.
- Join into a weekly community group.
- Establish a new friendship with someone within your church family this week.