

Dear Janet,

Thank you for writing us at Christian Questions Radio. You said that you have not felt like going to church because when you do you “ALWAYS feel guilty about everything.” You mentioned that you were unable to “get the tongues.” You said that since you stopped going to church you feel better and are more forgiving and accepting of others. However, you also said you lost your “craving” to read and study the word of God. You wondered if Satan was tempting you, since you feel better and more forgiving of others since you are not attending church services.

The word “church” according to Strong's Concordance means “a calling out” or “a community of members on earth or saints in heaven or both.” Meeting together with other Christians to study the word of God is a great privilege. When we assemble together we not only learn from each other but we also support and encourage one another as we build up each other in our most precious faith. The Apostle Paul admonishes us to “consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds” and not “give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another.” (Hebrews 10:24-25) Our Lord Jesus said, “For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.” (Matthew 18:20)

Christians are often referred to as “the body of Christ.” Just as the human body is made up of many parts, so is Christ's spiritual body. Because each body part is needed and has a specific function, “there should be no division in the body, but its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is part of it.” (1 Corinthians 12:25-27) Meeting on a regular basis with our brethren helps us understand and appreciate the very different and needed personalities that make up the body of Christ while at the same time it gives us the opportunity to build character through patience. Meeting together also keeps us from getting lax and losing our zeal for the Lord and his Truth.

You must ask yourself if the “church” you have been attending is fulfilling the scriptural standard mentioned above. If it is not, you have an obligation as a Christian to diligently seek the truth by studying the word of God as you humbly pray for guidance in your quest to find a gathering place of Christians with like minds. If you would like to find Bible study groups, we can certainly assist you. Please let us know if that is your desire.

By the way, you mentioned that you were unable to “get the tongues.” We believe that the gift of tongues was necessary to get the early church started, but is no longer needed today since the Bible has been printed in practically every language and has been distributed throughout the world. Perhaps speaking in tongues is just an emotional reaction or perhaps Satan is the deceiver. We are told that Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14). Whatever the source, we believe

that the scriptures are clear that speaking in tongues is not a “miracle” that is from God today. For more information on speaking in tongues, go to our website, www.christianquestions.net and click archived programs, March 19, 2006, #392, “Should Christians Speak in Tongues?”

Should we gather together with fellow Christians to study God's word and encourage each other? Most definitely we should. We hope we have answered your question. Be sure to sign up for CQ Rewind at www.christianquestions.net. The service is free without obligation and will provide you with scriptural perspective on many questions and topics.

Sincerely,

Christian Questions Radio