

Body Ministry Scriptural Foundations by Jim and Lynn McHood: Updated April 8, 2015

Short Overview and Introduction of bible verses that speak about “Body Ministry”. Consider all these verses not just 1 or 2.

Hebrews 10:24-25 ²⁴ **And let us consider one another in order to stir up love** and good works, ²⁵ **not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together**, as *is* the manner of some, **but exhorting one another**, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

First Cor. 14:26 ²⁶ How is it then, brethren? **Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation.** Let all things be done for edification.

Note: A key to considering each other and listening to other believers perspectives on things is if love is stirred up then God, who is love is stirred up in us. It didn't say “to believe” everything but consider other people view so we know where they are coming from.

Ephesians 4:16 ¹⁶ **from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies**, according to the effective working by which **every part does its share**, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

Luke 2: 46- 47 and 52 ⁴⁶ Now so it was *that* after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, **both listening to them and asking them questions**. ⁴⁷ And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers.....
⁵² **And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men**

Note: In Luke 2:46-47 and verse 52 we “see” a picture of “Body Ministry” and how Jesus interacted with other people BOTH listening to them and also asking questions of each other. And, then it say's at the end of the Luke 2 that Jesus increased in wisdom.

Acts 2: 17-18 ¹⁷ ‘And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That **I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy**, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. ¹⁸ And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy.

Note: Body Ministry is key to ensure God receives the glory and not man. Read First Peter 1:10-12 below.

First Peter 1: 10-12 ⁸ And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins. ⁹ *Be* hospitable to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰ **As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another**, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. ¹¹ **If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ**, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever.

Romans 1: 11-12 ¹¹ For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established— ¹² that is, **that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me**.

Note: Body Ministry is about honoring and placing a high value on the spirit in all believers. Read John 17:22-23 below.

John 17:22-23 ²² **And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one:** ²³ I in them, and You in Me; that they **may be made perfect in one**, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

Note: We are called to help “Build People” and help “Equip People” for the work of His ministry, not our ministry.

- **The church IS NOT a building**, believers in Jesus are the temple of the Holy Spirit. The Kingdom of God is within you.
- We want to provide a place at ALL our gatherings for your “voice to be heard” and be able share what God is working out in your life, what God is speaking to you and for anyone “to ask questions” in a safe, sincere, caring and loving Christian environment.
- We want people “to put into practice” being led of the Spirit at our Gatherings, so that being led of the Sprit gets better established after the fellowship is over, to Hear from God in your relationships, work, family and in your daily life situations!
- 5 Fold Ministers are trained facilitators who teach by asking questions and drawing out the silver and gold God has put into people.

Matthew 23: 9-11 ⁹ **Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven.** ¹⁰ **And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ.** ¹¹ **But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant.**

Luke 17: 20-21 ²⁰ Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, “The kingdom of God does not come with observation; ²¹ nor will they say, ‘See here!’ or ‘See there !’ For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.”

Body Ministry A Detailed Biblical Perspective

Jerimiah 31:34. ³⁴ **No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they all shall know Me,** from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”

This verse in Jerimiah 31:34 is also found in Hebrews 8 and again in Hebrews 10 was fulfilled entirely at the cross, yet is not fully manifested at this time here on the earth. During the 1,000 year reign of Christ here on this earth, that verse will be fully implemented.

In Hebrews 10 the Holy Spirit reminds us we now don’t need a Priest for the sacrifice of sins, nor did we ever need a Priest or Pastor to hear from God although some religions have taught that in the past and some still teaching that today.

Hebrews 10 then goes on to say because our High Priest is Jesus “we all” can have boldness in Him and that as “we consider each other” in the context of meeting together we stir up love. If you stir up love then we are stirring up God in each believer.

Hebrews then tells us as we see “The Day Approaching” in terms of His return to earth we should be “considering and exhorting” each other even MORE.

Hebrews 10:24-25 ²⁴ **And let us consider one another in order to stir up love** and good works, ²⁵ **not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together,** as *is* the manner of some, **but exhorting one another,** and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

Lynn and I have been sent to Tennessee to be a Kingdom resource to fulfill these verses in Jerimiah, Hebrews and many other verses.

When God sent Lynn and I to Tennessee last year we learned some things we did not expect. In actuality however, God had planted some seeds long ago that allowed us to see more clearly what He is saying to us today and working out in our lives.

All my natural children are now grown and have their own families. When our kids were growing up, one of the things I wished I would have done more often was to really listen and hear the children. I missed some great opportunities and teachable moments to not say a thing or just ask questions about what they think. The kids would have loved for me to listen and really “hear them.”

God has been the only real Father that Lynn and I have ever known. In my case, my natural Dad was in prison and I was 18 the first time I remember meeting him. My Dad didn’t write or call so we never really know each other at all except for a few things my mom told me about him.

