

LIVING FROM ABOVE

Sessions 14 and 15: Greater Fellowship

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I. REVIEW

- Heaven is open.
- Fellowship is restored.
- Fellowship is the key to accessing heaven's supply.
- The reason many Christians fail to receive heaven's supply, wisdom, and assistance is not because heaven is closed to them, but because they are not **actively fellowshipping with heaven**. Heaven is open, but they are not taking advantage of the access they have been given through Christ.

II. GREATER FELLOWSHIP

A. What Is Fellowship?

1. "Fellowship": communion, companionship, close association, mutual sharing, and **active participation in a relationship**.

B. Scriptures

1. 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. "

a. This passage speaks of the **SUPPLY OF HEAVEN**.

b. Yet there is a **QUALIFIER** to receive: we must "come".

- "Come": Approach; to come near; to draw near in fellowship; to present oneself; **make movement toward**.

c. We are invited to fellowship and approach.

- <u>We</u> do the approaching.

d. God has ALREADY approached us.

- He drew near to us through Jesus.

2. John 1:14

NKJV "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."

GWT "The Word became human and lived among us. We saw his glory. It was the glory that the Father shares with his only Son, a glory full of kindness and truth."

a. God could not have demonstrated His desire to draw near to humanity more profoundly than He did when His own Son became flesh and dwelt among us.

b. Jesus drew near to us so that, through Him, we could draw near to Father!

C. Restored Fellowship: God's Great Gift to Us

1. Reconciliation is the restoration of a relationship that has been broken by separation, hostility, or offense, **bringing those** who were alienated **back** into a condition of peace, acceptance, and **fellowship**.

a. Greek = A change in relationship.
b. A removal of hostility or alienation.
c. A restoration of peaceful relation.
d. A change from enmity to friendship.

2. 2 Corinthians 5:18

KJV "And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation…"

a. Biblically, reconciliation is God's work through Jesus Christ to restore sinful humanity to a right relationship with Himself.
b. Reconciliation removes the barrier.
   - Through the sacrifice of Christ, the sin that separated humanity from God has been dealt with.
   - Whatever stood between me and God, reconciliation removed it.
c. Reconciliation restores the relationship.
   - **Ephesians 2:13**
     NKJV
     "We who were once alienated have been brought near through the blood of Christ"
d. