

# Fellowship With God

## The Myths, The Truths, The Method



**"Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men,  
and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people,  
and God Himself will be among them,  
and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes;  
and there will no longer be any death;  
there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain;  
the first things have passed away."**

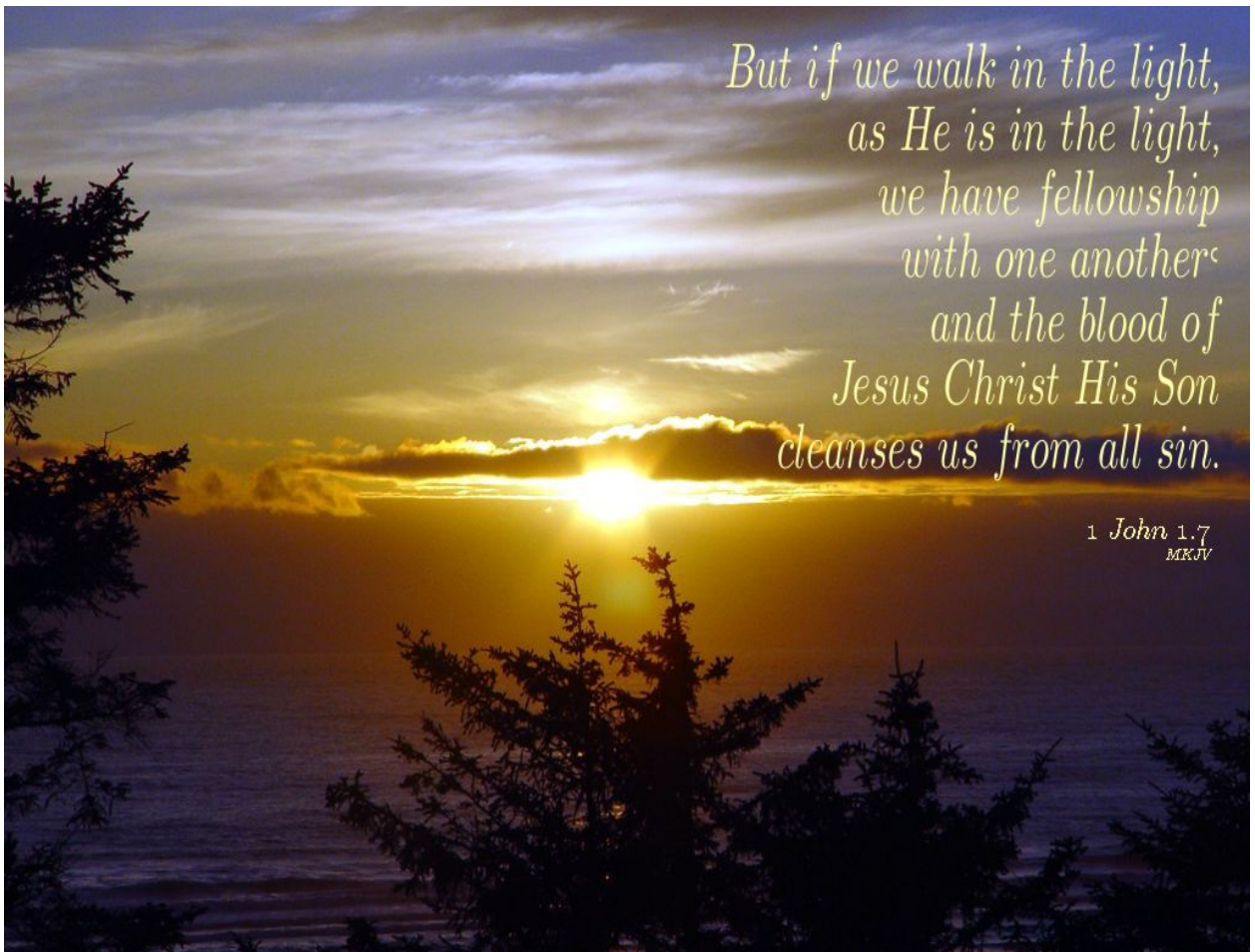
**Revelation 21:3-4**

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*But if we walk in the light,  
as He is in the light,  
we have fellowship  
with one another  
and the blood of  
Jesus Christ His Son  
cleanses us from all sin.*

*1 John 1:7  
MKJV*

**Fellowship is the most important thing God wants from us. He wants us to come to know him – to be with him – to spend time with him. Jesus set an example for us when he slowed the pace of his life to spend time with the Father. He knew the importance of quiet moments. He often went into the mountains to pray. The more mature we become in our relationship with God, the more important this quiet time with God becomes. We look forward to being alone with him. We realize we need to listen to him for comfort and direction in our lives.**

**When we make fellowship with God a priority, all of the urgent issues in our lives seem to fall into place. When we focus on God he helps us understand the priorities of everything else. Jesus told us to seek the kingdom first, and that all of the other things in life would be taken**

care of (Matthew 6:33). We can all become so busy with activities that we neglect to spend time with God alone, in prayer, and to meet with others in fellowship with God. If you are stressed out, burning the proverbial candle at both ends, and you don't know how to accomplish all of the things you have to do in life, perhaps you should consider your spiritual diet.

Fellowship is a thing between just you and God. It is not a one way conversation only but a dialog between you and your Maker. It is not just God listening to you about your needs, desires, and wants but also you listening to God about His needs, desires, and wants. If you need to hear God speaking to you more clearly, the best way possible is to spend time in His Word.

The Bible says "Faith comes from hearing God and hearing God comes from reading the Bible". (Faith cometh by hearing, not seeing, and hearing by the Word of God. Romans 10:17). This means that if you want God to talk to you, you must open a channel of communication to Him. That channel is always open when you are reading scripture from The Bible.

If you have something on your heart that you want God to speak to you about, talk to God about it first and then read some Bible Scripture. Don't read first and then pray. Fellowship with God and tell God first what is on your mind and then read. He may not speak out loud but He will speak straight into your heart, mind, and soul. You may not get His whole message during the first reading but you might get a few thoughts each day until His message to you is clear and complete.

It does not matter what you read or how much you read - just read and let Him speak. You could read The 23rd Psalm every day and one day it might say one thing to you and the next day something totally different.

**On the next several pages are some popular Bible verses that you can read every day while fellowshiping with God to keep your communication channel open to Him. The following selection will give you comfort & inspiration to make your time with God the best it can be while you wait for answers to your heart's desires.**






**So faith comes from hearing,  
and hearing through the word of Christ.  
Romans 10:17**

**All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching,  
for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,  
that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.  
Second Timothy 3:16-17**

## Comforting & Encouraging Scripture To Inspire Your Time Of Fellowship With God

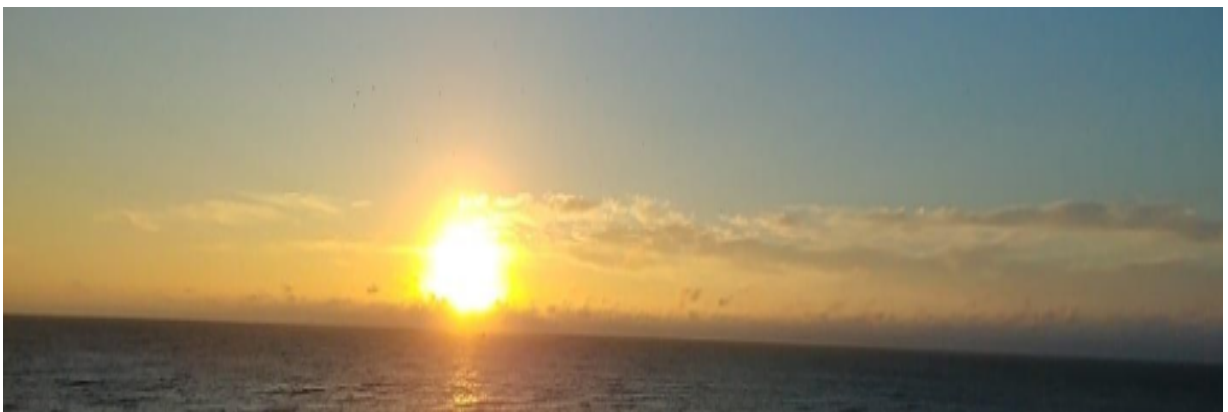


Fellowship With God	Learn God's Word	Obey God's Word
		
<p>Knowing You hear me, Lord, as I talk with You and walk with you, brings me peace in the midst of any storm. Thank you for Your Word to help me stay focused so I can go forth today coming when You call and going where you send with Your people in my heart.</p>	<p>Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. Blessed art thou, O Lord: teach me thy statutes. I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways. I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word. Psalm 119:11-16</p>	<p>The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes. Psalm 19:7-8</p>

**May the Lord bless you and keep you.  
May the Lord make His face to shine upon you  
and be gracious unto you and give you His peace.  
Do not be ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ,  
for it is the power of God for salvation and life.  
Speak His Word, and watch God's will be accomplished!**



**Now may the God of peace,  
who through the blood of the eternal covenant  
brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus,  
that great Shepherd of the sheep,  
equip you with everything good for doing his will,  
and may he work in us what is pleasing to him,  
through Jesus Christ,  
to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.  
Hebrews 13:20-21**



**This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.  
Psalm 118:24**



**Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.  
Serve the Lord with gladness:  
come before his presence with singing.  
Know ye that the Lord he is God:  
it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves;  
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.  
Enter into his gates with thanksgiving,  
and into his courts with praise:  
be thankful unto him, and bless his name.  
For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting;  
and his truth endureth to all generations.  
Psalm 100**



**For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son,  
that whosoever believeth in him  
should not perish, but have everlasting life.  
For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world;  
but that the world through him might be saved.  
John 3:16-17**

**For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;  
Romans 3:23**

**For the wages of sin is death;  
but the gift of God is eternal life  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Romans 6:23**

**If we confess our sins,  
he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins,  
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.  
1 John 1:9**

**Come now, and let us reason together, Says the Lord,  
Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow;  
Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.  
Isaiah 1:18**

**And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name  
of the Lord shall be saved.  
Acts 2:21**

**that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord,  
and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead,  
you will be saved.  
Romans 10:9**

**Neither is there salvation in any other:  
for there is none other name under heaven given among men,  
whereby we must be saved.  
Acts 4:12**

**For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ:  
for it is the power of God unto salvation  
to every one that believeth;  
to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.  
Romans 1:16**

**For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God  
by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled,  
we shall be saved by his life.  
Romans 5:10**



**Greater love hath no man than this,  
that a man lay down his life for his friends.  
John 15:13**

**But God demonstrates His own love toward us,  
in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.  
Romans 5:8**

**A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another:  
just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.  
By this all people will know that you are my disciples,  
if you have love for one another.  
John 13:34-35**

**And if I have prophetic powers,  
and understand all mysteries and all knowledge,  
and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains,  
but have not love, I am nothing.  
1 Corinthians 13:2**

**Let all that you do be done in love.  
1 Corinthians 16:14**

**Anyone who does not love does not know God,  
because God is love.  
1 John 4:8**

**Above all, keep loving one another earnestly,  
since love covers a multitude of sins.  
1 Peter 4:8**

**Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God,  
and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.  
1 John 4:7**



**Thy knowledge is wonderful beyond my ability to comprehend;  
it is high, I cannot understand it.  
Where shall I go from thy spirit?  
or where shall I flee from thy presence?  
If I ascend to the heavens, thou art there:  
if I make my bed in Sheol, behold, thou art there.  
If I take the wings of the dawn  
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,  
even there shall thy hand lead me and thy right hand hold me.  
If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me;  
even the night shall shine because of me.  
Even the darkness does not hide from thee;  
but the night shines as the day; the darkness is as the light.  
For thou hast possessed my kidneys:  
thou hast covered me in my mother's womb.  
I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;  
marvellous are thy works, and that, my soul knows right well.  
Psalm 139:6-15**

**For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord.  
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways,  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.  
Isaiah 55:8-9**

**But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure;  
then peace-loving, considerate, submissive,  
full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.  
James 3:17**

**For the Lord giveth wisdom:  
out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.  
Proverbs 2:6**



**O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee:  
my soul thirsteth for thee,  
my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land,  
where no water is;  
Psalm 63:1**

**How sweet are your words to my taste,  
sweeter than honey to my mouth!  
Psalm 119:103**

**I gain understanding from your precepts;  
therefore I hate every wrong path.  
Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.  
Psalm 119:104-105**

**Teach me Thy way, O Lord;  
I will walk in Thy truth:  
unite my heart to fear Thy name.  
I will praise Thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart:  
and I will glorify Thy name for evermore.  
For great is Thy mercy toward me:  
and Thou hast delivered my soul from the lowest hell.  
Psalm 86:11-13**

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from Thy presence,  
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation  
and uphold me with Thy free Spirit.  
Then will I teach transgressors Thy ways,  
and sinners shall be converted unto Thee.  
Psalm 51:10-13**

*Give us this day  
Our daily bread*

**No temptation has overtaken you  
except what is common to mankind.  
And God is faithful;  
he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear.  
1 Corinthians 10:13.**

**Cast all your cares on me, for I care for you.  
1 Peter 5:7**

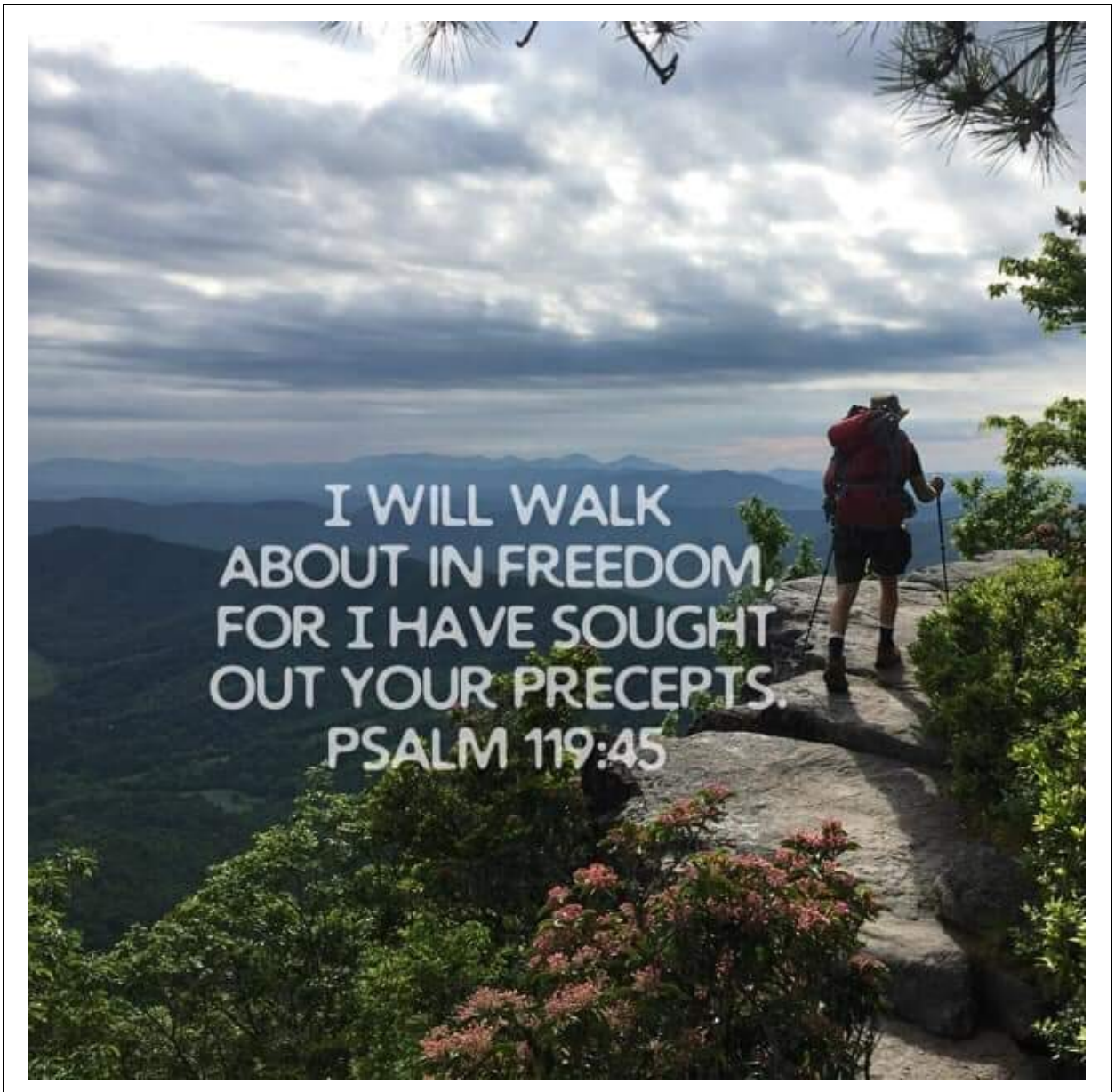
**It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed,  
because his compassions fail not.  
They are new every morning:  
great is thy faithfulness.  
Lamentations 3:22-23**

**Give thanks in all circumstances;  
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.  
1 Thessalonians 5:18**

**And God is able to bless you abundantly,  
so that in all things at all times, having all that you need,  
you will abound in every good work.  
2 Corinthians 9:8**

**We are God's handiwork  
created in Christ Jesus to do good works,  
which God prepared in advance for us to do.  
Ephesians 2:10**

**Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee;  
and before thou camest forth out of the womb  
I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.  
Jeremiah 1:5**



**He who hath begun a good work in you  
will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.  
Philippians 1:6**

**For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth  
to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.  
2 Chronicles 16:9**

**Surely the presence of The Lord is in this place.  
Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace,  
that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.  
Hebrews 4:16**