In Lynn case, her father was a good provider and was at home. But, far too often made fun of Lynn and verbally abused her to the point it affected her emotionally and physically.

In some cases, I think a totally absent Dad is a better situation than one who is physically there but devalues others in the home or uses fear or other unhealthy forms of control and manipulation in a family environment.

God reveals Himself to us a Father, Jesus calls Abraham the Father of many nations. God is speaking to us in these verses.

So, after 31 years of knowing God and 30 years in the ministry that included 3 years of Bible College and ministry ordinations from 2 well respected ministries for both Lynn and I....here are a few things God told us to do in Tennessee during 2013 and 2014.

- Go back and re-read and study the entire bible together as a couple to hear His voice and confirm the things He is speaking.
- To minister to Him, to minister to one another and to minister to others He leads us to in our daily life.
- Don’t try to make things happen, rather let His plan unfold as Jesus directs our daily steps.
- To wait for Him to put the people, the place and the process which He wants us to follow to help Build His Kingdom.

Lynn and I see ourselves as Fathers and Mothers in the Kingdom of God as we have many spiritual children too. We always had wanted our kids to want to go to church because they wanted to go on their own rather than us having us demand they go.

So here we are in Tennessee and we want to go to church as we love God and Gods people. We searched for the type of Sunday gathering that practiced more of a “Body Ministry Format”.

Strangely, we both just didn’t feel we had the direction or peace or joy of God to attend church anywhere around here. So we started asking God, what is going on ? We were spending 2 - 5 hours almost daily reading the Word and seeking God together as a couple.

This part could be a really long story. But, the short version of what God showed us is that He wanted us to start a new type of church here that we are now calling a “Body Ministry Fellowship” and to be a resource for training as effective facilitators in Body Ministry.

And, He showed us through many scriptures and things discerned by the Holy Spirit.

One of the mistakes I made about 5-6 years when God first started showing me some things about Body Ministry was I would too often end up being somewhat critical “at times” of other church formats and styles as if I was the only one hearing from God.

Then I came to learn and see came something different through this verse in **Psalm 33: 13-15**. The LORD looks from heaven; **He sees all the sons of men.** ¹⁴From the place of His dwelling He looks On all the inhabitants of the earth; ¹⁵**He fashions their hearts individually; He considers all their works.**

It then dawned on me, that just like our own kids and family receive things differently and learn things differently so too do people in the Kingdom of God receive and learn things differently. We are all not the same, He fashioned our hearts individually.

The other thing that came to mind was how when our kids were younger we taught them in a different way when they were older. I certainly would not try to teach my son Robert who is 40 years old not to cross a busy street or “I would spank Him”.

Lynn and I started seeing patterns in the USA and in Latin America. Prior to Tennessee we have been missionaries for 7 years in Latin America and people there told us... “ We love God and want to gather.” So young teens and 20 – 40 year old type people would gather in coffee bars, restaurants or homes to fellowship in lieu of Sunday or Wednesday church. So now we see things differently.

Many people we know are still receiving and growing and getting a lot of joy, peace and connecting strongly with God at the traditional type of church venues. So if you are called to that format and are growing in Jesus, stay with the more traditional church !

Other people are wanting and needing and being directed by God into more of “Body Ministry Fellowship”. So we now see how God is working through many, many types of situations and venues and formats to build His Kingdom.

For this new season in Tennessee God has directed Lynn and I into starting a “Body Ministry Fellowship” with Leadership Consulting and God will direct and lead His people where they will be planted to grow most effectively for His Kingdom and for His Glory.

We even see a development of partnerships with other ministers and businesses to help train and raise up those who are the called of God to a “Body Ministry Fellowship”. Some churches could have traditional church services with “some” interaction from the people at 9 AM and Body Ministry at 11 AM. People need time to process these things. They aren’t new to God, but to the people they are new and we need to take time to show them in the scriptures why and how “Body Ministry” is a biblical pattern.

So this allows us introduce Body Ministry” more slowly start with a mixture of preaching and teaching combined with Body Ministry as only a small to medium part of the traditional Sunday format. We will continue to be led of the Lord as He directs our steps.

Grace Chapel: Along these lines of helping people “transition” from traditional church venue to “body ministry” we felt we should name the church something that we provide a sense of comfort, relationship and word based teachings. So at the moment we are leaning towards Grace Chapel as the name of the church. Chapel is well known for being in hospitals, prisons, homes or places of business and is generally a word that conveys “small group” prayer and discipleship. The word Grace is so awesome and I could write 5 more pages on that alone but for this purpose, suffice it to say Grace is a word that will help people to connect with what God is doing in and through “Grace Chapel.”

When a church wasn’t a building: As a side note, after the resurrection Christians met in homes and other places and it was 200 - 250 years until someone decided to erect the first “church building”. The original church did not meet in buildings for the first 200-250 years according to well documented church history. And, certainly today we know we are the temple of the Holy Spirit. See First Cor. 3:16 Do you not know that you are the **temple** of God and *that* the **Spirit** of God dwells in you?

