



**G2G25: GATHER
TO GROW**
“The Why &
Way We G2G”
Hebrews 10:19-25
January 12, 2025

The Lord's Declaration in Gathering to Grow

- ✓ **The Lord calls us to grow deep**
2 Peter 1:8 (NLT); 3:18 (NASU); Hebrews 5:11-14 (NLT)
- ✓ **The Lord causes the growth to happen**
1 Corinthians 3:5-9 (NASU)
- ✓ **The Lord designed us to grow together**
Colossians 2:19 (NASU)

My Decision in Gathering to Grow

- ✓ **Put myself in the right place**
Hebrews 10:25 (NCV)
- ✓ **Put myself in the right position** Colossians 2:6-7
(NLT) Vs 7(TLB); Ephesians 3:16-19 (NLT)
- ✓ **Put Myself Around the Right People**
Ephesians 4:15-16 (NLT)

The Depth Gathering to Grow Produces

- ✓ **Healthy Christ followers**

- ✓ **Healthy groups**
- ✓ **Healthy leaders**
- ✓ **A Healthy church**

The Definition of Gathering to Grow

- ✓ **Let us draw near to the Lord Vs 22**
A daily time alone with the Lord
1 Timothy 4:7
- ✓ **Let us hold fast to our hope Vs 23**
Gather weekly in a T Group 2 Timothy 2:2
- ✓ **Let us consider how to motivate each other Vs 24**
Gather weekly in a LifeGroup
- ✓ **Let us not forsake gathering together Vs 25**
Gather weekly in Worship



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2 Peter 1:8 (NLT); 3:18(NASU); Hebrews 5:11-14 (NLT)
- ✓ **The Lord Causes the Growth to Happen** 1 Corinthians 3:5-9 (NASU)
- ✓ **The Lord Desires That We Grow Together** Colossians 2:19 (NASU)

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A Daily Time Alone With the Lord
"Take the time and the trouble to keep yourself spiritually fit."
"Discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness." 1 Timothy 4:7
- ✓ **Let us hold fast to our hope** Vs 23
Gather weekly in a T Group (Transformation) 2 Timothy 2:2
- ✓ **Let us consider how to motivate each other** Vs 24
Gather Weekly in a LifeGroup
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G2G25: GATHER TO GROW

“The Why & Way We G2G”

Hebrews 10:19-25

January 12, 2025

I want to briefly introduce our new 1-year goal/theme for 2025 that your staff has been working on since the fall as we prayed and discussed and talked thru where do we believe the Lord wants to see PFBC go in this coming year. It's called **Gather G2G25** (Good to Go with often say) and that will be the end result but for us it means Gather to Grow and we'll focus on 2 specific things this next year – **the first is to see 2/3's of our Worship attendance involved in a LifeGroup** so for this past year so that would mean we would average over 200 by the time the year is over as our Worship number grows too. We know and believe and are convinced that is a Biblical command that we gather together in small groups of people beyond this larger group setting we call a worship service. We need to be doing life together hence why we call them LifeGroups – it's not just the teaching and learning from God's Word but also the joining of live together, connecting, growing, committing, and going together. Not only that, **we also want to see this year the true beginning of a movement of even smaller groups** – we'll call them **Tgroups – Transformation groups** where deep and authentic transformation can take place with 3-4 people and the prayer and hope is to see at least 25% of our church family involved in these T Groups in disciplinemaking relationships. We're going to lay out the biblical framework for each of these in the coming Sundays and also how practically we want to challenge and equip all of us to be part of this G2G25 focus.

The Lord's Declaration in Gathering to Grow

We all have a tendency to get comfortable, at ease, at rest when things grow and if we are not careful we can let the weeds grow as well and we don't tend to the garden like we once did and the growth will go for a while but it eventually will stop and the weeds can take over and all of sudden we look up and wonder what happened and why we plateaued and now even why we are declining either personally or corporately. For many of this this will be our greatest challenge and the most important one for if we make a commitment to grow deeper then quite frankly the rest of this process will come naturally and be a part of our passion.