**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;  
a good understanding have all those  
who do His commandments.  
Psalm 111:10**

**Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,  
nor stands in the path of sinners,  
nor sits in the seat of the scornful;  
but his delight is in the law of the Lord,  
and in His law he meditates day and night.  
Psalm 1:1-2**

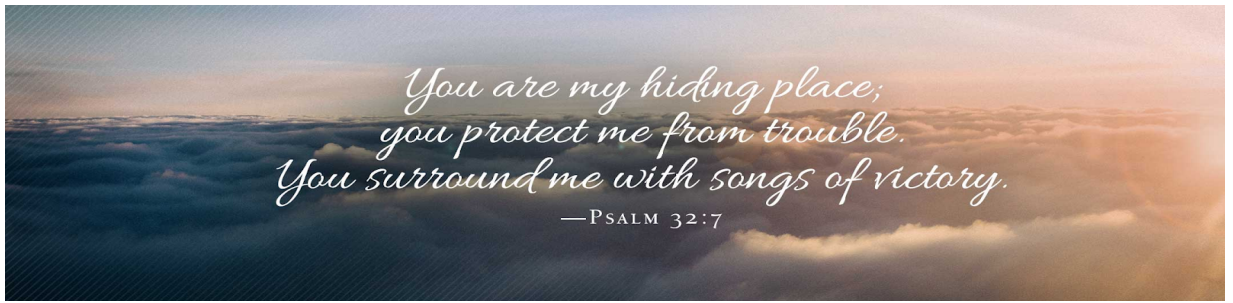
**But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength.  
They will soar on wings like eagles;  
they will run and not grow weary,  
they will walk and not be faint.  
Isaiah 40:31**

**I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.  
Philippians 4:13**

**Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do,  
do all to the glory of God.  
1 Corinthians 10:31**

**Do not be anxious about anything,  
but in every situation, by prayer and petition,  
with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.  
And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding,  
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.  
Philippians 4:6-7**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not. Jeremiah 33:3</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. Psalm 103:11-2</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth. Psalm 46:10</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Pray without ceasing. 1 Thessalonians 5:17</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers. 1 Peter 3:2</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; wait, I say, on the Lord! Psalm 27:14</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. James 1:5</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have what we asked of him. John 5:14-15</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always. 1 Chronicles 16:11</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Keep thyself pure. 1 Timothy 5:22</b></p>



**Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult.  
On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this  
You were called so that you may inherit a blessing. For, Whoever  
would love life and see good days must keep their tongue  
from evil and their lips from deceitful speech.  
They must turn from evil and do good;  
they must seek peace and pursue it.  
1 Peter 3:9-11**

**For if ye forgive men their trespasses,  
your heavenly Father will also forgive you:  
But if ye forgive not men their trespasses,  
neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.  
Matthew 6:14-15**

**The LORD gives strength to his people;  
the LORD blesses his people with peace.  
Psalm 29:11**

**Peace I leave with you;  
my peace I give you.  
I do not give to you as the world gives.  
Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.  
John 14:27**

**Make every effort to live in peace with everyone  
and to be holy;  
without holiness no one will see the Lord.  
Hebrews 12:14**

**And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding,  
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.  
Philippians 4:7**

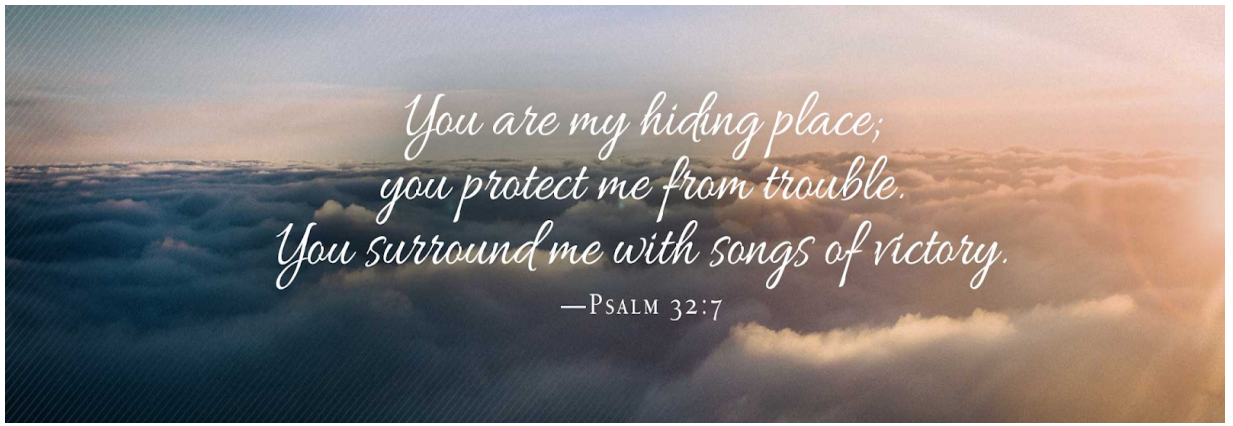


The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:  
he leadeth me beside the still waters.  
He restoreth my soul:  
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.  
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil:  
for thou art with me;  
thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.  
Psalm 23:1-4

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened,  
and I will give you rest.  
Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,  
for I am gentle and humble in heart,  
and you will find rest for your souls.  
For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.  
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,  
since as members of one body you were called to peace.  
And be thankful.  
Colossians 3:15

When the LORD takes pleasure in anyone's way,  
he causes their enemies to make peace with them.  
Proverbs 16:7



**I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace.  
In this world you will have trouble.  
But take heart! I have overcome the world.  
John 16:33**

**He shall cover thee with his feathers,  
and under his wings shalt thou trust:  
his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.  
Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night;  
nor for the arrow that flieth by day;  
Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness;  
nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday.  
Psalms 91:4-6**

**Be strong and courageous.  
Do not be afraid or terrified because of them,  
for the LORD your God goes with you;  
he will never leave you nor forsake you.  
Deuteronomy 31:6**

**So do not fear, for I am with you;  
do not be dismayed, for I am your God.  
I will strengthen you and help you;  
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.  
Isaiah 41:10**

**Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace  
and to mutual edification.  
Romans 14:19**



**Oh Lord my God!!! You are my King of kings and Lord of lords!!!**

**Discretion will protect you, and understanding will guard you.  
Proverbs 2:11**

**God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.  
Psalm 46:1**

**We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed;  
perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned;  
struck down, but not destroyed.  
2 Corinthians 4:8-9**

**But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,  
and all these things will be added to you.  
Matthew 6:33**

**Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today, and forever.  
Hebrews 13:8**

**If my people, who are called by my name,  
will humble themselves and pray  
and seek my face  
and turn from their wicked ways,  
then I will hear from heaven,  
and I will forgive their sin  
and will heal their land.  
2 Chronicles 7:14**

**I love the LORD, for he heard my voice;  
he heard my cry for mercy.  
Because he turned his ear to me,  
I will call on him as long as I live.  
Psalm 116:1-2**



**Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.  
John 15:13**

**I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.  
John 14:6**

**It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.  
Lamentations 3:22-23**

**And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.  
Romans 8:28**

**It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes.  
Psalms 119:71**



**Let us fix our eyes on Jesus,  
the author and completer of our faith,  
who, for the joy set before Him endured the cross,  
despising its shame,  
and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.  
Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men,  
so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.  
Hebrews 12:2**

**Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you,  
and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.  
Rejoice, and be exceeding glad,  
because great is your reward in heaven.  
Matthew 5:10**



**Let not your heart be troubled:  
ye believe in God, believe also in me.  
In my Father's house are many mansions:  
if it were not so, I would have told you.  
I go to prepare a place for you.  
And if I go and prepare a place for you,  
I will come again, and receive you unto myself;  
that where I am, there ye may be also.  
John 14:1-3**



**For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout,  
with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God:  
and the dead in Christ shall rise first:  
Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together  
with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air:  
and so shall we ever be with the Lord.  
1 Thessalonians 4:16-17**

**Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life,  
what you will eat or what you will drink,  
nor about your body, what you will put on.  
Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?  
Look at the birds of the air:  
they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns,  
and yet your heavenly Father feeds them.  
Are you not of more value than they?  
And which of you by being anxious  
can add a single hour to his span of life?  
Matthew 6:25-27**



**O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was. I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word.**

**Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee. For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me.**

**I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine.**

**John 17:5-9**

**It is finished! and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.**

**John 19:30**

**Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.  
Hebrews 13:20-21**

**Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.  
I Corinthians 15:58**

**Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.  
Colossians 3:23-24**

**And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:  
and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children,  
And shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house,  
and when thou walkest by the way,  
and when thou liest down,  
and when thou risest up.  
Deuteronomy 6:6-7**

**Do all things without murmurings and disputings:  
That ye may be blameless and harmless,  
the sons of God, without rebuke,  
in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation,  
among whom ye shine as lights in the world;  
Holding forth the word of life.  
Philippians 2:14-16**

**Commit to the LORD whatever you do,  
and he will establish your plans.  
Proverbs 16:3**



**Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying,  
Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?  
Then said I, Here am I; send me.  
Isaiah 6:8**