Some people have dropped out of traditional type churches because there cry to be “be heard” in a Sunday or Wednesday venue has not been met by those tasked with structuring and developing Kingdom discipleship and church gathering formats.

What is “Body Ministry” ? : So what exactly is a “Body Ministry Fellowship?” Even that varies depending on who and what people are hearing from God.

In our specific case and what the Lord has shown us; we see a Body Ministry Fellowship” as a Gathering of people that will include believers and unbelievers to worship and hear from God through as many who feel led of the Spirit to speak and share in an orderly manner.

The fellowship is led by a trained leader whose role it is to facilitate, ask questions of the people as a means of teaching and to encourage people that they too hear from God and even more than that.... The body needs to hear what they have to say in order to get a more complete picture of what God is saying to us all. More on that point later.

The facilitator of a Body Ministry Fellowship is a servant leader more interested in hearing from others to ”draw out” what the Spirit of the Lord has put into them rather than “telling” about all the fantastic things the Lord has shown them. Though at the proper moments all that wisdom the facilitator has will be drawn upon to clarify, add to or ask questions about something just spoken.

Historically, Jesus asked a lot of questions and the bible tells us that is exactly How Jesus Grew in Wisdom. The Jewish people are well known for asking questions as a means for people to learn. And, in days gone by when a traveler visited a church during a vacation or business trip to another location, many churches were set up to “allow visitors” to speak and share what God is doing.

Luke 2: 46- 47 and 52 ⁴⁶ Now so it was *that* after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, **both listening to them and asking them questions.** ⁴⁷ And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers.....
⁵² **And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.**

Another key thing a facilitator should and will learn quickly is “to not force” the direction of the discussion to “make their own points” be heard. Rather, let the Holy Spirit guide and develop things and let the Spirit flow through people.

A few criticisms of this type of approach is bad doctrine will get introduced and it can get a little messy as things are not in the order people are used to at a church service (prayer, 3 songs, announcements, sermon, offering, call to action) so that can create an uneasy feeling for some folks.

If the facilitator is fairly experienced and trained properly none of that should be a major issue. But, to some people it might be a problem. That is a good time for the facilitator to remind people that we all should be in a fellowship where He leads us.

One example, where “some might” be uncomfortable, is if a person in the fellowship gets too carried away in the spirit and really starts to praise God loudly for quite a long time, then speaks in tongues loudly. If an interpretation does not come forth fairly soon, the facilitator should remind the people that God has a message for the body and He also has provided a “vessel” to flow through and then encourage that person or persons to speak.

If no interpretation comes forth, then explain that if no one does step forth, it does not mean God did not provide. We just need to be bold enough and have courage to allow God to flow through us as He wills. In this way, as people learn to interpret tongues in a gathering of believers, even if everything does not go as one thinks it should, there is still learning and encouragement taking place.

A Body Ministry Fellowship in the way God has shown Lynn and I is a fellowship that is very family friendly, family oriented and is very relational in the structures and venues that serve the fellowship as a whole and individuals too.

A few examples of what we mean by relational structures.

- Round table seating with 8-10 people per table with a co-lead facilitator or co-facilitator couple at each table.
- There are no platforms elevating certain people above others. The music screen can be elevated but not the musicians. And, anyone who has a song is able to share the song as long as it flows with the Spirit.
- The round tables are structured in a u pattern and can easily be moved to another area inside or outside.
- A few living room type sofas and chairs can be used as well. Place in spots where people can see and connect with other.
- The facilitator is guiding the discussion and can use a wide variety of interactive methods to hear spirit led input from others.
- One method we have used with larger groups with 15 tables is for each table to be given a topic or specific verses to study as a table. The co-facilitator leads their table for a 45 minutes interactive discussion. Then the lead meeting facilitator asks 5 of the tables to appoint several people to share for 5-10 minutes what God spoke to them at their table to the entire fellowship. After that the lead facilitator can ask questions of the whole group and provide any comments and or clarifications if required and led by Spirit.

- Another method we have used is to have a panel of 5-6 experienced ministers of the fellowship or outside the fellowship to provide Spirit led input at the end of the interactive discussions. Or, the panel can be available to ask questions of other panel members or by the people in the fellowship or by the lead facilitator.
- In our view of Body Ministry Fellowship and what we feel God is leading us in, is the Fellowship should be distributed and organically grown architecture.

Meaning, as the fellowship grows everyone coming in understands upfront that our goal and vision is NOT to become too large in one location. Rather our vision is to build people and for those feeling led to start their own small Body Ministry Fellowship then a group of “trained people” are sent out with the help of the sending fellowship to start another planting of the Lord as the Lord directs that team of people.