✓ **The Lord Calls Us To Grow Deep – To Mature To Grow Up!** (*2 Peter 1:8; 3:18; & Hebrews 5:11-14*)

It is not optional though many in Christendom today think that I don't have to grow, get my fire insurance ticket if that is even a possibility and live like I want to doing my own thing, moral for the most part, showing up to church some, giving some money and that's all that is required. Never what Christ intended. I would say is that how we treat our jobs? Is that how we treat our families? Is that how we treat ourselves? NO way! We are made to grow! The greatest plague in churches today, the measles of the church, the Ebola, whatever you want to call it is believers who are not growing, who don't think it is necessary to grow and that is the real reason why we aren't impacting our culture the way that we once were. There are some who are and it shows, it is reflected in who they are. But many aren't growing deeper. Many of us aren't growing at all, and many are still stuck where you were when you first became a believer or your faith from when you were a teenager. Never what Christ designed for us!

2 Peter 1:8 “The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. NLT

2 Peter 3:18 “8 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.” NASU

Hebrews 5:11-14 “11 There is much more we would like to say about this, but it is difficult to explain, especially since you are spiritually dull and don't seem to listen. 12 You have been believers so long now that you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things about God's word. You are like babies who need milk and cannot eat solid food. 13 For someone who lives on milk is still an infant and doesn't know how to do what is right. 14 Solid food is for those who are mature, who through training have the skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong.” NLT

✓ **The Lord Causes the Growth to Happen** (*1 Cor.3:5-9*)

We understand it is a process and doesn't happen overnight. And I cannot cause the growth to happen – only God can. But I do have a role to play and we will talk about that in just a moment. But understand, you can't make yourself grow nor anybody else.

“5 What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave opportunity to each one. 6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. 7 So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth. 8 Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. 9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.” NASU

✓ **The Lord Desires That We Grow Together (Col.2:19)**

We don't grow on an island. To refer back to last week, we are called to be connected – to be part of that body but not superficially connected, but deeply connected and part of that is not only growing deeper privately but growing together in Christ.

“19 and not holding fast to the head, from whom the entire body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments, grows with a growth which is from God. NASU”

My Decision in Gathering to Grow

✓ **Put Myself in the Right Place (Hebrews 10:25)**

“You should not stay away from the church meetings, as some are doing, but you should meet together and encourage each other. Do this even more as you see the day coming. “ NCV

Bottom line, we have to place a premium on being in the Lord's House with the Lord's people, in a Lifegroup and serving. We have to be here, physically and then deeply connected. It's like saying well I am going to grow this seed, but I am going to leave it on my desk. NO way it grows! Notice, the call as the days draw nearer to the end – we must not forsake meeting together yet that is exactly what is happening in the church in America today and there are tons of stuff that now the church competes with that it once didn't. It's time for Believers to stand up and clearly say, Sunday is the Lord's day!

✓ **Put Myself in the Right Position (Col.2:6-7; Eph.3:16-19)**

The Sun, the Soil, the Showers (Rain), the Temperature
IN order to Grow, our roots must go down deep into. This is where our part comes in. We have to put ourselves in the right position to grow. How deep are your roots this morning. Why so many struggle when the storms of life come and blow we fall over because our roots are shallow.

Yes we want the Lord to grow us wide – meaning we grow numerically but far more important is that we are growing deep.

Col 2:6-7 “6 And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. 7 Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, & you will overflow with thankfulness.” NLT

Col 2:7 Let your roots grow down into him and draw up nourishment from him. See that you go on growing in the Lord, and become strong and vigorous in the truth you were taught. Let your lives overflow with joy and thanksgiving for all he has done. TLB

16 I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. 17 Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. 18 And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. 19 May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.” NLT

✓ **Put Myself Around the Right People** (*Ephesians 4:15-16*) NLT

Our Growth helps others to grow

This is being in a LifeGroup – and again not just attending one but deeply connected to one and even further that we see our people connecting in even smaller groups throughout the month sharing life together and holding each other accountable.

“15 Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. 16 He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love. NLT

The Depth Gathering to Grow produces

✓ **Healthy Christ Followers**

Perhaps this should have been first and the rest flows from this – growing believers are healthy ones because that’s what healthy things do – they grow!

✓ **Healthy Groups**

LifeGroups that are growing, those that are functioning the way they were intended and thus multiplying and taking care of each other.

✓ **Healthy Leaders**

We see more and more leaders rising up and being trained and mentored and taking the roles of leadership and that the leadership doesn't depend on the few but the many.

✓ **A Healthy Church**

Our Growth helps to expand the Kingdom

Think about it – what if most of the people attending this body were growing during the week and they come here – it will lift the roof off of this place. It will mean we will have even a more healthy church and one that can withstand challenges and conflicts, and even have a huge impact on its community.