**Be diligent to present yourself approved to God,  
a worker who does not need to be ashamed,  
rightly dividing the word of truth.**

**II Timothy 2:15**

**Therefore go and make disciples of all nations,  
baptizing them  
in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,  
and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.  
And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.**

**Matthew 28:19-20**

**Thank you Lord for Your Word that helps me stay focused so  
I can go forth today coming when You call  
and going wherever you send.**

**Burden my heart to reach out to the young persons  
starting their adventure in life as well as the old persons dreading  
the end of their journey and preparing to come home to you.**

**And now may the Lord bless you, and may the Lord keep you.**

**May the Lord make his face to shine upon you  
and be gracious unto you, giving you his peace.**

**May you be committed to doing the will of God,  
living in the perfect providential graciousness  
of God your Father.**

**He will send his angels before you to prepare your way,  
and behind you to be your rear guard.**

**Know that you will live within his divine favor,  
because you are obedient to him.**

**May the Lord bless you now in all things.**

**Do not be ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ,  
for it is the power of God for salvation and life.**



**The heavens declare the glory of God;  
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.  
Day after day they pour forth speech;  
night after night they display knowledge.  
There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard.  
Psalm 19:1**

**Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do,  
do all to the glory of God.  
1 Corinthians 10:31**

**Keep thyself pure.  
1 Timothy 5:22**

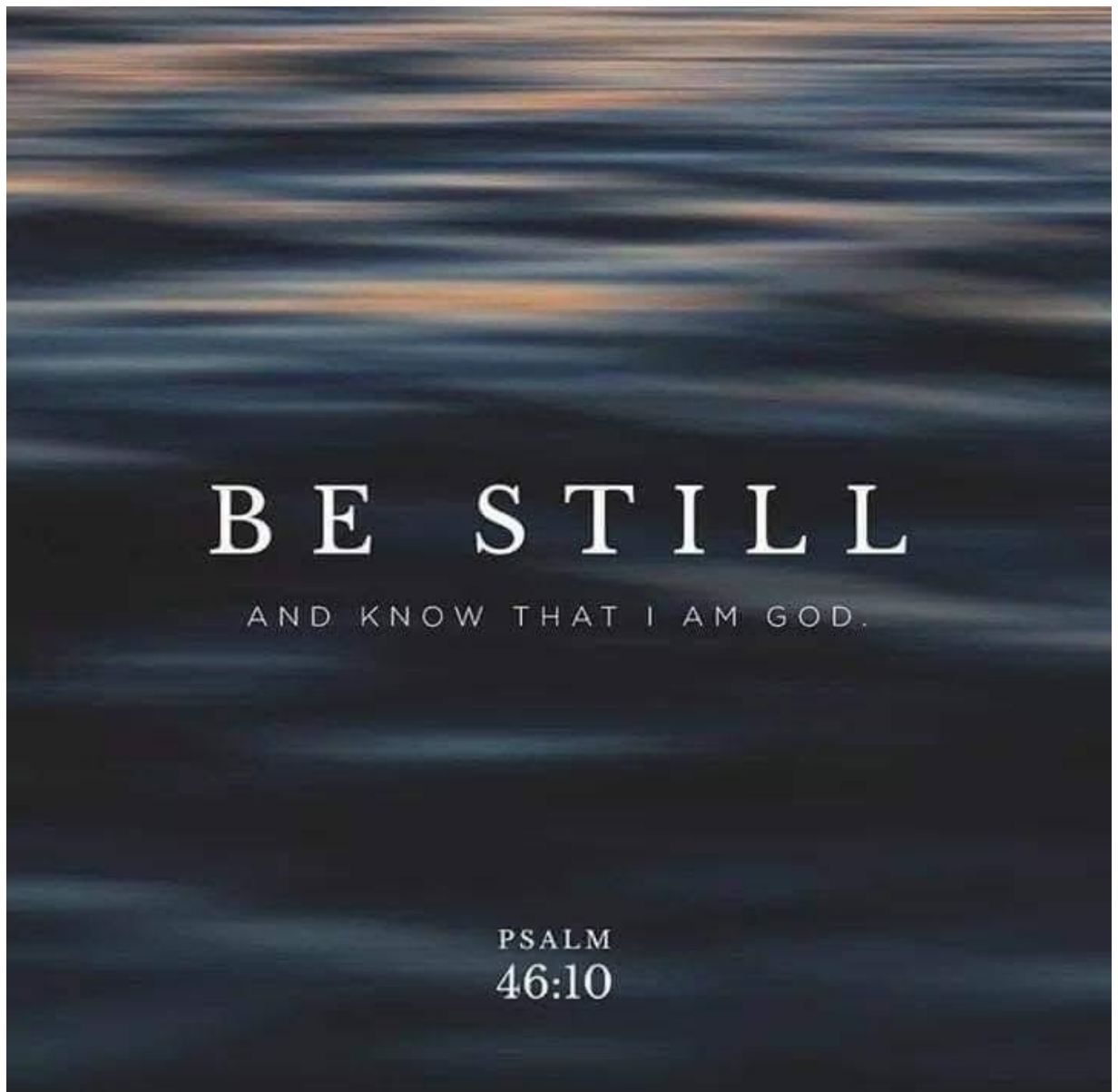
**Finally, brethren, whatever things are true,  
whatever things are noble, whatever things are just,  
whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely,  
whatever things are of good report,  
if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy,  
meditate on these things.  
Philippians 4:8**

**But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,  
and all these things shall be added to you.**

**Matthew 6:33**

**Ask,  
and it will be given to you;  
seek,  
and you will find;  
knock,  
and it will be opened to you.**

**Matthew 7:7**



## **Introduction To The Myths & The Truths**

The short answer to the question “why did God create us?” is “for His pleasure.” Revelation 4:11 says, “You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.” Colossians 1:16 reiterates the point: “All things were created by him and for him.” Being created for God’s pleasure does not mean humanity was made to entertain God or provide Him with amusement. God is a creative Being, and it gives Him pleasure to create. God is a personal Being, and it gives Him pleasure to have other beings He can have a genuine relationship with.

Being made in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:27), human beings have the ability to know God and therefore love Him, worship Him, serve Him, and fellowship with Him. God did not create human beings because He needed them. As God, He needs nothing. In all eternity past, He felt no loneliness, so He was not looking for a “friend.” He loves us, but this is not the same as needing us. If we had never existed, God would still be God—the unchanging One (Malachi 3:6). The I AM (Exodus 3:14) was never dissatisfied with His own eternal existence. When He made the universe, He did what pleased Himself, and since God is perfect, His action was perfect. “It was very good” (Genesis 1:31).

Also, God did not create “peers” or beings equal to Himself. Logically, He could not do so. If God were to create another being of equal power, intelligence, and perfection, then He would cease to be the one true God for the simple reason that there would be two gods—and that would be an impossibility. “The LORD is God; besides him there is no other” (Deuteronomy 4:35). Anything that God creates must of necessity be lesser than He. The thing made can never be greater than, or as great as, the One who made it.

**Recognizing the complete sovereignty and holiness of God, we are amazed that He would take man and crown him “with glory and honor” (Psalm 8:5) and that He would condescend to call us “friends” (John 15:14-15). Why did God create us? God created us for His pleasure and so that we, as His creation, would have the pleasure of knowing Him.**

# **What Is A Life Of Fellowship With God?**

## **What Is Fellowship?**

**Fellowship, in the Bible, has the basic idea of sharing, or participation. In terms of God and our relationship with Him it involves our participation in the life of the Trinity, granted by the Father, purchased by the Son, made alive by the Spirit. It is fellowship with God and therefore it is fellowship that is marked by truth and holiness. This is John's point when he says: "This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all" (1 John 1:5). "Light" in Scripture and when used by John has the two basic ideas of truth and holiness. In others words, to say that God is light is to say that there is no error, or deceit in Him and He is utterly separate from sin: He is holy.**

**John mentions this upfront because fellowship with God and glorifying God is not simply a matter of feelings or actions – like energetic music, weeping at certain songs, doing a lot of religiously good things, and so on.**

**Fellowship with God that produces a life to His glory is a matter of enjoying and reflecting His character; it is a life that is lived in union with the incarnate, crucified, risen, and ascended Lord whose Spirit is within us. Its a matter of walking in the truth and in holiness. This is the heart of glorifying God. Without this John adds, "If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness we lie and do not practice the truth" (1 John 1:6).**

**We need this reminder every now and then, because the idea of how we glorify God so easily becomes masked over by either purely externals (what I do), or the purely subjective experience (what I feel)**

of what is so often called “worship.” The truest test, or display of worship, however, is loving and trusting obedience, it is walking in the light, it is reflecting the life of Jesus: “But if we walk in the light as He is in the light we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin” (1 John 1:7). What an amazing truth! True fellowship with God and other believers can be had because it has been purchased by the blood (i.e. the death) of the Lord Jesus, the Son of God for all who believe! He is the satisfaction for the sin of sinners from every tribe, nation, and tongue; or, “For the whole world” (1 John 2:2). His suffering our salvation.