- Spirit led giving and receiving: In the things the Lord has shown Lynn and I we will not take a salary or charge for our services. Even though we have a right in the Lord to do so and have no issues at all with others who are led differently. We feel God has spoken to us to not be a burden on any people and to keep monthly expenses very low so any fellowship funds can be used to help the people of the fellowship (short term) and to use funds for reaching out to others.
- In our view of a healthy Body Ministry Fellowship the 5 fold ministers are facilitators to draw out the silver and gold the Holy Spirit has placed in people already. To teach by asking questions and sharing key points at the right moments as a father does his children. The 5 fold ministers role is to “equip” the fellowship on Sunday and Wednesday so that during the week the fellowship can do the work of the ministry more effectively. Moreover, within each individual Fellowship we believe it is God will for those 5 fold ministers to be developed and recognized within each fellowship.

There is a lot more the Lord has shown us and can be said. For now we’ll stop here and move onto things in the Word the Lord has shown us in both the Old Testament and New Testament about Body Ministry Fellowships.

Biblical Foundations Body Ministry Fellowships (Note; all verses used are shown in NKJV)

Let’s start back at our familiar verse in **Hebrews Chapter 10: 24-25** and drill a little deeper;

Hebrews 10:24-25 ²⁴ **And let us consider one another in order to stir up love** and good works, ²⁵ **not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together**, as is the manner of some, **but exhorting one another**, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

Definition of “consider”: to think or meditate about something or someone carefully, especially in order to make a choice or decision

: to think or mediate about something that is important in understanding something or in making a decision or judgment.

: to think or meditate about a person or a person's feelings before you do something in order to avoid making someone upset, angry..

: to think or mediate about why a person has that particular perspective in a matter, to understand where a person is coming from – to listen and understand the other persons views “before” you try to “**be understood**” from your perspective of things.

2 Timothy 2: 7 ⁷ **Consider what I say**, and **may the Lord give you understanding** in all things.

We all teach that relationship with God is the most important thing. And, it is, that is correct.

In fact, Lynn and I believe the very purpose in our own lives is found in these 12 words... “to know Him so we can fulfill His purposes for our life”. Those 12 powerful words describe the very intent and purpose of our life because as we know Him, He changes us and the real treasure and source in our life is knowing God who guides us, helps us and always wants the very best for us.

We stopped a long time ago trying to change people or convince people of anything. Only the Holy Spirit can change and convince people. So as you read this, it is just our perspective of things in the Kingdom and what we have heard from God for ourselves.

We are not in love with any of our views so if you can by the Spirit show us some things where your perspective is correct and of course biblically based then we all for it. We want to please the Father and be in unity with His plan with His ideas and with His doctrine.... We don’t have anything to share that was not received by God so we are not boasting about anything but Him.

That is why we get so excited about hearing others views of things. It allows us to consider many facets of the Holy Spirit.

One time recently, I talked to a new believer and asked him about some verses I had studied and heard preach on many times. Since I was sincere in hearing from him he became excited about studying the verses I asked him about.

About 15 minutes later he came back and told me what God had shown him. I was blown away with his perspective and it provided a fresh look at some things for me.

I also learned more about him as a person and helped me to see how better to pray for him and his family and how to “connect relationally” with him. I could literally see love being stirred up in that man as I sincerely heard him voice his thoughts. Having seen many things like that for a number of years. One cry of our hearts became how Lord can that happen more often.

How can we reach people on Sunday’s which could be the only time we have an opportunity to stir up love like that.

I remember a time in Nicaragua that we were doing a Pastors conference and we implemented a Body Ministry approach to our ministry with these senior pastors. I will always remember the peace and joy everyone felt. The manifest presence of the Lord was so strong you could hardly walk at times. Then joy burst out from one evangelist who had been preaching for 20 years that had never experienced the goodness and mercy of God such as he did at that moment. He started running and jumping, but it was all so natural, like a child jumping at a family gathering and all the relatives were so pleased and proud the child was jumping and running around.

That Day loved was stirred up in all of us and you know what.... after the Body Ministry meeting, not one person said... wow Jim you had a great message.

Rather, everyone was talking about God and what He said and how good and powerful He is and we all remembered what God spoke that day and it was easy to recall later as a testimony!

God in Genesis, Psalms Isaiah and Malachi considering the ideas and thoughts of man just like Hebrews 10-24-25 establishes.

Genesis 2:19-20 ¹⁹ Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and **brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name.** ²⁰ So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field.... (God was involving Adam in His ministry)

Note: God in the very beginning had in mind to involve man in His work. In Genesis 2:19-20 certainly God could have given the answers to the question of what to name the animals. But, instead God chose to “be still” and let Adam his friend name them. What does that speak to you about the nature of our God !!

