



# 7 Ways to Deepen to Your Relationship with God

**Pinnacle**  
community church

*There's nothing as fulfilling and healing as a strong connection with God. When you're close to Him, you can conquer anything. The good times are more joyful, and the bad times don't have to control you. You can live every day with the confidence of knowing you are cherished, loved, and adored.*

### **But how do you get there?**

*Many of us don't know how to develop a strong relationship with God because we can't see Him the way we can see those around us. The good news is that He's always with you, just waiting for you to reach out. By following the seven practices below, you can grow closer to God, embrace the healing He provides, and live a life that makes Him proud.*



# 1 Learn to love and forgive yourself

“See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are! But the people who belong to this world don’t recognize that we are God’s children because they don’t know him.”

*1 John 3:1 (NLT)*

Loving God can feel impossible if you haven’t learned to love yourself. This is something many of us struggle with on a daily basis. We know we’re sinners: that we fail to live up to a life worthy of God’s love. So, we hold it against ourselves. We keep a record of past wrongs, and the voices in our heads remind us that we’ll never be good enough, no matter how hard we try.

But God’s love transcends our mistakes. He sees us for who we truly are: His beloved children. When we learn to see ourselves the way God sees us, we can move past our shortcomings and truly embrace the life He has planned for us.

## **2** Accept God's grace and know that he loves you unconditionally

**"God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago."**

*Ephesians 2:8-10 (NLT)*

It's easy to feel like we don't deserve God's grace. After all, we don't. No amount of service or good deeds can earn God's boundless favor.

Yet, despite our sin, God loves us deeply, fully, and unconditionally. He loves us even when we turn our backs on Him. Because of the nature of our world, this can be difficult to accept. You may feel like an imposter or like you need to earn His love.

But that is far from the truth. God has already given His love to us. All we need to do is accept it.



### **3 Practice love and forgiveness**

“And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, “Which commandment is the most important of all?” Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

*Mark 12:28-31 (ESV)*

Loving and forgiving someone who has harmed you is extremely difficult, but it also heals everyone involved. Think about a time when you were forgiven for a mistake you made. It’s a powerful feeling. When you forgive someone, even when it isn’t deserved, you provide the other person with the opportunity to experience healing. You show them God’s love and remind them that they are more than their failures.

Forgiving also provides you with the chance to heal. When you let go of the bitterness and resentment from being hurt, you gain the space to move on. Forgiveness involves a lot of patience, however. You may have to forgive someone a thousand times before you truly experience its freedom.

## **4** Talk to God every day

**“Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.”**

*Philippians 4:6 (NLT)*

Communication is the key to every successful relationship, and your relationship with God is no different! Talk to him early and often—not only when things are tough, but also when all is as it should be. God is here for you through the chaos and the calm of life.

Prayer is the perfect outlet for talking with God. Many of us make prayer harder than it is, viewing it as a rigid structure or a formula that has to be followed exactly. But it's much more simple than that. All you have to do is be yourself. Tell God about what's on your heart and have an honest conversation. He's ready to listen!

## 5 **Worship God in the way you live your life**

“So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.”

*Romans 12:1-2 (MSG)*

Every relationship has some give and take. Although God's grace and forgiveness are unconditional, we should strive to live a life that pleases Him. Not only does this fill us with joy and peace, but it also helps us look more like Jesus.

We praise God every day in the way we treat others. Every time you encourage, support, or love those around you, you bring glory to God. Practicing the lessons God has taught you gives your relationship with God worth, and it makes navigating the hardships of life a little easier.



## 6

## Find a community where you can grow

“ Let's see how inventive we can be in encouraging love and helping out, not avoiding worshipping together as some do but spurring each other on, especially as we see the big Day approaching.”

*Hebrews 10:24-25 (MSG)*

On our own, we can only grow so much. But, if others walk alongside us on our journey, we can become so much more. Immersing yourself in a community of Jesus followers is a great way to grow your faith and build lasting relationships with others.

Look for a welcoming place where you can belong and have deep, honest conversations about God. Then, get involved! Talk to new visitors, find a group you relate to, and help out where you can.

Another benefit to finding a community where you can grow is that it provides you with the opportunity to lift up others. You can practice loving and encouraging others, all while receiving encouragement yourself.

