

NEW COVENANT CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

SERMON NOTES

January 14, 2024

Pastor Billy Johnson

Connecting With People I Thessalonians 1:1-7

“If we are to become all that God has purposed for us, we need people.” – Pastor Billy Johnson.

The devil will do whatever he can to destroy relationships; to destroy the relationship with the person you need the most.

As we continue the series of *Posturing for Growth*, we must: Commune with God, Connect with People, and Commit to the Process. Today's focus is *Part II: Connecting with People*.

So that we may Posture for Growth, ***what kind of people do we need to connect with?***

Connect With People Who Will Intercede For Us (I Thessalonians 1:2)

To intercede means to take the place of another, and hear what that person has need of. It means to relate to someone at a deeper level and have the concerns of their heart. When one intercedes for you, they pray for you and cover you at a deeper level, asking for your needs on your behalf. *Who will intercede and pray on your behalf?*

“I am a rich man, because I have people praying for me.” – Pastor Billy R. Johnson.

Connect With People Who Will Introduce You To Christ (I Thessalonians 1:5)

When you have known the needs of another, and interceded and prayed for them, now it is time to introduce them to Christ. Your intercession will give you a heart for that person, giving the opportunity to make the introduction to Christ.

“There is warfare over souls.” – Pastor Billy R. Johnson. (II Corinthians 4:3-5)

When we begin ministering the gospel, a war ensues. When the Word goes forth, its power penetrates darkness, lies and strongholds. As we intercede and put forth the Word, making the introduction to Christ is a necessary step for the battles that lie ahead. **(Romans 10:14,17)**

Connect With People We Can Imitate (I Thessalonians 1:6)

We need people (who are following Christ) we can imitate. A model or pattern of behavior that sets an example for us to follow. God sets us in relationships with people so that we may *be* the pattern for others, or follow those who are following Christ. **(I Timothy 4:12)**

“Some of us are to be a pattern...” – Pastor Billy Johnson

Connect With People Who Will Instruct Us (I Thessalonians 4:1)

We need to know how to live in a manner that is pleasing to God. For there are those things that are not permissible. In the scripture, Paul said he may not always be there to instruct you; therefore your heart must be open to receive instruction from others.

“If He can’t have all of me, He can’t save any of me.” – Pastor Billy Johnson