

A close-up photograph of an olive branch with several green olives. The leaves are elongated and have a silvery-green hue. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light green. A dark green rectangular box is overlaid on the lower left portion of the image, containing the text "Collaborating with Jesus" in white serif font.

# Collaborating with Jesus



## Collaborating with Jesus

Collaborating with Jesus is a concept rooted in Christian faith and spiritual formation, and it can be approached in various ways depending on your beliefs and practices. Here are some general strategies that can help foster a sense of collaboration with Jesus:

**Cultivate a personal relationship:** Deepen your connection with Jesus through continual Bible reading, worship, prayer, meditation, and spiritual practices that resonate with you. Seek to develop a personal and intimate relationship with Jesus as your Lord and Savior, engaging in heartfelt conversations, seeking His guidance, and expressing your desires, concerns, and gratitude. Sometimes there is a declaration moment where someone makes a serious decision to live differently and follow the Way of Jesus for the first time.

## **My Declaration Moment:**

Prayer of first time commitment: Jesus, I have tried living on my own terms and realize how different my life could be following Your way of living. I want more of you, Jesus. Please be the center of my life. I commit my life to you. I invite and welcome you personally as Lord and Savior of my life. I ask you, Holy Spirit, to fill me and empower me to live as a child of God. I want to truly live a new life in Christ. Amen.

Sinners Prayer: Jesus, I am aware of my sin which separates me from you. I believe you are the Son of God, that you died on the cross to rescue me from sin and death and to restore me to a right relationship with the Father. I choose now to turn from my sins, my self-centeredness, and every part of my life that does not please you. I choose you. I give myself to you. Amen.

Rededication Prayer: Lord, I know I have strayed from the path You desired for me. I have gone my own way and put my desires above yours. I have sinned and not honored You. I am sorry and want to change. I desire to rededicate my life to You.

Cleanse me of my impure heart and renew a steadfast spirit within me. I rededicate my life to You. I surrender. Use me how You will. Help me to love You and serve You all of my days. Amen.

**Seek divine guidance:** Regularly seek alignment with and guidance from Jesus in decision-making and life choices. Ask for wisdom, discernment, and clarity in understanding Jesus' will for your life. Remain open and receptive to the ways in which Jesus may communicate, such as through inner promptings, scripture, spiritual mentors, or life circumstances.  
(Psalm 25:4-5)

**Surrender and trust:** Embrace an attitude of self-denial, surrender and trust in Jesus' providence. Recognize that collaborating with Jesus involves relinquishing control and allowing Jesus to work in your life according to His wisdom and timing. Trust in Jesus' goodness and divine plan, even when faced with challenges or uncertainties. Align with Jesus' values: Strive to align your thoughts, words, and actions with the values and principles taught by Jesus. Seek to live a life of integrity, compassion, forgiveness, and love. Actively cultivate divine virtues like forgiveness, justice, generosity and humility. Strive to reflect the divine qualities in your interactions with others and the world. (Matthew 16:24)

**Serve others:** Engage in acts of service and kindness as a way to collaborate with Jesus in bringing positive change to the world. Look for opportunities to extend compassion, help those in

need, and contribute to the well-being of others. Let your actions and deeds be a reflection of Jesus' love and grace. (James 2:17-18)

**Practice gratitude:** Cultivate a spirit of gratitude and appreciation for the blessings in your life regardless of the situation or circumstances. Regularly express gratitude to Jesus for His provision, guidance, protection and presence. Recognize the ways in which Jesus is working in your life and express gratitude for His involvement. (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

**Reflect and listen:** Set aside dedicated time for reflection and listening to Jesus. Create moments of solitude, stillness and silence to tune in to His voice, allowing space for divine inspiration, insights, and revelations. Be attentive to subtle signs, synchronicities, or messages that may come your way. Be still and wait on God. (Psalm 46:10)

Remember that collaborating with Jesus is a deeply personal and transformational journey. It is a constant practice of surrender, trust, and active engagement with Him. When you experience apprehension or fear, recognize where the fear is coming from, acknowledge it and move on to fulfill what Jesus is asking you to do. Be willing to take risks. Remember this is called *spiritual practice*.

# Spiritual Exercises to Develop Collaboration with Jesus

Here are some exercises that can help you practice collaborating with Jesus:

**Daily Prayer and Reflection:** Set aside dedicated time each day for prayer, meditation, and reflection. Use this time to communicate with God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Express your thoughts and feelings, seek guidance, and listen for any insights or messages. Make prayer and reflection a regular practice. (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

**Journaling:** Keep a journal to document your thoughts, prayers, and experiences in your spiritual journey. Write down your conversations with Jesus, record the highs and lows of your life. Include moments of gratitude, and reflect on any guidance or inspirations you receive. Journaling can be a catalog of your experience and be helpful in recognition of your own spiritual transformation. Writing can help deepen your awareness of Jesus' presence and create a space for ongoing dialogue. (Proverbs 3:3)

**Scripture Memorization, Study and Reflection:** Engage in the memorization, study and reflection of the Bible. Read passages that resonate with you

and contemplate their application and meaning in your life. Seek to apply the teachings to your daily experiences and seek Jesus' guidance through the wisdom of the scriptures. (Proverbs 16:3)

Suggested scriptures for Memorization:

Matthew 5:13-14, John 3:16, John 16:6, Romans 1:16, Romans 8:1, Romans 12:1-2, Ephesians 2:8-9) 2 Timothy 3:16, Jude 24-25,

**Acts of Kindness and Service:** Engage in intentional acts of kindness and service towards others. Look for opportunities to make a positive impact in someone else's life, whether it's through listening, volunteering, offering a helping hand, or showing compassion. Recognize that serving others is a way of collaborating with Jesus in bringing Kingdom values, love and healing to the world. Begin by serving your friends, spouse, and family. (Galatians 6:10)

**Gratitude Practice:** Cultivate a daily gratitude practice by reflecting on and expressing gratitude for the blessings in your life. Take time each day to acknowledge and thank Jesus for His presence, guidance, and the gifts you have received. Consider keeping a specific gratitude journal or verbally expressing your gratitude in prayer. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)



**Silent Retreat or Nature Walk:** Plan a silent retreat or spend time in nature to connect with Jesus and find inner stillness. Use this time to disconnect from screens, social media, personal distractions, and immerse yourself in the beauty of creation. Listen for God. Allow nature to inspire awe and gratitude, and let your silence open you to deeper communion with Jesus. (Psalm 46:10)

**Seek Spiritual Guidance:** Seek out mature Christians, spiritual mentors, leaders, or counselors who can provide guidance and support in your spiritual journey. They can offer wisdom, insight, and help you navigate your collaboration with Jesus. Engage in spiritual conversations, ask questions, and seek their perspective on your experiences. (Proverbs 12:15)

Remember, these exercises are meant to support and enhance your spiritual commitment to Jesus. Tailor them to your needs, preferences, and other spiritual formation practices. Stay obedient—regardless of your success. Remain open, patient, and attentive to the ways in which Jesus may respond and guide you as you collaborate with Him.





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