Psalms 33 The LORD looks from heaven; **He sees all the sons of men.** ¹⁴ From the place of His dwelling He looks On all the inhabitants of the earth; ¹⁵ He **fashions their hearts individually; He considers all their works.**

Isaiah 1: 18 ¹⁸ “**Come now, and let us reason together,**” Says the LORD, “Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.

Malachi 3:16 ¹⁶ **Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, And the LORD listened and heard them;** So a book of remembrance was written before Him. For those who fear the LORD. And who meditate on His name.

God Desire From the Beginning was For Everyone to Hear His Voice AND To Share That Word To Others

Genesis 22: 18 ¹⁸ In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, **because you have obeyed My voice.**” ¹⁹ So Abraham returned to his young men, and they rose and went together to Beersheba; and Abraham dwelt at Beersheba.

Note: Abraham sowed a seed of hearing from God and that seed reproduces after itself.

Note: God desire in **Deuteronomy 5: 22-27** was to speak directly to ALL the assembly of people, NOT just Moses. But, the people were afraid to hear from God themselves and chose rather to hear what God said through another man (Moses in this case).

Deuteronomy 5: 22-27 ²² “**These words the LORD spoke to all your assembly,** in the mountain from the midst of the fire, the cloud, and the thick darkness, with a loud voice; and He added no more. And He wrote them on two tablets of stone and gave them to me.

Note: The People Afraid of God's Presence

²³“So it was, when you heard the voice from the midst of the darkness, while the mountain was burning with fire, that you came near to me, all the heads of your tribes and your elders. ²⁴And you said: ‘Surely the LORD our God has shown us His glory and His greatness, and we have heard His voice from the midst of the fire. **We have seen this day that God speaks with man; yet he still lives.** ²⁵Now therefore, why should we die? For this great fire will consume us; if we hear the voice of the LORD our God anymore, then we shall die. ²⁶For who *is there* of all flesh who has heard the voice of the living God speaking from the midst of the fire, as we *have*, and lived? ²⁷**You go near and hear all that the LORD our God may say, and tell us all that the LORD our God says to you, and we will hear and do it.**’

Note: So it is still today. Many don't hear from God directly because;

- They feel they are not qualified, but by the Spirit we are all qualified.
- They were taught wrong and told they couldn't hear God too well.
- They choose to hear from God by what others say instead of directly themselves.

Psalm 95: 6-8 Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker. ⁷For He *is* our God, And we *are* the people of His pasture, And the sheep of His hand. **Today, if you will hear His voice:** ⁸“Do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion, As *in* the day of trial in the wilderness.

Important Note: Another way to look at things in Psalm 95:6-8 is this; If a person does NOT want to hear the voice of God for themselves, then to some extent or other that person will have a hardened heart. So if that is true then we really need to encourage one another to hear from God ourselves.

Jeremiah 31: 31-34 ³¹“Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—³²not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day *that* I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. ³³But this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will **put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.** ³⁴**No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they all shall know Me,** from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”

Note: At times people think that Moses, Abraham, David, Joseph, Daniel, Ezekiel or others heard from God better than we can today.

Here is what Jesus said in **Luke 7:28** about John the Baptist AND about believers from starting from John the Baptist until NOW...

Luke 7:28 ²⁸For I say to you, among those born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”

Note: So Jesus tells us that John the Baptist was the very greatest of all the prophets, but believers who are even the least in the Kingdom of God is greater than John the Baptist. And, John heard from God directly himself and followed his purpose and destiny. Note also John the Baptist did not do many signs himself but what John said about Jesus was true. **Read John 10:41-42**

John 10:41-42 ⁴¹Then many came to Him and said, “**John performed no sign**, but all the things that John spoke about this Man were true.” ⁴²And many believed in Him there.

Jesus Our Only Teacher

Matthew 23: 9-11 ⁹Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. ¹⁰And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ. ¹¹But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant.

First Cor. 14:26 ²⁶How is it then, brethren? **Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation.** Let all things be done for edification.

Note: A key to considering each other and listening to other believers perspectives is if love is stirred up then God who is love is stirred up.

God Pours Out His Spirit On All Flesh

Acts 2: 17-18 ¹⁷‘And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That **I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy**, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. ¹⁸And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy.

Body ministry was the key to how Jesus grew in wisdom and stature and favor with God and man... read Luke 2 below.

Luke 2: 46- 47 and 52 ⁴⁶ Now so it was *that* after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, **both listening to them and asking them questions.** ⁴⁷ And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers.....
⁵² **And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men**

Body Ministry is key to ensure God gets the glory and not man. Read First Peter 1:10-12 below.

