

# Rise Up And Build

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*"So They said, 'Let us rise up and build,' Then they set their hands to do this good work," Neh. 2:18*

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May 29, 2022  
**When You Are Unable  
To Assemble**

Attendance-wise, the goal for every congregation should be 100 percent of all members present for every worship service. In view of the fact that God is the **Object** of our worship (John 4:24), the word of God is the **message** preached (Acts 2:42; 20:7; 2 Tim. 4:2), and growth in the divine likeness (2 Peter 1:4-7; 2 Cor. 3:18) is the **effect** of our worship, one would naturally expect every devout Christian to make a determined effort to be present for every Bible study and worship assembly of the local church. However, being practical, we are aware that members of the local church do become ill, and on occasion must be out of town, or circumstances may necessitate that they be on the job. But when faithful Christians, for reasons beyond their control, are hindered from being in their place of worship with the local church, they should notify others of their where-a-bouts. If they do otherwise, then fellow saints are left wondering: (a) "Is bro. (or sister) so and so ill?," (b) "Did bro. (or sister) so and so have an accident on the way to worship?" Or © "is he, or she, missing because of a lack of spiritual interest?"

At any rate, being members of the body of Christ, we "*should have the same care for one another*" (I Cor. 12:25). We **are** our "*brother's keeper*" (cf. Gen. 4:9), and we should be both conscientiously and biblically compelled, when a brother is "*overtaken in any trespass,*" to "*restore such a one in the spirit of gentleness...*" (Gal. 6:1). And one of the earliest and surest signs of personal apostasy is evidenced when a member of the church, for no good reason and with no explanation, begins to miss the various assemblies of the church. It **is** cause for concern!

Dear brother or sister in Christ, please resolve: (a) To never miss the services of the local church when you are physically able to attend, and (b) To notify a responsible person in the local church when you are not able to assemble. In so doing, you are acting in your own best interest, and you are showing due consideration to your brothers and sisters in Christ — people who **do** care for both our physical and spiritual well being.

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—by Bobby Witherington

*"And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking*

*of bread, and in prayers,” Acts 2:42.*

*“Now on the first day of the week, when **the disciples came together** to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day spoke to them and continued his speech until midnight,” Acts 20:7.*

*“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works. **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. For if we sin willfully after we have received a knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,” Hebrews 10:23-26.*