

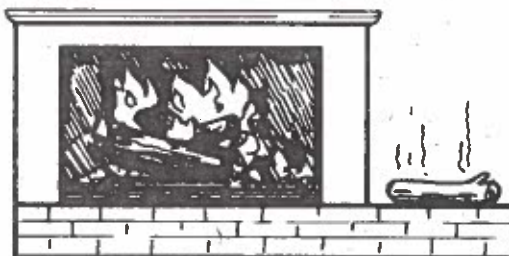
Horizontal relationship

Growth in Christ also depends on developing your relationship with people.

As with your vertical relationship with God, developing your horizontal relationship with people involves communication. You communicate with Christians in “fellowship.” You communicate your faith in Christ with non-Christians through “witnessing.”

Fellowship

You will greatly benefit by spending time with other Christians in fellowship — encouraging and building up one another.



Several logs burn brightly together; but put one aside, and the flame will die out. So it is with your relationship to other Christians.

Read Hebrews 10:24,25. *Why is it important for you to spend time with other Christians?*

Read Acts 2:46,47. *Where can you find supportive Christian fellowship on a consistent basis?*

God created us so that apart from Christian fellowship, we cannot grow to Christian maturity. We need to share our Christian experience with others who love God and walk with Him, and likewise allow them to share with us.

God has designed the local church to be the principal means of providing Christian fellowship and teaching from God’s Word. Bible studies and other Christian meetings are also extremely helpful.

Witnessing

You will grow in Christ as you tell others about Him. The term “witnessing” can have a negative meaning to some. It simply means sharing with someone about your relationship with Christ and how he or she can also know Him.

Read Acts 4:12. *What would motivate you to share with another person about Christ?*

Who would you like to tell about what Christ has done in your life?



SUMMARY

God wants you to grow in your love relationship with Him. These four avenues of communication will enable you to build both your relationship with God and Christ-centered relationships with people. The result will be growth toward spiritual maturity.