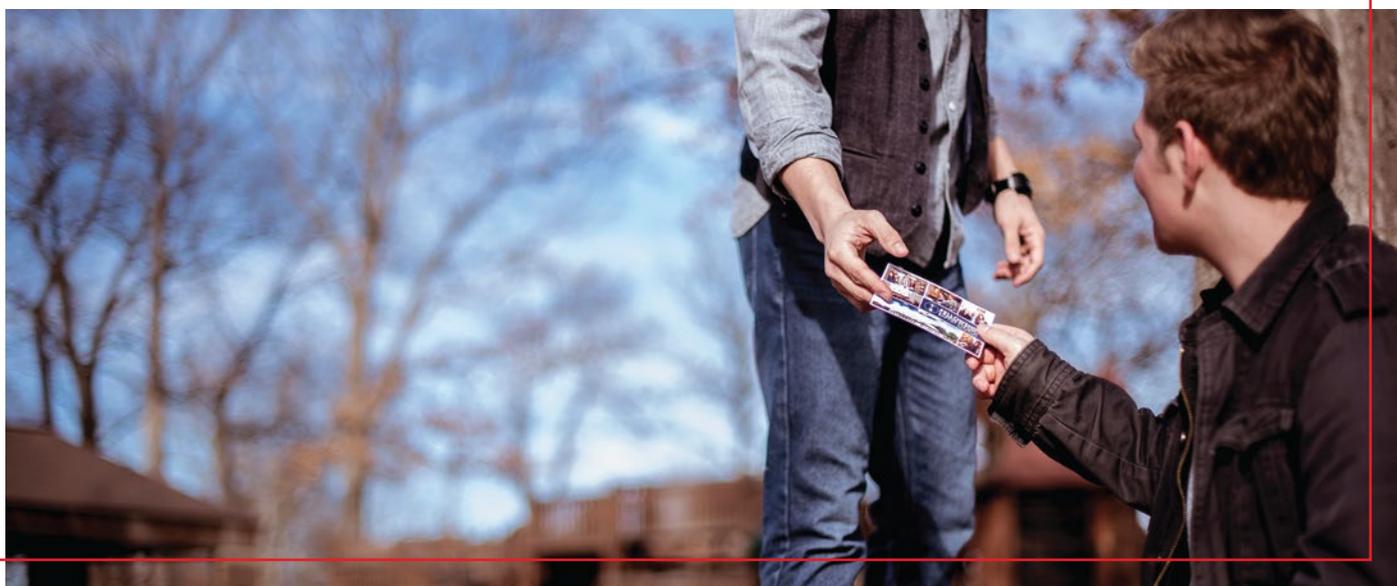
## **7** **Serve others**

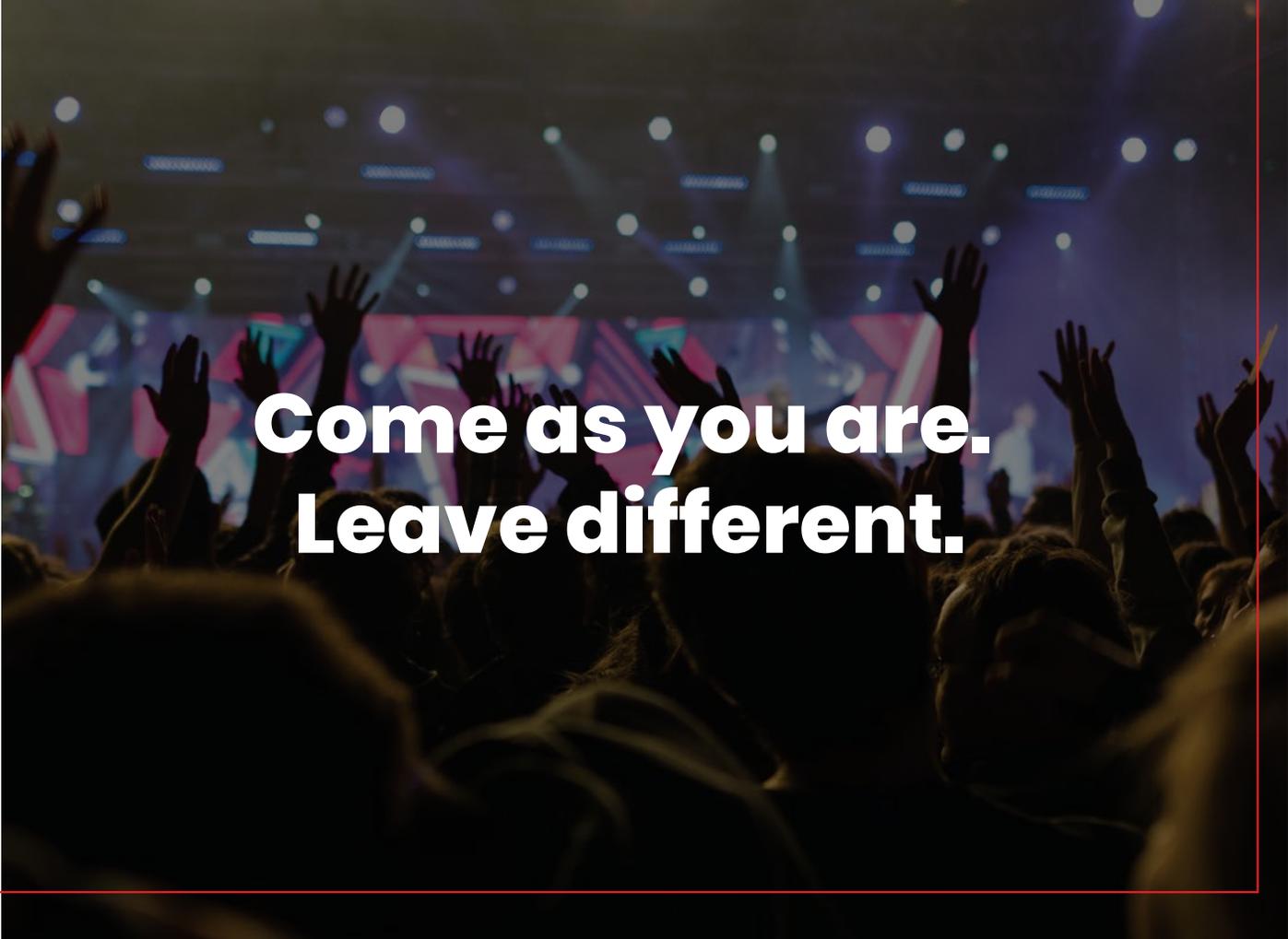
**“But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must become your slave. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.”**

*Matthew 20:26-28 (NLT)*

Serving is a way for us to transcend our limitations. When we serve, we discover how important we are to the wellbeing of others. God has gifted every one of us in such a way that our gift complements the gifts of others.

On that same note, serving others is another great way to deepen your relationship with God. You can support those around you by giving your time and your resources. Provide a helping hand when a neighbor is in need. A listening ear can also go a long way.



A photograph of a church service, showing a large crowd of people with their hands raised in the air. The scene is dimly lit with blue and purple stage lights, creating a vibrant atmosphere. The text "Come as you are. Leave different." is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font in the center of the image.

**Come as you are.  
Leave different.**

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