

LIVING FROM ABOVE
Session 16: Living from the Place of Fellowship
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I. REVIEW

- Heaven is open, and fellowship has been restored.
- Fellowship is the key to accessing heaven's supply.
  - "Fellowship": communion, companionship, close association, mutual sharing, and **active participation in a relationship**.
  - **Hebrews 4:16**
    NKJV "Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."
    - "Come": approach; to come near; to draw near in fellowship; to present oneself; **make movement toward**.
- Failure to fellowship:
  - Quote: "*We know we can do nothing without Him. The problem is, we're doing nothing with Him.*"
  - **1 Corinthians 1:9**
    NKJV "God is faithful, by whom you were called **into the fellowship** of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."

    GNT "God is to be trusted, the God who called you **to have fellowship** with his Son Jesus Christ, our Lord."

II. FELLOWSHIP: GOD'S PLAN FROM THE BEGINNING

A. God's Voice Was Part of Man's Original Environment

1. Scriptures:

a. **Genesis 3:6-8**
KJV "And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. And **they heard the voice of the Lord God** walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden."

b. **Genesis 1:28**
KJV "And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion..."

2. When God created mankind, He immediately began to SPEAK to them.
   a. Adam was designed to live from what God said.
   b. **Deuteronomy 8:3**
   NKJV "So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every *word* that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord."

3. As a living breathing **spirit-being**, mankind was not created to live by natural bread alone.
   a. Your spirit requires an ongoing connection with the VOICE of God—living by the Word of God.
   b. Once the Word of God is disconnected from you, you begin to die.

4. The Fall involved a shift in whose voice governed Adam and Eve's lives.
   a. **Genesis 3:1–6**
      - The serpent introduced another voice into the garden.
      - That voice challenged what God had already spoken.
   b. Now that there is another voice carrying authority over Adam and Eve, everything spirals downhill.
   c. They are no longer living out of fellowship with God (His voice).
   d. They are living out of fellowship with another voice (Satan's voice).
      - The voice of God is life.
      - The voice of the devil is death.

B. Trying To Live from Our Position in Christ with No Fellowship

1. One of the greatest mistakes a believer can make is attempting to exercise the privileges of their position in Christ without maintaining an active fellowship with Christ.

2. Scriptures:
   a. **John 15:5**
   KJV "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."

b. **Jeremiah 17:7-8**
NKJV "Blessed *is* the man who trusts in the Lord, And whose hope is the Lord. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, Which spreads out its roots by the river, And will not fear when heat comes; But its leaf will be green, And will not be anxious in the year of drought, Nor will cease from yielding fruit."

TPT "He is like a tree planted on the riverbank, extending its roots into streams of water. It does not fear when scorching heat comes, for its leaves remain fresh and *never fading* even in a year of drought. It has no anxieties but continues to bear *luscious* fruit."

3. Fellowship is where deep roots are established.
a. If the roots are not drawing everything needed from the source the tree will wither and die.
b. When we neglect our fellowship with God, we cease to actively draw upon the strength, wisdom, and spiritual nourishment He has made available to us.
c. A tree does not survive simply because it is planted near a river. Its roots must draw from the river.
d. "*It is not enough to be planted near the Source. Your roots must be drawing from the Source!*"

C. The Rewards of Fellowship
1. Scriptures:
a. **Hebrews 11:6**
NKJV "But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him,* for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."
b. **James 4:8**
KJV "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you."
- *"Come close to God and He will come close to you."*

2. **Salvation** secures our <u>position</u>. **Fellowship** enables us to partake of our <u>provision</u>.
a. Our heavenly position is settled, but our earthly lives require a continual supply.



D. Rewards of Prayer

1. Receiving the things we desire of the Lord.

a. **Mark 11:23-24**
KJV "Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."

b. One of the great benefits of prayer, according to Mark 11:23–24, is that we can receive from God the things we desire when we pray in faith.

c. Prayer provides an opportunity for receiving.

2. Deliverance in the time of trouble.

a. **Psalm 50:15**
NKJV "Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me."

- To "call" is to pray.

PASTOR'S NOTE: *I submit to you that, when daily fellowship is our practice, God will often help us avoid the trouble altogether. If not avoided, He will see to it that we have the answer needed, often before the trouble arises.*

3. Revelation.

a. Revelation knowledge flows out of fellowship with God.

b. Revelation is where you get to know God.

- Revelation takes you beyond **information about** Him into **intimacy with** Him.
- **Ephesians 1:17**
KJV "That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him…"
- Notice that Paul connects revelation with the knowledge of "Him" (God).

c. **Jeremiah 33:3**
NKJV "Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know."

d. The better you know Him (His ways) the more confidently you can trust His covenant promises.

- Revelation of His faithfulness strengthens faith.
- Revelation of His love removes fear.

- Revelation of His goodness strengthens expectation.
- Revelation of His covenant produces confidence.

e. Many believers are asking God to give them things that He has already made available in Christ, when what they **need** is revelation knowledge concerning what they already possess.

f. God has reserved revelation for those who show up to fellowship Him.

- **Matthew 13:10-17**

  NKJV "The disciples came to him and asked, 'Why do you speak to the people in parables?' He replied, 'Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. This is why I speak to them in parables: "Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand." In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: "You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving. For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them." But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. For truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.'"
- Revelation knowledge is given to those who are receptive.
  - What you do with what you hear determines what you receive.
- In **Revelation 2**, the church at Pergamos was not holding to the revelation of truth that they had received.
  - They were opening up to false doctrine (the doctrine of Baalam and of the Nicolaitans).
  - The reward of repentance was hidden manna: "…to him that overcomes I will give some hidden manna" (greater revelation).

PASTOR'S NOTE: *Those who are satisfied with merely hearing the Word may miss much of its meaning. But those who pursue fellowship with the Lord position themselves to receive greater understanding of what they have heard.*

4. Wisdom.

a. **James 1:5-6**

NKJV "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind."

b. Wisdom refers to insight and sound judgement.

- Heaven's perspective
- Understanding

c. Through fellowship with our heavenly Father, we position ourselves to receive divine insight, understanding, and direction that we could never obtain through natural reasoning alone.

5. Supernatural strength.

a. Strength for every season.

b. **Philippians 4:13**

KJV "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

- "Strengtheneth" (Greek):
  - To empower or endue with power
  - To make strong
  - To impart strength or ability
  - To increase in strength
  - To enable someone to accomplish what is required

c. Supernatural strength is divine ability supplied by Christ that enables us to function beyond the limitations of our natural strength.

d. Strength comes from our union.

- We draw on our union through our fellowship with Him.

e. **Luke 18:1**

KJV "And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint."

- "Faint": To lose heart or courage; to become weary or discouraged; to become disheartened by difficulties; give up or lose the willingness to continue.
- Jesus' remedy was PRAYER or FELLOWSHIP with the Father.



III. PERSONAL WORD

- "*I meet you at the intensity of the search.*"
  - **Jeremiah 29:13**
    KJV "And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart."
- "The intensity of the pursuit"
  - **Proverbs 2:3-5**
    NKJV "Yes, if you cry out for discernment, *And* lift up your voice for understanding, If you seek her as silver, And search for her as *for* hidden treasures; Then you will understand the fear of the Lord, And find the knowledge of God."

- Go for it all!
- Seek with all your heart.
- Make time for sweet fellowship.