

# Wings

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*“Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles.”  
Isaiah 40:31*



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## Why Should I Go to Church?

People go to church every Sunday—or not—for a myriad of reasons. But there is really only one legitimate reason for going to church. Without it, church is meaningless.

“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” (Heb. 10:24-25).

Every Sunday morning, millions of people who believe in God and the Bible choose not to go to church. Millions of others go to church, but for reasons that are dubious at best. Both groups operate from misconceptions about the purpose of church attendance. Let’s consider some of those misconceptions.

*We do not go to church because God commanded it.* Obviously, God wants us to go to church; our opening text clearly indicates that. But doing something only because we’re complying with an order usually results in service that is half-hearted at best. If we force our body to sit in church out of a cold sense of duty, while our heart is elsewhere, we’re wasting our time. Don’t bother coming.

*We do not go to church to glorify God.* God does not need our worship. He is neither uplifted when we attend, nor

diminished when we don’t. The fact that a group of people sit in pews and listen to a sermon once a week doesn’t prove anything one way or the other about God. Going to church is not about God; it’s about us.

*We do not go to church to keep from going to hell.* We are all doomed to hell already, for a lot of other reasons that have nothing to do with church: lust, anger, pride, selfishness, gossip, greed, hateful words, sloth, lying, stealing—but not for skipping church. If we go to church to score points with God and earn our way into heaven, we’ll be bitterly disappointed some day.

So why should we go to church? Because church is where we go to learn how to deal with all those things that *will* send us to hell. Church is a school for learning how to make right decisions in life, a counseling service that helps us unravel the twisted mistakes we’ve made and get back on the right track. It is a clinic for the spiritually sick, a spa to rejuvenate tired and battered souls. Church is a refuge from all the ugliness that intrudes upon our lives day after

day, a place where we can draw strength from others who are fighting the same battles. In a world that seems designed to beat us down and drag us into the gutter, church is the one place we can go to get the encouragement we need to press on in our struggle against sin.

“But,” someone might object, “I can fight this battle on my own. I don’t need the help of others. I don’t need church.” Let’s assume for sake of discussion that you’re so independently strong that you don’t need the help of others. If so, then you have a rare gift: a self-sustaining inner strength. If you really don’t need church, then at least acknowledge that *others need you*. It would be the height of selfishness not to use your amazing strength to help others who are not so fortunate. Oh, and did I mention that *selfishness* is one of those sins that will send us to hell? Maybe your spirituality is not as advanced as you thought; maybe you do need church after all.

The writer of Hebrews summarized it well: we go to church to “stir up” and “exhort” one another. Goodness knows we all need it.

– David King