

Why do we stay away when we get discouraged?

- a) We are embarrassed because our faith isn't working as well as we think it should
- b) We are ashamed because we're still struggling with certain problems
- c) We are depressed because it looks like everyone else is succeeding but us?

Don't let discouragement keep you away from your spiritual family!

You need their love and support, to hear them say, 'We made it, and by God's grace you can too!'

Listen: 'Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is..: This word 'forsaking' is taken from three Greek words which could be translated 'out: 'down: and 'behind: They describe someone who feels left out, spiritually and emotionally down, and far behind everyone else. The moment you feel like that the enemy whispers, 'Just stay home from church today, you don't need to go down there with all those good people:

Understand this: if you can isolate yourself from other believers at the very time when you need them most, you can be robbed of God's blessing! Sure you can stay home, read your Bible, turn on Christian radio and television, but surrounded by your spiritual family you'll get answers, experience joy, and receive encouragement you can't find anywhere else. Church is the last place the enemy wants you to go when you're feeling low. If you go, you'll be touched by the presence of the Lord and be able to crawl out of the hole you are making for yourself.

Taken from *The Word for Today* Summer 2005, UCB, Westport Road, Stoke on Trent, ST6 4JF.
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