**Here, Not Here**  
  
Do teachers take attendance to find out who is in class or not in class? When I was growing up the teacher would call out the names; and like it or not we would have to shout out "HERE"! Eventually, the teachers would let us shout out "NOT HERE" if we knew someone was not in the class that day.   
  
Does it make sense to stay home on Sundays? Satan will try to convince us each and every Sunday morning that it would be the best decision. You see we do have physical needs of rest and probably a really long of things we need to get done. But it doesn't make sense for your spiritual and emotional well-being. We need to take care of our spiritual needs and that is not something that can be picked up at the grocery store or dry cleaners. The reason I know? That was me! As a single mom, I took a Sunday to do just that. By Tuesday, I was so depleted spiritually and emotionally I was a wreck!  
  
I usually didn't hit that low place...so, it took some contemplation to figure out what happened? It was in that moment though that I realized what it was. I had missed out! I missed out on the time that we all set aside to be together at church on Sundays. Was it worth it? Not at all...at that moment I realized how much I needed to be in biblical community and actually they needed me too!  
  
God knew we would need church and that is why He established it the way He did! The writer of Hebrews gave a call to persevere and one that is very relevant for right now! Read Hebrews chapter 10: 22-25:

22let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. 23Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. 24And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

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