Let's dive into the **Hebrews** text and notice **4 important things** the author draws out in these verses and he does so by using this same **phrase Let us...** **The Let Us signifies** that these aren't things we are called to do alone but together – we can't grow independently but with each other, with the body of Christ. There is a part we must do as individuals but we are called to do each of these collectively as the body of Christ.

The Definition of Gathering to Grow

✓ **Let us draw near to the Lord Vs 22**

This is where it has to start and end and all the way through and we don't draw near timidly or with hesitation or wondering if we can or if He invites us to but instead in full confidence and assurance that He invites us into His presence because of what Christ did on the cross for you and me.

A Daily Time Alone With the Lord

1 Timothy 4:7 "Take the time and the trouble to keep yourself spiritually fit." "Discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness."

✓ **We Need a Predetermined Time & Place**

✓ **We Need a Path & Plan**

Bible Reading Plan: Straight Through, Chronological,
A Book at a Time

✓ **H.E.A.R.**

- **Scripture** Read your Bible study passage, chapter, etc. The Lord will direct your attention to certain verses or sections. Write down in your journal and focus your study there
- **Observe** What is God showing you in this passage. Jot down in your journal any words or events that stand out. Are there any truths God wants you to learn? Warnings? Commands? Guiding Principles? Record them in your journal. Now what is the overall message God has for you in this passage? Write down what the Lord might be telling you so you can read it later.
- **Apply** Now it's time to get personal. How does this affect your life and how can you apply it? Does God have instruction for you today? Encouragement? Correction? Write down in your journal God's personal message to you?
- **Pray** Prayers is a two way conversation with God. You may find that as you pray over what God has shown you, even praying that passage you were reading. He will reveal even more that he is wanting to show. Be listening and journal your prayers.

Another way to look as your are reading Scripture these are things to do.

Sin to Confess

Promise to Claim

Attitude to Change

Command to Keep

Error to Avoid

Something to Thank God For

✓ **We Need the Right Tools**

Bible (Easy to Read Translation); Journal, Commentary

Devotional Guide, Music

✓ **We Need to Pray** (this includes listening)

✓ **We Need to Memorize Scripture**

✓ **We Need to Learn to Practice the Presence of God**

✓ **Let us hold fast to our hope Vs 23**

We have to make a clear choice here – to daily choose to hold fast to the confession of our hope/faith without wavering – we have to hold onto the Gospel and the hope that it brings and promises – and it's not based on us but on Christ who is faithful to do exactly what He promised.

Gather weekly in a T Group (Transformation) 2 Timothy 2:2

✓ **Let us consider how to motivate each other Vs 24**

The word here how can we motivate, stimulate or one translation says provoke each other to love and to do good deeds/works. **ILLUS: kids provoking each other – or teenager to parent or spouse to spouse** – what if we worked on provoking, challenging, encouraging each other to do the right things, to love deeper and be transformed that is exemplified by the good works that we do. That would be a game changer! Sometimes it means we might have to challenge each other, step on each other's toes to get us where we need to be and we need to be willing to receive that!

Gather Weekly in a LifeGroup

- ✓ **Come Prepared to Learn, Listen, & Share - Prepare if Possible for Your Bible Study**
- ✓ **Take ownership of your group – be a part of the leadership**
- ✓ **Invite Someone to Come With You**
- ✓ **Help to see it grow and multiply**

✓ **Let us not forsake gathering together Vs 25**

This you would think would go without saying, but it doesn't any longer but evidently in the writers day of Hebrews it was a problem then too. The temptation was real and easy and quick to happen where we find ways to justify, rationalize, make excuses, put other things in front of the Biblical command that we have to gather together in worship and in small groups! It's crucial to our growing in our faith. The assault only grows every year with more things added that compete and take the place of being in church on Sundays.

Gather Weekly in Worship

- ✓ **Come Prepared for Worship – Heart and Mind Ready**
- ✓ **Participate in Worship (Sing, Pray, Listen & Respond)**
- ✓ **Use the Message Notes Now & This Week Use Bible App**
- ✓ **Apply the Truths That You Learned**

Our Response: SEE REPOSES QUESTIONS!!

Have you come to the place today where see and understand that you without Christ you have no hope or life and today you want to surrender your life to Jesus? Share the ABC's! Identify with Jesus Be baptized! Identify with His Body Are you a member of a Church home? Without one a Christian is an orphan. Don't just attend step over the line today & join this

family! **Invest in your calling** – to answer God’s call to full time ministry
Identify where is the Lord speaking to me from the message today
PRAY Invitation: “What’s He’s Done”