

Communing with Christ

In the Company of Others

Psalm 133:1-3

Introduction

Upon hearing the phrase, Communing with Christ, it is easy to assume it is solely an individual experience. Though we certainly have times of personal intimacy with Christ, some of the most enriching moments come in the company of others. **For Spirit-filled believers, communing with Christ is exponentially more powerful when experienced in community.**

The Closeness of Christ in Community

Arguably, the quintessential chapter on unity is the Psalm of Fellowship in Psalm 133. As a psalm of David, it depicts the hunger of God's people to gather in His presence. It also shows God's great pleasure in them doing so. The ultimate fulfillment of the unity described in this psalm is evident in the Early Church.

CHARACTERISTICS OF CLOSENESS (ACTS 2:42).

- To flow in togetherness, we should exhibit the four elements of unity evident in the Early Church.
 - **Teachings of the Church.** When the Word of God is central in our lives, we will experience unity with other believers.
 - **Helping each other.** At the heart of the word we translate as fellowship is the idea of sharing. For believers, it means to make contributions into the lives of other believers.
 - **Intimate gatherings.** Eating together for the Early Church was a time of intimacy, where they shared a meal and the sacrament of Eucharist. Believers are privileged to have close encounters with other Christians that demonstrate the familial aspect of faith in Jesus.
 - **Corporate worship.** The text explicitly mentions prayers but infers the entire worship experience. When the church worships together and prays together, great things happen for the glory of God.
- These qualities were not just one-time encounters for the Early Church but were constant realities of devotion for them, as they should be for us.

CONSEQUENCES OF CLOSENESS (ACTS 2:43-47).

- The impact of our closeness with Christ should be evident in two primary categories: favor and fruitfulness.
- We should expect to see favor and fruit when we dwell together in unity.

Spirit-Empowered Unity

It is not just unity that makes a difference in our lives. It is Spirit-empowered unity that makes the difference. The unity described in Psalm 133:2 centers around the anointing of the Holy Spirit upon Aaron's life.

- The difference is the Early Church was the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in their lives.
- The Holy Spirit is the source of our unity as well. He makes the difference.

The Two-or-Three Principle

The dew from Mt. Hermon flows down, approximately 125 miles, to Mt. Zion. Likewise, the blessings over our lives flow from the Father above when we live in unity.

- In Matthew 18:19-20, Jesus introduces a principle of togetherness. There is something exponentially powerful in godly gatherings.
- Two is sufficient, but three or more is preferred.
- When we corporately commune with Christ, there is something powerful that happens.

Conclusion

John Wesley is quoted as saying, "There is nothing more unchristian than a solitary Christian." Nevertheless, the Father wants us, as His children, to commune together with Him. Not only does it give Him pleasure, but it is our witness to the world.

What is the Holy Spirit speaking to you through this message?

How will you respond to what He is revealing to you?

All Scripture is from the New Living Translation of the Bible.