# **Christian Community**

The body of Christ is continually growing up into Christ’s likeness. This begins with each member of the Church participating in their personal sanctification journey and then supporting other members of the body of Christ. Prayer is a transformational method to receiving and applying the Word of God in our lives and in the lives of others. We’ve been practicing personal prayer, but today, we’re focusing on how to pray for others. First, let’s consider what Scripture says about Christian community.

Galatians 6:1-2

*“1 Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; [each one] looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. 2 Bear one another’s burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.”*

1 Corinthians 1:10

*“Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.”*

James 5:16

*“Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.”*

1 John 1:7

*“but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.”*

1 Thess 5:14-19

*“14 We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone. 15 See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people. 16 Rejoice always; 17 pray without ceasing; 18 in everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus. 19 Do not quench the Spirit;”*

Colossians 3:12-14

*“12 So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. 14 Beyond all these things [put on] love, which is the perfect bond of unity.”*

Proverbs 27:17

*“Iron sharpens iron, So one man sharpens another.”*

Matthew 18:20

*“For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst.”*

Romans 12:4-5

*“4 For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”*

Hebrews 10:23-25

*“23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; 24 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, 25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging [one another;] and all the more as you see the day drawing near.”*

1 Corinthians 12:24-27

*“24 whereas our more presentable members have no need [of it.] But God has [so] composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that [member] which lacked, 25 so that there may be no division in the body, but [that] the members may have the same care for one another. 26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if [one] member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. 27 Now you are Christ’s body, and individually members of it.”*

Christian community and fellowship are critical for the body of Christ to be healthy. Unity is something only achieved through God’s Spirit. Significant growth and maturity happen in the communal context, which is why it is important for this group to connect deeply with one another.