## **What A Life Of Fellowship With God Looks Like**

How do I know if I am walking in the light? What does a life that lives in fellowship with Him and is for His glory look like? John does not leave us in the dark.

First, a life of fellowship with God that reflects His glory is a life that is very conscious of indwelling sin and confesses it constantly. This is one who is “Poor in spirit” (Matt. 5:3). You see, the nearer we are to God the more aware we are of our sin and the more grieved we are and want to be rid of it (for example: Is. 6:1-6; Luke 5:1-8; 18:13). We glorify God when we confess and forsake sin because it shows we hate what He hates and keeps us clinging to His Son in faith and love (Judges 7:16-21; Rom. 7:14-8:1). We confess to Him and – glory of glories – “He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9)!

Second, a life of fellowship with God that reflects His glory is a life lived in submission to His commands. In others words, obedience is an essential mark of fellowship with Him and living to His glory: “By this we know if that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments ... whoever keeps His word in him the love of God has been perfected” (1 John 2:3, 5).

**This should sound familiar, for Jesus already said to His disciples as He was headed to the cross, “If you love Me you will keep My commandments” (John 14:15).**

**Jesus loved the Father so much He did everything the Father commanded (John 14:31); His will was completely yielded to the Father (Luke 22:39-46), even to the point of death on a cross (Phil. 2:8). He loved the Father, so He obeyed Him; He yielded to the Spirit, the same Spirit that lives in a Christian. It was that obedience that brought ultimate glory to the Father (John 12:27-28, 17:1; Phil. 2:11) – and so it is for us. We cannot glorify Him if we do not love, and we do not love Him if we are not yielding to His commandments (Rom. 8:6-13). Put another way, it is a love for righteousness that comes through faith in Christ and is fueled by the inward ministry of the Holy Spirit (1 John 3:5-9).**

**Third, a life of fellowship with God that reflects His glory is a life lived in sacrificial love for the brethren. “The one who loves his brother abides in the Light and there is no cause for stumbling in him” (1 John 2:10). This love is to be like the love of Jesus (1 John 2:6), who laid down His life for His friends (John 15:12-13) and even washed their feet just before He did it (John 13:34-35). Later John will put it like this: “We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren” (1 John 3:16). At the very least that means meeting physical needs (1 John 3:17), but really so much more.**

**Fourth, a life of fellowship with God that reflects His glory is a life that loves Him, longs for Him, His presence more than the things of this world. “Do not love the world, nor the things of the world. If anyone loves the world the love of the Father is not in him” (1 John 2:15). Fellowship with God who is light makes the heart more distant to the glitter and things of this world (1 John 2:16-17). The longing of the**

heart to be with Jesus and be like Him just becomes stronger and stronger: “When He appears we will be like Him ... everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure” (1 John 3:2-3).

Fifth, a life of fellowship with God that reflects His glory is a life that perseveres in faith. “They went out from us because they were not of us” (1 John 2:19), which is to say, those who don’t remain faithful to the gospel clearly don’t glorify God, they don’t even belong to Him. Persevering in faith in Christ is essential to glorifying Him.

Sixth, a life of fellowship with God that reflects His glory is a life that remains in the truth, in sound doctrine. A life that glorifies God loves is committed to and loves the truth about Him. In other words, doctrine and exposition is not boring: “We are from God; he who know God listens to us” (1 John 4:6). The voice of truth rings louder and clearer than the voice of error and of the world. The voice of truth is the substance and meat of our worship of God, of which our singing, prayer, and service is the fruit.

## **Living A Life That Glorifies God**

So how do you live a life that marks fellowship with God and glorifies Him?

By confessing sin, yielding to God in loving obedience, sacrificially loving others, longing for and finding more joy in things eternal than the things of this world, by persevering in faith, by remaining in the truth. In other words, by “walking in the light as He himself is in the light.” These are the test of fellowship with God and a life lived to His glory. I pray it is how you test your own life and how you measure a life that glorifies God!

## **When Fellowship Actually Begins**

The purpose of life is to meet God and to live happily ever after in a wonderful love relationship with Him. The Lord Jesus Christ as the God-man calls us to Salvation and becomes the Right Man of the Church in a true love relationship that leads to Heaven and glory forever and ever.

The Holy Spirit is given to the believer to have God living within him, to enable the perfect love relationship with God, and to sanctify him from sin, which is the enemy of fellowship with God. We were born for the greatest imaginable life, which begins on Earth and continues in Heaven. Yet, the wonderful love and happiness that is promised to Christians easily gets lost in the confusion of the devil's world.

### **Fellowship With God Begins At Salvation**

Every Christian can remember the moment of Salvation and give a moving testimony. But the glory of that experience soon fades in the reality of mortality and necessities of daily life. God is always available to bless us, and the Lord Jesus Christ is reaching out to love us, but in our confusion the connection is not quite right. There are problems and pressing matters, fears and worries that interrupt our relationship with God. We get through one crisis only to face the next. God is always there, but we are always having problems. We pray and are left scratching our heads.

There seems to be a disconnect between us and God. God is all powerful and all loving, but we don't seem to be able to take advantage of that. We don't seem to be able to call for angelic firepower to zap our enemies and deliver us from the clutches of the devil's world. Our assumption is that we should have all the power of God to support us, and yet we are tripping over our own shoelaces. What's wrong with the assumption is that even though we do have the

power of God available, it is God's will to test us. He gives us the tests, and He gives us the Grace to pass them.

## **Fellowship With God Does Not End**

During testing, fellowship with God does not cease. He is still there, and He still loves us with super abundant love, but that doesn't mean He has to send in the angels to tie our shoes. Testing is actually a way for God to demonstrate His Righteousness toward us and prove His sufficiency to handle every problem and exigency of life. God is still in fellowship with us through the testing. He warns us of problems ahead. He enables us to understand the spiritual issues by Divine viewpoint through application of Bible Doctrine. And if we wait, He will solve our problem in Grace. And when the test is passed, He will promote us, give us more Grace, and reveal the ramifications of the experience in the Appeal Trial.

Our fellowship with God never ceases even during the most intense testing and cross examination by Satan. The Lord was watching over Job and protecting his life all the time Satan was cursing him. The problems that we face in this life were actually scheduled by God in eternity past. That's why evidence of Sovereign Design is obvious with the problems. Bad numbers come up along with bad colors. Scenes on the Stage of Life act out the spiritual issues and reveal them. The problems that God gives us are really fellowship, even though that fellowship involves punishment.

**“For whom the Lord loves He punishes, and  
He scourges every son whom He receives (with love).”**

**Hebrews 12:6**

The problems and tests that were designed into our lives have far reaching consequences. When Adam and the woman faced the tree test, it was not just for them. It was evidence in the Angelic Conflict

in the Appeal Trial of Satan. And it had consequences upon the entire human race. Similarly, the problems and trials that we face carry a far more eternal weight of glory. They are not only opportunities for our own Spiritual growth and promotion, but they are also evidence in Satan's Appeal trial. They are part of the Divine history of Creation. And they qualify us for eternal rewards at the Evaluation Throne of God and for all eternity. What we eat and how we react can have eternal consequences. Life is important.

## **Fellowship Does Not Begin In This Life**

Fellowship with the Lord does not begin in this life. It began in Eternity past. God, who knows the end from the beginning, always knew us. He planned our lives from the beginning to the Eternal State. He created us and decided the day of our birth and circumstances of our death. He created our support environment, gave us parents and teachers, a home, and a local church. He also scheduled our problems, our tests, our Grace support, and our promotions. This is all Antecedent Grace, which God provided in Eternity past. God had fellowship with us and He loved us long before we were ever created.

God the Father called us into fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ at the right time.

**“God is faithful, through whom we have been called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.”**

**1 Corinthians 1:9**

Jesus Christ paid for our sins on the Cross so that we could receive Eternal life and the forgiveness of sins through faith. At the appointed time, God gave us an opportunity to hear and understand the Gospel so we could make a decision to believe in Jesus Christ as our Savior. The Lord, who knows all things, knew what we would

**decide. He called us so that we could respond and come into fellowship with Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ paid our way into fellowship with God. Because of His work on the Cross, God is free to bless us with a wonderful New Spiritual life in fellowship with Him forever. Heaven awaits us, but in the meantime we have an opportunity to demonstrate His Righteousness in the trials and tribulations of life in the Cosmic System of the devil's world. Our mundane life is transformed into a New Spiritual life that is glorious beyond the imagination.**

**When we were born again in the Church Age, we became sons of God and members of His Royal Family. Believers can have fellowship with God and the Lord Jesus Christ (1 John 1:3). Fellowship with God is a new family relationship. The new family is Spiritual. We become members of the Royal Family of God. God is our Father. The Lord Jesus Christ is our Savior, Right Man, and High Priest. The Elect Angels are our friends, protectors, and helpers, and the fallen angels are our enemies. Fellow Christians are our brothers and sisters in Christ. The New Spiritual life is the beginning of an entirely new day in our Eternal life.**

## **Obstacles In The Way Of Fellowship**

The Book Of Hebrews in The Bible exhorts us to persevere, and this profound call to draw near to God is right at the heart. In the midst of difficulty and temptation, we're told to come closer. To move in. To draw near. This command to draw near might be summarized as a summons to live in a rich God-accomplished relationship with God.

