

# STRENGTHENING YOUR GRIP

## HOW TO BE GROUNDED IN A CHAOTIC WORLD

### STUDY TWO

## Strengthening Your Grip on Involvement

*Acts 2:42–47; Romans 12:9–16; 1 Corinthians 12:20–27*

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*God has placed us in His family and given each of us a certain mixture of gifts that makes us unique. No mixture is insignificant! Nobody else is exactly like we are. And that pleases Him completely, and it should bring us pleasure as well.*

—Pastor Charles R. Swindoll

**F**OR the human body to be healthy, every part must be at work.

The smallest gland controls our circadian rhythms. The shortest bone transmits sound waves to the brain, enabling hearing. Even those organs that seem least significant . . . if infected, they create a medical emergency. And don't forget the happy muscles that pull at our cheeks as we flash a smile! Yes, every part is important and must be involved.

Likewise, each person who belongs to Christ is important and must be involved in Christ's body, the church. Yet, unity and interdependence often prove difficult. While our sanctuaries, fellowship halls, home gatherings, and service groups offer so many opportunities for community, many Christians still lack that sense of belonging, significance, and connection.

For this *Searching the Scriptures* Bible study, we'll explore the meaning of true involvement, why it is essential for each believer, and how each one of us plays a part in God's eternal business.



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## PREPARE YOUR HEART

First and always, pray. Throughout the study, pray. As Pastor Chuck Swindoll reminds us often, “Study without prayer is an incomplete process—a futile effort.”<sup>1</sup> Thank your heavenly Father for the opportunity to study His precious Word and ask Him to open your eyes to see what He has in store for you. Use the space below to express your requests and gratitude to God.



## TURN TO THE SCRIPTURES

*Searching the Scriptures'* mission is to help believers become spiritually self-sustaining by applying the same techniques that Pastor Chuck Swindoll uses every day in his own study.<sup>2</sup> Before you grab your magnifying glass to observe Acts 2:42–47, read the entire chapter of [Acts 2](#) to get the context of the narrative.

The book of Acts records the beginning of the church that Jesus said He was going to build. Acts 2 describes the promised Holy Spirit coming upon the disciples in an upper room in Jerusalem, filling Peter with power to preach the gospel of Jesus, and adding to the disciples' approximately three thousand new converts.

Now, let's step inside this burgeoning community that was unique in history, exceptional in dynamism, and an exemplar of Christian involvement.



## Observation: Christian Community Involvement Portrayed

Carefully and slowly read [Acts 2:42–47](#) in different translations and pay close attention to every word. According to [2:42](#), what four practices marked the early church? Describe what characterized their fellowship according to [2:44–47](#).

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Out of this fertile spiritual soil, the church sprouted, blossomed, and spread from Jerusalem to Rome and beyond. According to *Romans 12:9–16*, what traits did Paul say should flow from the lives of believers within their church communities?

Read aloud *1 Corinthians 12:20–27*. Visualize the body parts and their roles. Think about the involvement of each part. Notice how Paul describes the believers' interactions as voluntary, not forced. What word would you use to describe the first essential component of involvement?

Reread *12:26*. Observe how every part is involved in the hurt and in the flourishing of every other part. What word would you use to describe the second essential component of involvement?

Now look closely at *12:27*. Observe how members ought to be responsible and answerable to each other for their actions. How would you describe the third essential component of involvement?

*Involvement takes spontaneity. It takes vulnerability. It takes accountability. That's what it includes. It means you can't get lost in the shuffle anymore. "You are Christ's body [that means He's your head] and individually members of it" (1 Corinthians 12:27 NASB). As a member of Christ's body, of which He is the head, you are a member with somebody else. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll*

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## Interpretation: Understanding Christian Involvement

To grasp the author’s intended meaning for the original readers, we sometimes need to do a word study, and using Bible-study tools helps. See Pastor Chuck’s *recommended list* of tools at [insight.org](http://insight.org). To better understand the word translated “fellowship” in [Acts 2:42](#), look up the Greek term *koinonia* in your Bible dictionary. An excellent online resource is the Greek dictionary at [billmounce.com](http://billmounce.com). Summarize its meaning below.

*Koinonia* is used 19 times in the New Testament and can be expressed in two ways. First, it means sharing what we have *with* someone, such as food, money, encouragement. Second, it means sharing *in* something with someone who is experiencing a failure, a promotion, a need, or a mutual project.

As we “share with” and “share in,” we have opportunities to display the *koinonia* traits found in [Romans 12:9–16](#)—love for one another, honor to one another, hospitality, and harmony.