First Peter 1: 10-12 ⁸ And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins.” ⁹ *Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.* ¹⁰ **As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another,** as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. ¹¹ **If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ,** to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Romans 1: 11-12 ¹¹ For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established— ¹² that is, **that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.**

Important Note: Unity in our view is this: – **We all agree to lay down our own views and align ourselves to what the Holy Spirit is saying individually and collectively to us. Read John 17:20-23 and James 3:17-18 below.**

John 17: 20-23 ²⁰ “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; ²¹ that **they all** may be one, as You, Father, *are* in Me, and I in You; **that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.** ²² **And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one:** ²³ I in them, and You in Me; that they **may be made perfect in one**, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

Important Note; I have asked the Lord many times, how is that all believers “can be one” just like Jesus, God the Father and the Holy Spirit are one ? What the Lord showed me so far, was as true believers “Walk in the Spirit” they are truly one with Jesus. We may have some different perspectives just like the Gospels or Proverbs has different perspectives of what was seen, experienced or shared, so too is a “Body Ministry” format. We can have unity in a diversity of Spirit led thoughts, ideas and applications.

James 3:17 ¹⁷ But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, **willing to yield**, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.

Body Ministry is key for the word of Lord to grow and prevail. Read Acts 19: 18-20 below.

Acts 19:18-20 ¹⁸ And many who had believed **came confessing and telling their deeds.** ¹⁹ Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned *them* in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and *it* totaled fifty thousand *pieces* of silver. ²⁰ **So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.**

Ephesians 4: 11-16 ¹¹ And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² **for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,** ¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴ that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, ¹⁵ but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head— Christ— ¹⁶ **from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies,** according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

Romans 14:19 Therefore let us pursue the things *which make* for peace and **the things by which one may edify another.**

First Thessalonians 5: 5-11 ⁵ **You are all sons of light and sons of the day.** We are not of the night nor of darkness. ⁶ Therefore let us not sleep, as others *do*, but let us watch and be sober. ⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. ⁸ But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and *as* a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹ For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us, that **whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.** ¹¹ **Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.**

Acts 13:15 ¹⁵ And after the reading of the Law and the Prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent to them, saying, “**Men and brethren, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, say on.**”

Acts 15 Read entire chapter of Acts 15 to see how body ministry format was used to resolve dispute about whether a person needed to be circumcised according to Law of Moses in order to be saved.

Note: God wants us to develop a habit established in our heart to consider one another to help us Hear Him – NOT be lazy and let others tell us what God is saying. we NEED to hear on our own ! Read **Proverbs 30:30-34** as it can be applied in multiple ways.

Proverbs 30:30-34 ³⁰ I went by the field of the lazy *man*, And by the vineyard of the man devoid of understanding; ³¹ And there it was, all overgrown with thorns; Its surface was covered with nettles; Its stone wall was broken down. ³² **When I saw it, I considered it well; I looked on it and received instruction:** ³³ A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to rest; ³⁴ So shall your poverty come *like* a prowler, And your need like an armed man.

Psalm 102: 18-22 **This will be written for the generation to come, That a people yet to be created may praise the LORD.** ¹⁹ For He looked down from the height of His sanctuary; From heaven the LORD viewed the earth, ²⁰ To hear the groaning of the prisoner, To release those appointed to death, ²¹ To declare the name of the LORD in Zion, And His praise in Jerusalem, ²² **When the peoples are gathered together, And the kingdoms, to serve the LORD.**

Isaiah 43:9-10 ⁹ Let **all the nations be gathered together**, And **let the people be assembled**. Who among them can declare this, And show us former things? Let them bring out their witnesses, that they may be justified; Or let them hear and say, “*It is truth.*” ¹⁰ “**You are My witnesses,**” says the LORD, “And My servant whom I have chosen, **That you may know and believe Me**, And understand that I *am* He. Before Me there was no God formed, Nor shall there be after Me.

Isaiah 66:18 ¹⁸ “For I *know* their works and their thoughts. **It shall be that I will gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come and see My glory.**

Jerimiah 31:33-34 ³³ But this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: **I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts;** and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ³⁴ **No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they all shall know Me,** from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”

Genesis 11: 4-6 ⁴ And they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top *is* in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.”⁵ But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. ⁶ And the LORD said, “**Indeed the people *are* one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them.**

Hebrews 13: 15-16 ¹⁵ Therefore **by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of *our* lips,** giving thanks to His name. ¹⁶ But **do not forget to do good and to share,** for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

James 5:16 ¹⁶ Confess *your* trespasses **to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.**

Note: In our view of these verses above (Heb. 13 and James 5) mean to share both physically and spiritually and the opportunity should be given on Sundays for people to share if indeed “Body Ministry” is a style people receive of the Spirit more effectively.

Zechariah 8:20-22 ²⁰ “Thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘Peoples shall yet come, Inhabitants of many cities; ²¹ **The inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, ‘Let us continue to go and pray before the LORD, And seek the LORD of hosts. I myself will go also.’** ²² Yes, **many peoples and strong nations Shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem, And to pray before the LORD.**’

Mark 9:49-50 ⁴⁹ “**For everyone will be seasoned with fire,** and every sacrifice will be seasoned with salt. ⁵⁰ Salt *is* good, but if the salt loses its flavor, how will you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace with one another.”