### **Rich And Accomplished by God**

It's a rich relationship, not a mechanical one. It requires a "true heart in full assurance of faith." This is a full and rich and satisfying relationship — one that is more real to us than anything else.

It's a God-accomplished relationship, not one that we contrive. This relationship we're called to is not our building a tower, or our climbing stairs, or our somehow trying to maneuver our way to get close to him. Notice the language: We're to draw near "with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water." This echoes the God-centeredness of the New Covenant, when God promised that he'd write his law on our hearts, that he'd give us his Spirit, that he'd make us clean (Jeremiah 31:33). The point is that God is behind this. God did it. Draw near to him.

But it's not that simple. There are obstacles in our way. There are many things, in fact, that might deter you from a rich relationship with God, but two in particular are worth mentioning: 1) the fear of judgment and 2) the fear of disappointment.

### **1. Fear Of Judgement**

The fear of judgment keeps you from a rich relationship with God because you just can't believe that God can forgive your sin. You know your sin and guilt, and although you like the idea of a closer

relationship with God, you wouldn't dare pursue it. You think a person as messed up as you just isn't supposed to be close to God. The fear of judgment imagines God frowning, crossing his arms, annoyed, angry, fed up with your mess-ups. You probably think He is not a Father running to meet you, but one waiting to punish you. How could you draw near to him?

## **2. Fear Of Disappointment**

The fear of disappointment, on the other hand, says, "Oh yeah, I get that relationship stuff. I've tried it before. Have you seen how crazy my life is?" This is a fear that doesn't tempt us to stop believing; it tempts us to forfeit a life of intimacy with Jesus because we just don't think that kind of life is possible for us. We've tried it. We just can't do it. And therefore we've bunkered down into a Christian life solely about survival.

### **But God has something to say**

If we struggle with either of these obstacles, Hebrews 10 speaks up with the good news that Jesus abolishes both fears at the cross.

### **Jesus Died for Us**

First, we can have a rich God-accomplished relationship with God because of Jesus's sacrifice (Hebrews 10:19–20).

Notice how verse 19 begins, "Therefore, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus." He means that we have access to God now because Jesus died in our place. The once-for-all sacrifice of Jesus has completely absorbed God's anger towards us. Yes, we have sinned. Yes, we are sinners. Yes, we deserve punishment. But Jesus was the sacrifice for us. He died in our

place. He bore our sins in his body on the tree. He suffered the wrath of God on our behalf.

We don't have to be afraid of God's judgment anymore. If you are united to Jesus by faith, the anger is gone. The punishment has been paid. There is no more condemnation. God looks at you as a loving Father with his arms wide open and he says to you, "Draw near by the blood of my Son."

## **Jesus Prays For Us**

Second, we can have a rich God-accomplished relationship with God because Jesus prays for us (Hebrews 10:21).

The second part of verse 21 gives us another reason to draw near to God: Jesus prays for us. The writer tells us ". . . and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near . . ." Right beside the foundation of Jesus's death in our place is this glorious picture of Jesus praying for us. The death of Jesus and the intercession of Jesus, then, provide the grounds by which we can have a rich relationship with God.

This is better than anything we could imagine. Jesus has an active, priestly role for our sake at the Father's right hand. Hebrews 7:25 tells us, "Jesus is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them." He is always praying for us, always fueling the furnace of our faith. When the stresses of this world and the worst of suffering might seem to extinguish our hope, it doesn't. It can't. Jesus is praying.

There are two glorious ways Jesus abolishes the fears that might keep us from a rich relationship with God. He gave us a once-for-all

**sacrifice and he gives us never-ceasing intercession. The sinless Savior died and he ever lives and pleads for me. Our sinful souls are counted free and our names are written on his heart. He is our perfect, spotless righteousness and our lives our hid with him on high.**

**“No tongue can bid me thence depart  
nor can anything else in all creation  
separate us from his love.”**

# Prepare To Fellowship With God

## Be Holy

**1 Peter 1:13-25**

**13** Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. **14** As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. **15** But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; **16** for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”

## Be Redeemed

**17** Since you call on a Father who judges each person’s work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. **18** For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, **19** but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. **20** He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. **21** Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

## Be Born Again

**22** Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. **23** For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. **24** For, All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, **25** but the word of

**the Lord endures forever. And this is the word that was preached to you.**

**Let me remind you, as I reminded myself as I read these verses, that our "new birth", the fact that we have been "born again", that we are saved means that we should live a "lifestyle of holiness".**

**The first three verses of our scripture reading will set us on the way to that kind of a lifestyle. Peter actually gives us five pointed exhortations that should bring us in line with a daily experience of "holy living."**

**In verse 13 we see the first three exhortations. "Gird up the loins of your mind" is saying prepare your minds for "action". There is much we cannot control in life but we can control our "minds".**

**Paul told us to "think right", Philippians 4:8. Paul said to think on things pure, true, honest, lovely, good and just. We are to think on these things. When we "think right" we are "girding up our minds", preparing them for "action".**

**Peter then tells us to "be sober" which means to be "self-controlled". We are to "hope to the end" when Jesus Christ comes back, when He is revealed. His return is our "blessed hope" and that motivation for us to "lay aside" that which is not Godly and "live" that which is "Godly," as we "look" for Him to come.**

**Verse 14 tells us to "be obedient" to the Lord and don't walk in the lifestyle of the "former lust" that can take us astray. In other words, be not conformed to previous evil desires.**

**The fifth exhortation from Peter is the central theme of this passage, "be ye holy", verse 15. Holiness is what the Lord expects of each of**

**us. This is true because He is "holy", and we are to be conformed to His image.**

**Holiness is to penetrate "all manner of conversation". That's not referring only to how we talk but our entire lifestyle should reveal holiness, even as He is holy.**

**Remember, this is possible as we prepare our minds, live under self-control, stay away from former lust, and look for the coming of Jesus. By the way, that coming of Jesus could be today!**

## **There Is Joy In Our Personal Fellowship With God**

If you are a Christian, then you are united to Jesus Christ through faith by the power of the Holy Spirit. Your identity is found in Jesus—he is the vine and we are the branches (John 15). Because of our union with Christ, we are able to have communion (or fellowship) with the Triune God.

This is not something that we can earn, and there is nothing we can do to earn union with God—this is given to us through the finished work of Jesus. This distinction between union and communion is important because we can never lose our union with God; however, our communion with him can ebb and flow.

Here are four ways to increase your satisfaction in and enjoyment of God.

### **1. Attend church.**

Regularly attend a biblical, gospel-centered church that also administers the sacraments (Baptism and the Lord's Supper). This is the most important event each week for every Christian—don't stunt your growth in Christ by missing out on the feast God has prepared for you through the ministry of Word and Sacrament.

### **2. Read the Bible.**

Read and meditate on the Bible daily. God gave us his Word so that we could know him better, understand our need for a savior, and learn how to live in light of the reality of our redemption in Christ. Reading the Bible should be a daily priority for every believer.

### **3. Serve.**

Look for opportunities to serve and care for others who are in need. It's actually through loving and serving our brothers and sisters in the

faith, and our neighbors, that we demonstrate that we do in fact love God (1 John 4:20 and James 1:27).

#### **4. Pray.**

Cultivate a life of prayer. Prayer is the lifeblood of the Christian. We don't only listen to God (through preaching and reading the Bible), but we also are able to talk to God and express our concerns, give him our thanks, ask him for help, and pray for others. Relationships that flourish take time, communication, and attentiveness in an environment of mutual joy and delight. Since you are a child of God through Jesus, you have bold access to the Father through prayer (Heb. 4:16).

# When The Joy In Our Fellowship With God Fades

There are three groups of Christians who fool themselves:

- The Fellowship Group
- The Perfect Group
- The Denial Group

## The Fellowship Group

**“If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth.”**

**1 John 1:6**

The first group of Christians said they were fellowshiping with God. Therefore, they did not need to confess any sins before God and restore their fellowship with Him (1 John 1:9). However, the truth was this. They were claiming to have fellowship with God while all along they had sin in their lives. They were said to “walk in the darkness” which is a metaphor for living a sinful life.

Dear friend, you cannot have fellowship with God when you are in the darkness! To walk in darkness means to walk in sin and disobedience (defiance) to God. Don't fool yourself. John is saying that believers cannot have communion and partnership with God when we are sinning in life and disobedient to Him. There are no gray areas when it comes to sin and fellowship with God. I know that we are living in a day when moral standards are changing drastically and people are rationalizing their sinning and trying to explain it away, but you cannot bring God down to your level. If you are living in sin, God will not have fellowship with you.

