

Wednesday September 22, 2021

A Call to Persevere in Faith

HEBREWS 10: 24-45 (FOUNDATIONAL VERSUS)

¹⁹ Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

The Household of Faith is Family

1. A Place of Safety

2. A Place to Grow

3. A Place to Belong

1) **Digital Ministry Strategy-** Since Covid, Churches are now realizing the need for a new ministry team with abilities to lead and create digital experiences targeting an online audience. This Reality of Need requires a change in ministry leading churches to consider a change in structure.

2) **Family Ministry-** Growing Churches are recognizing that reaching young adults is critical to the future for any ministry. Vibrant churches are beginning to prioritize ministry to young families. They recognize that environments and experiences for kids (newborn through elementary school) have to be phenomenal. More importantly, churches are trying to equip and partner with parents—parents who are single and those who are married.

We have to realize kids don't drive themselves to church. **So churches desiring to reach kids for Jesus are prioritizing and creating in-person and online experiences that parents want to engage, as well.** This is probably the number one priority of an effective ministry to kids.

3) **Discipleship Pathway-** Churches are having difficulty creating a solid and simple discipleship path to help regular attendees, as well as newcomers, take the next steps in their faith walk with Christ.

Many of our sister churches have an overwhelming **number of programs available, but no cohesive path** that helps people learn which steps to take and when. Those churches that do have a clear track for spiritual formation, often don't include a specific step to encourage relational evangelism. This "core issue" is presently pending and trending.

4) **Outreach Strategy-** The outreach strategy for most traditional churches is involved by serving in the community with the hope people who are being served would take a next step toward Jesus. Or, they are in hopes people would invite their friends to attend a worship service. **We should serve people and we should continue to invite people to church, but now, churches are aware Outreach needs to look much different going forward.**

First, Relational Evangelism Strategy encourages those in the church to reach people in their daily lives. Secondly, Online Engagement Ministries allow connections with people who are outside the church and outside the faith.

5) **Communications-** Church Communication has two challenges: First, churches do not have an intentional communications strategy to connect with the person they are trying to reach. Secondly, most churches indicate there's a communication gap internally with the people who are already a part of the church.