



## Relationship & Fellowship with the Father

You do not grow in relationship with God. This is a fixed position by virtue of faith in Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and savior. Growth happens in fellowship with God.

Every believer is in relationship with God by virtue that he/she is born again. However, not everyone has fellowship with God even if one has relationship.

a) John 10:30 *I and my Father are one.*

*Acts 10:1-4 There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band, 2 A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God always. 3 He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius. 4 And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God.*

Cornelius Was not yet born again at this time yet he was actively seeking God and walking in the fear of God. He was fellowshiping with God before he had relationship with Him (born again). God saw his heart and God sent Peter to connect with Him and get him into relationship with God. He had not entered into relationship with Him although he was in fellowship with Him. God does not disregard those that try to fellowship or spend time with Him.

If someone kept writing you and sending you a check (Cheque) yet they do not have a relationship with you, would you reject them? They would grow to a place where they have fellowship with you as you begin to write them back and acknowledge their gifts and letters, but soon you will want to have a relationship with them to verify their authenticity and continue fellowship with them. Relationship is the foundation to fellowship as friendship is a foundation to intimacy. Although one may have fellowship before relationship, it is shallow and would not last long. They need to get into relationship first to have a better fellowship.

### **Fellowship**

1 Corinthians 1:9 *God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Strong's Concordance translates it as "*partnership*"

The word "fellowship is defined by Thayer's definitions as:

- Association
- Intercourse
- Community
- the share which one has in anything, participation
- Communion
- Intimacy
- joint participation

As believers, we need to transition upward from a relationship with God to fellowship with God.

- a) We are called unto the fellowship of his son Jesus Christ our Lord.
- b) Fellowship implies time we spend together where we get to know someone well enough. We get to know a person better when we spend time with them.
- c) Being in the presence of God
  - i) Psalm 31:20 *Thou shalt hide them in the secret of thy presence from the pride of man: thou shalt keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues.*
- d) God Consciousness
  - i) Psalm 10:4 *The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts.*
- e) Constant communion and fellowship with Him.
- f) Walking with God
  - i) To walk with God signifies relationship and fellowship with Him. One has to spend time with you to walk with you.
  - ii) Enoch—Genesis 5:22 *And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters:*

- iii) Micah 6:8 *He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?*

**Example:** Like a marriage or a close friendship, every day is different. Some days we spend more time together, and other days less because we are occupied or busy. Other days may be brief because we are busy. This does not kill our friendship, but probably our closeness and intimacy. We are still friends or married, but probably not close. We are not threatened by the fact that we have not spent more time together and does not mean we are not friends and/or married anymore and so forth. It simply means it was a different day.

### Results of being in fellowship with God

- 1) John 5:19-21 *Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can **do nothing of himself**, but what he **seeth the Father do**: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise. 20 For the Father loveth the Son, and **sheweth** him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel. 21 For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will.*
- a) Do nothing of ourselves, do what the Father does.
  - b) See what the Father does and we do the same
  - c) Show us all things
- 2) John 5:30 *I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.*
- a) Hear
  - b) Seek not our own will, but the will of the Father
- 3) John 8:19 *Then said they unto him, Where is thy Father? Jesus answered, Ye neither know me, nor my Father: if ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also.*
- a) Know the Father
    - i) It is from a place of fellowship with the Father that we get to know Him.
- 4) John 8:28-29 *Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught*

*me, I speak these things. 29 And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.*

- a) Do nothing of ourselves
- b) Father has taught us
- c) I speak these things
- d) Sent me
- e) I do always those things that please Him.
  - i) This is only possible if we know the Lord and we spend time with Him.

When we are in fellowship with God

- a) *John15: 5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*
  - i) We learn that if we want to bear fruit, we need to abide in fellowship with the Lord.

### **What does fellowship or spending time with God look like?**

This will look different for everyone. Just like in a marriage or in a friendship, the way one couple spends time together is not the same way another couple spends time together and gets to know each other. What works for you? If that and do that. This will be more effective than trying to do what another person is doing to spend time with the Lord.

It is not one size fits all. It is not a copy-paste. This can be customized and tweaked to your comfort and your liking. Whatever works for you ought to be what you employ.

Some people will fellowship with one another by playing cards, watching TV or a movie, playing pool or reading a book, walking and talking, helping each other out, and so forth. So, this looks different for each person and their relationship. One is not better than the other—it is simply what works for you.

### **One of the ways to fellowship with God:**

- 1) Studying and writing the Word
- 2) Prayer
- 3) Praying in the Spirit

- 4) Listening to teachings
- 5) Listening to Worship music
- 6) Meditation
- 7) Talking to God

This list is not exclusive. There are many other ways we can creatively come up with to spend time with the Lord. Again, this will look different for everyone. Fix what works for you. Find your rhythm.

Rich Kanyali