But these traits don’t come automatically. According to [Romans 12:1–2](#), we must be transformed into new people. How does God change us?

Reread [Romans 12:9–10](#) in the NIV, Living Bible, and the J. B. Phillips translations and explain the significance of selfless love in our Christian fellowship.

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Recall the three essential components of involvement from our observations of *1 Corinthians 12:20–27*: *spontaneity*, *vulnerability*, and *accountability*. Look up each of these terms in a dictionary and describe their significance in our fellowship.

*God has not made all Christians the same. He never intended to. All of us have our own set of abilities in which we naturally excel. God planned that there would be differences, unique capabilities, and variations in the church. Understanding how God has uniquely gifted each one of us is essential to getting a grip on our involvement in the church. I believe this is as helpful as any truth that believers can ever know, perhaps more. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll*



## **Correlation: Cultivating Christian Involvement**

*Correlation* compares different sections of the Bible to enhance our understanding of a passage and confirm our interpretation. Write below how the world will know that we are Christ's disciples, according to *John 13:34–35*. How do Jesus' words correlate with the truths we learned previously?

Christ commanded us to “love each other,” but how? The “one another” passages (*allelon* in Greek) in the New Testament illustrate the ways we love. We accept one another (*Romans 15:7*), serve one another (*Galatians 5:13*), with humility regard one another as more important than ourselves (*Philippians 2:3*), and encourage and build up one another (*1 Thessalonians 5:11*).

In the book of Acts, Christian fellowship is in full bloom. Compare *Acts 2:42–47* with *Acts 4:32–35*. Pinpoint the *spontaneity* in the involvement of these believers from the two narratives.

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Compare *Acts 2:42–47* with *Acts 11:27–30*. How do you see *vulnerability* in the involvement of the believers in the Jerusalem and Antioch communities.

Compare *Acts 2:42–47* with *Acts 20:33–38*. Write in the space below some of the words that demonstrate how *accountability* characterized the fellowship of these believers, including those who were in leadership.

God didn't adopt us into His family for us to live in isolation. We need each other! Let's find ways we can strengthen our grip on involvement and put into action what we've discovered.

*No healthy body, if it could speak on the part of the head, would say to the feet, "I don't need you." No healthy eye would ever look at the hand and say, "I don't need you." A hand is terribly tough. An eye is terribly tender. I need tough and tender parts of my body to make it healthy, to make it whole. I need the sensitivity of seeing on a face just a flicker of pain. But then my eye is at a loss unless I have a hand to reach out and embrace. We need each other.*

—Pastor Chuck Swindoll



## **Application: Get Involved!**

Involvement at its best is voluntary and never forced, willing and never reluctant. Would you like to be more spontaneous in your service? What are some practical steps you'd like to take toward this kind of freedom in your involvement?

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Involvement is enriched through vulnerability. Does this come easy to you or is it difficult? With whom and in what ways can you be less guarded in your hurts and struggles? How do you think this would help you in your walk with Christ?

How about accountability? Write a couple of ways you'd like to strengthen your grip on accountability today. Are there some promises you need to fulfill? Would it help you if you shared your personal commitments with another who can help you uphold them?

Never doubt your vital importance and unique purpose in the family of God. He has called you. He is using you now and equipping you for further service to build up the body of Christ, His church.



## A FINAL PRAYER

*Father, thank You for initiating the salvation plan. Thank You for Your Son who became man and suffered for us, died in our place, and was raised from the dead so that all who place their faith in Him can become a member of Your family. I was born again into Your family. Help me to understand and embrace what this truly means. Help me obey Your promptings to love and serve others willingly. Help me share my life with others. And may I surround myself with people who will hold me accountable and encourage me to fulfill my purpose on earth. In Jesus' precious name. Amen.*

## ENDNOTES

1. Charles R. Swindoll, *Searching the Scriptures: Find the Nourishment Your Soul Needs* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House, 2016), 128.
2. To learn more about Pastor Chuck Swindoll's *Searching the Scriptures* Bible-study method, go to the web page, "[How Does Pastor Chuck Swindoll Study the Bible?](#)"

For the 2025 broadcasts, this *Searching the Scriptures* Bible study was developed by Mirlenda Noëlliste in collaboration with Bryce Klabunde, vice president of *Searching the Scriptures* Ministries, based upon the original outlines, charts, and transcripts of Charles R. Swindoll's messages. Copyright © 1980, 2025 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc. All rights are reserved worldwide. Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.

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Insight for Living  
Study 2 • Page 7

