

## The Believer's Fellowship with God

### Introduction

A. The word "fellowship" means "share in common." It is often used of a united effort between two or more individuals.

And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. (Acts 2:42)

B. In the New Testament the word is occasionally utilized to describe the believer's daily life - as he walks with God. By this we are taught an unusual truth: the Christian can fellowship (share in common - enjoy communion) with the true and living God. What could be more valuable?

### I. The Importance of Fellowship with God.

God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord. (I Cor. 1:9)

Observation: This verse explains what it means to be a Biblical Christian - we have been brought into a living relationship with God whereby we may pray, receive help, serve, be protected, and above all to enjoy the presence of God. The potentiality of this is beyond our comprehension. To live like this should be our highest goal.

### II. The Content of Our Fellowship with God.

A. This is primarily fellowship with God Himself.

That Which we have seen and heard declare we unto you,, that ye also may have fellowship with us, and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. (I John 1:3)

Observation: It is quite significant that John would use the word as he does in this verse. The first usage is undoubtedly personal. This leads us to emphasize the personal in the second reference. Here we are reminded of how Adam and Eve walked with God in the cool of the day. To be a believer means that the way has been opened so we may learn how to love, trust, communicate with and serve God - all in the context of mutual communion.

B. This is also a fellowship in the things of God.

That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death. (Phil. 3:10)

Observation: This desire of the Apostle indicates his willingness to share in the mockery, hatred, ridicule, and persecution which often comes to believers. We must also choose to be so identified with Jesus Christ that we fulfill the command to "take up his cross, and follow me" (Mark 8:34)

### III. The Basis of Our Fellowship with God.

If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies . . . (Phil. 2:1)

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion (fellowship) of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. (II Cor. 13:14)

Observation: These verses explain how we are brought into this walk with God. The Holy Spirit has convicted us and brought us to the new birth. He has baptized us into the church (the body of Christ) I Cor. 12:13 All of this points up the truth that fellowship with God is to be the characteristic of every believer. To live any other way, for the Christian, is to be unspiritual, sub-normal, out of God's will.

### IV. The Warning Regarding Our Fellowship with God,

And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. (Eph. 3:11)

If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth. (I John 1:6)

Observation: In these verses the word "darkness" refers to all forms of error and sin. The believer may not "share" such beliefs and activities. We are taught that if we do the presence of such will be "unfruitful" and will deprive us of "fellowship" with God. The serious consequences of such cannot be overlooked. Each of us have had such experiences. We must be careful to maintain our walk with God by choosing to practice the Word of God.

### V. The Instruction Regarding Our Fellowship with God,

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowships one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son, cleanseth us from all sin, (I John 1:7)

Observation: The word "light" in this verse refers to the moral attributes of God: truth, love, and holiness. This is the pattern for the believer. We must make every effort to learn the content of these attributes as they relate to our daily life and then practice truth, love, and holiness by faith and love. As we do this we are enabled to live in fellowship with God and receive that constant cleansing from the effects of sin - all of which is so necessary for spiritual well-being.

### Conclusion:

- A. All of us would give a good deal to be able to live with, talk to, and learn from some individual we highly admire. For some reason this very valuable opportunity of fellowship with God does not seem as helpful and important. We must confront ourselves with this and choose accordingly.
- B. God has called us to fellowship with Him - we must respond to Him daily.

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