Note: If indeed everyone is truly seasoned with fire, shouldn’t we allow for that fire to be heard or demonstrated in our gatherings ?

Luke 2:15 So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that **the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.’**

John 13: 34-35 ³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you **love one another; as I have loved you,** that you also love one another. ³⁵ By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Jesus said, “**love one another, as I have loved you**”. **Here are a few examples of how Jesus has “loved us” in practical ways.**

Luke 24: 13- 35 The Road to Emmaus ¹³ Now behold, two of them were traveling that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ **And they talked together of all these things which had happened.** ¹⁵ **So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them.** ¹⁶ But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him.

¹⁷ **And He said to them, “What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?”** ¹⁸ Then the one whose name was Cleopas answered and said to Him, “Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days?”

¹⁹ **And He said to them, “What things?”**

So they said to Him, “The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him. ²¹ But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened. ²² Yes, and certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early, astonished us. ²³ When they did not find His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said He was alive. ²⁴ And certain of those *who were* with us went to the tomb and found *it* just as the women had said; but Him they did not see.”

²⁵ Then He said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?” ²⁷ And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

²⁸ Then they drew near to the village where they were going, and He indicated that He would have gone farther. ²⁹ **But they constrained Him, saying, “Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent.” And He went in to stay with them.**

³⁰ Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke *it*, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight.

³² **And they said to one another, “Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?”** ³³ So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those *who were* with them gathered together, ³⁴ saying, “The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵ **And they told about the things that had happened on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of bread.**

Read all of John 21 --- this is after the resurrection and Jesus is giving us a picture of Himself and how important gathering together relationally, serving each other and ministering to each other and involving and considering others and asking questions of others was key to how He reached people effectively. Other examples are below.

John 13: 12-17 ¹² So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, “**Do you know what I have done to you?**” ¹³ **You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am.** ¹⁴ **If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet.** ¹⁵ **For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.** ¹⁶ Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. ¹⁷ **If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.**

Romans 12: 10-11 ¹⁰ **Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;** ¹¹ not lagging in diligence, **fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;**

Romans 14: 19 ¹⁹ Therefore **let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.**

Romans 15: 14 ¹⁴ Now **I myself am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.**

Romans 15:4-7 ⁴ For **whatever things were written before were written for our learning,** that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. ⁵ **Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus,** ⁶ **that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.** ⁷ **Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.**

Romans 15 is saying just like the Old Testament was given our learning (verse 4), be like minded towards each other for learning sake, according to Jesus and for each of us to “receive one another” just as Christ has received us. Loving each other fulfills the law.

If everyone in the body “walks in the Spirit” at a Gathering of believers and people have an opportunity to speak and share many different things and testimonies. Then as we hear all those many different perspectives, then collectively all the spirit led input and contributions from the many will create a more clear picture of what God is wanting to speak to the body as a whole.

God will be glorified because the message did not come just through one man, but many and His presence and the manifestation of the Spirit will be greater from what I am seeing and have experienced. Additionally, if all, are led of the Spirit who speak then indeed it is from one mind and one mouth... the mind and mouth of the Holy Spirit, yet through many voices.

There are many perspectives of what the Spirit is saying to each of us “individually” but the body is edified and built up as we “hear from each other “collectively.” God is glorified through us “individually” and God is glorified through the “body of believers.” Many people may speak vastly different things but it is with one mind and one Spirit.

First Corinthians 12: 7-11 ⁷ But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: ⁸ for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another *different* kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ **But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.**

First Corinthians 12: 20-25 ²⁰ But now indeed *there are* many members, yet one body. ²¹ And the eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you”; nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²² **No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary.** ²³ And those *members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor*; and our unpresentable *parts* have greater modesty, ²⁴ but our presentable *parts* have no need. **But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it,** ²⁵ that there should be no schism in the body, but *that the members should have the same care for one another.*

Galatians 5:13-16 ¹³ For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not *use* liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, **but through love serve one another.** ¹⁴ For all the law is fulfilled in one word, *even* in this: “**You shall love your neighbor as yourself.**” ¹⁵ But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!

¹⁶ **I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.**

First Thessalonians 5: 9-15 ⁹ For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, **we should live together with Him.** ¹¹ **Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.**

¹² And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, ¹³ and to esteem them very highly in love for their work’s sake. Be at peace among yourselves. ¹⁴ Now we exhort you, brethren, **warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all.** ¹⁵ See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, **but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all.**

First Peter 3:8 ⁸ Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers; **be tenderhearted; be courteous.**

Philippians 2: 1-4 Therefore if *there is* any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, **if any fellowship of the Spirit,** if any affection and mercy, ² fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind. ³ **Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.** ⁴ Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

Colossians 3:16-17 ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, **teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.** ¹⁷ And whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

First Thessalonians 4:9 ⁹ But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, **for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another;**

2 Timothy 2: 24-25 ²⁴ And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be **gentle to all, able to teach, patient,** ²⁵ **in humility correcting those who are in opposition,** if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,

Summary of Body Ministry

I have been alluding to the belief that we need to hear from others in order to get the full picture of what God is really saying to us.