**Have you been disobedient to God? Have you been going your own way? If so, then you are not walking with God no matter what you say to other people.**

**The Bible says “we lie” (vs. 6) which means that we lie to others. After all, if you say that you are fellowshiping with God but have known sin in your life, then you lie to other people, and you are in one sense living a lie. You ought to have your mouth washed out with soap! Don’t lie about your walk with God! My friend, don’t live a lie! You can’t be walking with God when there is sin in your life. You can lie to the brethren but you cannot lie to God and get away with it. I am afraid that many believers deceive themselves over a period of time. They play a mental game believing they are alright before God, when in reality they are living open lives of rebellion against God, and deceiving themselves.**

**The Bible says they “do not the truth” (vs. 6). In other words, this group of people is not really walking in the light of God’s holiness and fellowshiping with God (vs. 7). They are not practicing what they preach.**

**The test that we are practicing truth is seen in our actions, deeds, and conduct. The “if we say” bunch of people are all talk. Some people talk the walk while others walk the talk. When a person walks with God they will not be playing in the darkness.**

## **The Perfect Group**

**“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves,  
and the truth is not in us.”**

**1 John 1:8**

The second group of Christians was actually saying they were living in ongoing victory over sin and therefore did not need to confess and restore their fellowship before God (1 John 1:9). The expression "we have no sin" is in the present tense within the Greek language and denotes that this group of people was saying that the principle of sin (the old sin nature) no longer had any effect or power over their lives. In other words, these people were saying that sin no longer affected their Christian lives. Therefore, they did not need to confess their sin and restore their fellowship with God. They had conquered the sin nature and were living without sin. They said, "We have no sin" or "We don't sin anymore." This is the old teaching of the eradication of the sin nature which is still with us today in Wesleyan and Nazarene doctrine. They call it entire sanctification when the believer actually overcomes their old nature and a person continues to live in a state of sinless perfection.

There once was a man who thought he had arrived. He thought that he never sinned anymore. Even though he felt that he did not sin he admitted that he did continue to make mistakes. Somehow he drew a distinction between mistakes and sins. Let's stop deceiving ourselves ("we deceive ourselves" – vs. 8). The Christian who believes his evil nature has been completely eradicated within his soul is deceiving himself, nobody else. All others can see sin sticking all over his life. It's sin that comes from the indwelling sinful nature (Romans 7:17, 18, 20).

A man once told a group of people that he never had a fight with his wife. A godly elderly woman sitting in the back said, "Will the next liar please stand up!" Let's stop deceiving ourselves. We are not perfect. We have not arrived. We still have our sin nature. To conclude that "we have no sin" or don't sin anymore is one of the worst deceptions that a Christian can bring upon himself.

**“Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.”  
Philippians 3:12**

**This is the true Biblical perspective on Christian living. Nobody is perfect and can say they no longer sin. When we come to the conclusion that we no longer sin “the truth is not in us” (1 John 1:8). What truth is this? It’s the truth that only God is perfectly holy (1 John 1:5) and that we are still sinners who need forgiveness and cleansing (1 John 1:9). Also, when we think we have arrived the truth about God’s light or holiness (1 John 1:7) has not taken root in our soul and taught us how sinful we really are in the presence of a holy God. In other words, God’s holiness or light has not hit our soul like a lightning bolt and revealed to us that we are a sinful person and not a perfect person. My friend, the holiness of God will keep us from making outlandish claims that we are no longer capable of sinning and no longer susceptible to sin. When we are constantly viewing ourselves in the light of God’s impeccable and flawless holiness we will see just how sinful we are - not how perfect we are. If you are one of these super duper saints who claim to have no more tendencies to sin and have arrived, I have some news for you, you are as a blind as a bat! You have deceived yourself but you are not fooling God, your wife, your friends, or anyone else.**

**It remains to be true that whenever the principle of sin is denied, as an ongoing reality in life, there will always follow a denial of responsibility for individual actions (“we have no sin”). This is why Christians who gossip, who have hatred toward some brethren, who are jealous, and who are boasting can actually come to believe these are acceptable actions and can sanction them as being non-sinful. It’s as if certain people can sin and get away with it because they no longer are capable of sinning. People can deceive themselves. The whole character of sin is deceptive. People can live in a fairy tale**

book. However, God’s holiness will keep you from the outlandish claims of eradication and the so-called second work of grace!

J. Vernon McGee said that he ran into this problem of sinless perfection very early in his training for the ministry. He said, “When I went to college as a freshman, my first roommate was a young man who was also studying for the ministry. He was a sweet boy in many ways. The only trouble with him was that he was perfect. When I found the room which had been assigned to me, my roommate was not at home, but when he came in, he introduced himself and informed me that he had not committed a sin in so many years—I have forgotten if he said one, two, or three years. It shocked me to meet a fellow who didn’t sin. I had hoped he would be my buddy, but he wasn’t a buddy. You see, in every room where I have lived, things go wrong once in a while. And there I was living in a room in which there were only two of us and one of us couldn’t do anything wrong. So when something went wrong, guess who was to blame? Now I admit that usually it was my fault—but not always. Although he was a nice fellow, he hadn’t reached the level of perfection, which he claimed; he wasn’t perfect. After the first semester, a freshman was permitted to move wherever he wished, so I told him, ‘I’m moving out.’ He was greatly distressed and said, ‘Oh, no! Where are you going?’ I told him, ‘I have met a fellow down the hall who is just as mean and imperfect as I am, and I’m going to move in with him.’”

## **The Denial Group**

**“If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar,  
and his word is not in us.”**

**1 John 1:10**

The last group of Christian people takes no responsibility for sins which they have committed in the past. The expression “have not

**sinned” is in the perfect tense in the Greek language and indicates that the speaker is saying that he has not committed some particular sin in the past and therefore does not need to confess any sins before God (1 John 1:9). In other words, this fellow is acknowledging that he is not guilty of certain past sins and that he is presently standing in a perfect relationship before God.**

**The thrust of this verse is this. After believers sin they should not deny that they have sinned. They should not say “we have not sinned” and remain in a state of denial. This statement should be read in direct connection with verse 9. When a Christian is confronted by God’s Word about his sins, he should admit them, rather than deny he has committed any sin in the past. To deny one’s personal sin in the face of God’s testimony is to make God out to be a liar (“make him a liar”). In other words, when God’s Word tells us we have sinned, we need to admit these sins and face up to them. When God tells us through His Word that we have sinned, but we deny it, we make God into a liar. A man once said that he did not sin for a period of sixth months. Don’t tell me this for I will call you what God calls you – a boldfaced liar! The Bible says, “Let God be true and every man a liar!”**

**Instead of confessing their sins before God (1 John 1:9) many Christians, in one way or another, are denying they have sinned. They would rather become part of the exclusive fellowship group (those who deny they are out of fellowship with God), the perfect group (those who deny they can sin), and the denial group (those who deny that they have sinned). These kinds of Christians are deceiving themselves, denying the reality of sin in their lives, and declaring God to be a liar.**

**Christians can cover up their sins by telling lies! First, we tell lies to others (1 John 1:6 – “we lie”). We want our Christian friends to think we are “spiritual” so we lie about our true spiritual condition in order**

to make a favorable impression. Second, we sooner or later lie to ourselves (1 John 1:8 – “ourselves”). The problem now is not only about deceiving others, but deceiving ourselves. It is possible for a believer to live in sin yet convince himself that everything is fine in his relationship to the Lord. He can live like “Alice in wonderland.” He can live a fairy tale life where he claims to have beaten the sin nature and no longer is affected by sin’s power. Third, he can lie to God saying that he has not sinned when all along he has sinned against the Lord (1 John 1:10).

Yes, God says we deceive ourselves if we make the exclusive claim that we don’t sin in our Christian experience (1 John 1:8). The fact that John says we will need to confess our sins (1 John 1:9) would clearly indicate that we will sin in life. However, this does not mean it’s necessary for Christians to live lives of continual defeat. God says that we should “sin not” (1 John 2:1) meaning that we don’t have to be overcome and defeated by sin. As we walk in fellowship with God and in obedience to His Word, He gives us power to resist sin and have victory over temptation. In other words, we will sin in our Christian lives, but we do not have to be overcome by sin and live in continual defeat.

