

Rhythms - Belong

spiritual disciplines - "an ordered way of acting and living that sets us before God so he can transform us" (Richard Foster. Celebration of Discipline.)

The Lord said to Moses, "Give the following instructions to the people of Israel. These are the Lord's appointed festivals, which you are to proclaim as official days for holy assembly. "You have six days each week for your ordinary work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath day of complete rest, an official day for holy assembly. It is the Lord's Sabbath day, and it must be observed wherever you live. In addition to the Sabbath, these are the Lord's appointed festivals, the official days for holy assembly that are to be celebrated at their proper times each year." Leviticus 23:1-4

- Daily offerings
- Weekly observance of the Sabbath
- Monthly offerings
- Yearly feasts and festivals
- Every 7th year the land had to observe a Sabbath year of rest
- Every 50 years - a year of Jubilee

The old system under the law of Moses was only a shadow, a dim preview of the good things to come, not the good things themselves. Hebrews 10:1a

...did not want animal sacrifices or sin offerings or burnt offerings or other offerings for sin, nor [was he] pleased with them (though they are required by the law of Moses). Hebrews 10:8

...for us to be made holy by the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all time. Hebrews 10:10

And when sins have been forgiven, there is no need to offer any more sacrifices. And so, dear brothers and sisters, we can boldly enter heaven's Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus...let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him. Hebrews 10:18-19,22a

Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near. Hebrews 10:24-25

The rhythm of holy assembly cannot be played as a solo.

We need a place to BELONG.

- It honors God

“The Lord said to Moses, ‘Give these instructions to the people of Israel: The offerings you present as special gifts are a pleasing aroma to me; they are my food. See to it that they are brought at the appointed times and offered according to my instructions.’” Numbers 28:1-2

- It provides mutual encouragement
- It demonstrates a living hope

The rhythm of holy assembly cannot be played as a solo.

“Dallas Willard states, ‘The aim of God in history is the creation of an all-inclusive community of loving persons, with Himself included in that community as its prime sustainer and most glorious inhabitant.’ Such a community lives under the immediate and total rulership of the Holy Spirit. They are ... a compassionate community embodying the law of love as seen in Jesus Christ. ... They are ... a community in the process of total transformation from the inside out, a people determined to live out the demands of the gospel in a secular world. They are tenderly aggressive, meekly powerful, suffering, and overcoming. Such a community ... constitutes a new gathering of the people of God.” (Richard Foster. Celebration of Discipline.)