For example, let's say God revealed to someone they were a jet engine. Did they hear from God? Sure they did, but instead of waiting they get excited and show off the power of that engine. Pretty cool.

But, what if God really had in mind was for the engine to partner with other parts of the aircraft and become a plane that can fly and take people to safety or to experience new travels.

Lynn and I believe it works in our marriage a similar way. God in His wisdom shows Lynn certain things He does not show me at all or not as clearly. So unless we really communicate at a deep level and hear what each of us are hearing from God we will be missing out on the fullness that God had intend for us. We have many practical examples of that.

So rather than Lynn view or mine to be conflicting... rather they are complementary and both views led by the Spirit need to be considered for the depth of what God is speaking to us a couple.

Want another example ... ? Consider this: There are 66 books in the bible, thousands of individual verses and hundreds of chapters. Yet, to get the fullness and correct meaning of God is really saying to us .. then we need "to consider" by the Spirit every word and thought from Genesis to Revelation by ALL the authors of the bible, not just a select few.

So we have to consider Moses, Abraham, Job, David, Solomon, Daniel, Jerimiah, Peter, James, Paul, John, Jesus and others. How much more do we need to value and honor the Spirit of the living God in "every believer".

The word DOES NOT say to believe everything that a pastor or friend or parent say's, but rather consider things you feel are of the Spirit and then decide on your own what the Spirit is saying to you !

2 Timothy 2: 7 ⁷ Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things.

Acts 17:11 ¹¹ These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to *find out* whether these things were so.

Note: Paul and Silas taught at Berea and the bible say's they "came ready" and they were a people more "fair minded" or noble because **after** they heard Paul and Silas the Bereans searched the scriptures daily to find out if it was true or not.

In another example of how I have benefitted from "Body Ministry" I have seen situations where God mightily used someone else view that I disagreed with, to help me get a correct view of things and for Gods direction in my own life.

What happened was a person I really respected their spiritual views was telling me about how "they did things in the past" and it turned out to be a great spiritual success. Upon hearing that I became a little conflicted because it was not what I had felt God spoke to me in terms of approach in this situation. So I just went to the Lord and asked Him about it.

God told me, that was a test. Are you looking to hear the voice of a man or from Me ? What I told your friend worked for him because that is what I told him. "For you I have different things in mind." So that really helped me.

In other situations we will hear, consider and do what others say, but it must first be in agreement with what BOTH Lynn and I hear the Spirit is saying to us as a couple and that it is confirmed biblically as well as we search daily to hear by the Spirit.

The only effective "Spiritual Model" I know of is "help me Lord" in the what, the where, with whom and the timing because the way we have done things in the past was for that time and season. If we follow a "model" why do we need "hear from God"?

Each new Spirit led venture is totally different and though we can certainly take what we have learned from the past we can NOT substitute our past experiences to take the place of Hearing from God for this present day and time.

So what is the Spirit saying to you today?

If you are reading this and saying "No Way"... then listen to your heart and follow God in the way He is showing you.

If you are reading this and think, some of this sounds as if it could be from God, then ask Jesus how it might be applied in your own life or ministry. Maybe try a few practice Body Ministry meetings with your church leadership or family and ask them for their input.

Coffee Anyone ?

Call our ministry at 931-209 – 9836 or email Jim@kingdomtransitions.com and ask for Jim and Lynn to schedule a cup of coffee or phone discussion. We'd love to hear what the Spirit is saying to you at this time and would love to share more or to help in ways you might feel the Lord is leading you.

Perhaps some of our ministry vision intersects your vision in some ways. If so let's talk more as this is just a brief summary.

Visit www.kingdomtransitions.com to get a full ministry bio and our references at our local church in Colorado and our Bible College.

The Lord spoke to me in Bible College that He wanted our fruit to remain and produce. We know what God has spoken to us will not be received by all as God may have spoken differently to you. We all should be focused on what the Spirit is saying and follow that.

Many people learn differently and receive differently by the Spirit, so what we hear from God will NOT be for everyone.

But, for us and others.... a Body Ministry Fellowship is needed for what God has planned and purposed for our lives.

So we are simply trying to be divinely connected with people who are hearing something similar by the Spirit of our Lord.

Jim and Lynn have been married for 38 years and both are graduates of Charis Bible College an Andrew Wommack Ministry. We are both ordained ministers with several well-known ministries. We also have Christian several mentors and a ministry board of seasoned ministers who speak into our lives personally and professionally.

Please comment or provide feedback as we'd love to hear your perspective on all or parts of this!

With Love... Jim and Lynn McHood