## **Can a Christian Break Fellowship With God?**

**Have you ever heard that when you sin, you are no longer in fellowship with God? It is a very common misconception among Christians. The picture painted is that your sin puts up a barrier between you and God so that He couldn't be close to you or bless you. In fact, He might even punish you by making bad things happen in your life until you got right with Him again.**

**The solution always given was for you to confess your sins to God and to be very sincere about it so that God would know you really meant it! Then, you could be assured that you were forgiven again. That resulted in you being back in fellowship with God. However for years, I often wondered if I had convinced God that I was sincere enough to be forgiven.**

**The idea that a Christian can break fellowship with God comes from an Old Covenant mindset that if you will obey God, He will get close to you; but, if you don't, He will turn away from you. See Deuteronomy 28.**

**The good news is that none of that is true since we are people under the New Covenant. Here is why:**

- 1. We are united to God. You can't get any closer to God than that and sin doesn't break that union. See 1 Corinthians 6:17.**
- 2. All your sins are already forgiven whether you confess them or not. See Colossians 2:13 and Ephesians 4:31-32. (Though it's fine and probably healthy to tell God when you sin, that doesn't get you more of His forgiveness.)**

**3. We are not under the law of blessing and cursing laid out in the Old Covenant. We are already blessed to the max with every spiritual blessing in Christ, according to Ephesians 1:3.**

**The word for fellowship in the New Testament is the word we use today for intimacy. John wanted the people he wrote to enjoy this intimacy just as he did. 1 John 1:3 says, “We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.”**

**When we sin, we do not lose our fellowship with God, that is, our intimacy with God. It’s impossible because Jesus has finished everything required by the Father to get us into fellowship with Him and to keep us there. It’s totally based on Jesus’ performance on the cross, not our behavior.**

**There is no Scripture that says a Christian breaks fellowship with God when he or she sins. If that were the case, every Christians would constantly be breaking fellowship with God. Romans 14:23 defines sin as “not living by faith,” that is, not living dependent on God. If we are not depending on God, we are depending on our flesh. The context of that verse is certainly in the context of eating meat sacrificed to idols, but it is a truth which transcends that issue. Any time a person lives even one second depending on their flesh, rather than God, He considers it a sin. This means we all may sin a lot more often than we are aware of!**

**The word “fellowship” means partnership or partaker. With this in mind, fellowship with God is two-fold. The first has to do with our wonderful position of our union with God the moment of our salvation. 1 Corinthians 6:17 says, “But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him. That union cannot be broken by a Christian’s sin.”**

**Yet, there is a common belief that when a Christian sins, some kind of barrier comes between that person and God until that sin is confessed to God. In the New Covenant, God removed forever any barrier between the believer and Himself when Jesus Christ died and was resurrected according to Hebrews 10:17. Then He says, “I will never again remember their sins and lawless deeds.” To lose fellowship with God would mean to lose your salvation.**

**Another aspect of “fellowship” is our experience of intimacy with God. This is the enjoyment we have when we commune with God. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. 2 Corinthians 13:14. Can we stop enjoying our intimacy with God? Yes, absolutely but it’s not because He recoils from us when we sin. When a Christian sins, they are not experiencing fellowship/intimacy with God in that moment at all. They are living as if they are separated from God though they are not. If we could lose fellowship with God, it would mean we lose our union with God. We can’t be separated from our God with Whom we are united. Otherwise, we would be jumping in and out of Christ all day long. And He would be jumping in and out of us.**

**Enjoy your fellowship and intimacy with God without fear that you will break fellowship with Him. You can’t! You can relax and live in confidence each day as a fully forgiven, permanently united, free from the law and sin, child of God, because the Cross worked!**

**Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men,  
and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people,  
and God Himself will be among them,  
and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes;  
and there will no longer be any death;  
there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain;  
the first things have passed away.**

**Revelation 21:3-4**



## Quiet Time and Why We Need It

As Christians, our main purpose is to worship God. But we live in such a hectic world that it's no wonder we so easily become scattered and distracted from that purpose. Setting aside regular time in our schedules to focus on our heavenly Father is the best way to make sure we hear His "still, small voice" when He speaks to us.

I used to think having a quiet time was optional, something to fit in on days I had less on my to-do list. But that kind of approach left me less connected to God, and my worship was definitely less pleasing to Him. Thankfully, I've realized the importance of having a regular quiet time, and now I see the blessings that come from making it a priority in my life.

The Apostle Paul is an example of someone who desired to stay close to God. His words in Romans 12 are an appeal for all believers to follow his lead, not only once in a while, but as a way of life:

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God — this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."  
(Romans 12:1-2)

### Why should we set aside a quiet time?

1. We are called to.

The Bible is truly a story of God's love for His people. He created us and longs to be in relationship with us. But He will never force Himself into our lives, so it is up to us to seek Him. If we slow down and listen, we'll hear His call.

**“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me” (Rev. 3:20).**

**God wants us to reach for Him, to experience His compassion and grace.**

**“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well” (Matthew 6:33).**

**Scripture also directs us to recognize His Lordship and give praise for it.**

**“Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth” (Psalm 46:10).**

## **2. Jesus Himself had a quiet time.**

**Jesus is our ultimate example of how to live a godly life – that was part of His earthly ministry. The Gospels clearly tell us He needed, and took time to, be alone with His Father - not just as a habit, but also before making major decisions and important events in his life.**

**“Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed” (Mark 1:35-37).**

**“Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray” (Matt 14:22-23).**

**Though not alone, Jesus had an intimate moment of worship with His disciples after the Last Supper.**

**“When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives”  
(Matthew 26:30).**

**Taking time to pray and praise kept Jesus’ heart aligned with His Father, and gave Him the strength to carry out His mission.**

**3. We benefit from a quiet time.**

**It isn’t hard to find verses that talk about the benefits of quiet times with our Lord. The writer of Psalm 16 offers this testimony:**

**“I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.**

**Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure...”  
(Psalm 16:8-9).**

**I know that spending time with God always changes me for the better - my mind has more peace and my body is calmer.**

**“...in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6-7).**

**I feel cleansed by being in His presence, as my sins and cares are both rinsed away.**

**“Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded” (James 4:8).**

To be honest, even after I learned all the positive results, I still hesitated to commit to quiet time. Ingrained habits lead me to say, “I’m too busy.” A stubborn independent streak caused me to believe, “I’m okay, I don’t need it.” I felt awkward, admitting, “I don’t know what to do.” Finally, I decided to step out and try, and here is some of what I’ve discovered along the way.

## **Ways to spend your quiet time**

Whether I take in a whole chapter or just one verse at one time, I’ve noticed the act of being in God’s Word starts to align my heart and mind with Him.

“Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.” (Ps 119:105)

### **1. Scripture Study.**

Slowing down and really digging into a passage often reveals all sorts of truths and treasures I might have missed by simply skimming over it. Different than just casually reading the Bible, spend some time really analyzing specific passages.

“Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it” (Joshua 1:8).

### **2. Prayer.**

There’s something precious about sitting and communing with Him alone. I can be honest and transparent with Him and give Him time to respond.

**“But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you” (Matt. 6:6).**

### **3. Sing and listen to worship songs and hymns.**

**Singing always lifts my energy level and my spirits – and I know God hears every voice as “joyful noise!”. Just remember it’s what not what comes out of your mouth but what comes out of your heart that pleases God!!!**

**“Praise the LORD. How good it is to sing praises to our God, how pleasant and fitting to praise him!” (Ps 147:1).**

### **4. Writing and journaling.**

**We are instructed in Scripture to remember the works that God has done, both in us and around us. I have found encouragement in writing down (and later reading) the ways He has blessed me, and truths He has shown me.**

**“This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘Write in a book all the words I have spoken to you” (Jeremiah 30:2).**

**Other ways I’ve spent my quiet time include being in nature, watching sermons and teachings and reading devotionals. The most important thing is that whatever I do, I focus on bringing honor and glory to God.**

## **What to expect from your quiet time**

**How long should a quiet time be?**

**That is a very personal decision, so don't let other people dictate what the right amount is for you. For some, 5 minutes is truly all they can spare, while others have the ability to devote more time each day. Certain people find they concentrate better in the mornings, while others like to finish their day with it. Also, each day and each season in life may present different opportunities. The bottom line is to make time for God a high priority.**

## **Will God show up?**

**The short answer is: Yes, always! God has promised over and over again that He stays near us, and that He is working in our lives. So even if we don't feel a great sense of His presence at any given moment, we can rest assured that He is close and He hears our prayers and praises.**

## **How should we approach quiet time?**

**When preparing for a quiet time, our hearts need to be:**

- **Seeking – curious and alert to see how God is working**
- **Humble – acknowledging His authority and all that His is**
- **Receptive – ready to take in what He might reveal to us**

**Adding a quiet time into a busy day might seem difficult. I know it took me a while to make a real effort in this area. But once I did, I began to see the difference those moments made. Moving closer to God has helped me see more of who He is, and I've been changed more into His likeness. You will be, too.**

## **In Closing - What This Booklet Has Revealed**

**To know the will of God is the highest of all wisdom. Living in the center of God's will rules out all falseness of religion and puts the stamp of true sincerity upon our service to God.**

**You can be miserable with much, if you are out of His will; but you can have peace in your heart with little, if you are in the will of God.**

**You can be wretched with wealth and fame, out of His will; but you can have joy in obscurity, if you are in the will of God.**

**You can have agony in good health, out of His will; but you can be happy in the midst of suffering, if you are in God's will.**

**You can be miserable and defeated in the midst of acclaim, if you are out of His will; but you can be calm and at peace in the midst of persecution, as long as you are in the will of God.**

***The Bible reveals that God has a plan for every life, and that if we live in constant fellowship with Him, He will direct and lead us in the fulfillment of this plan.***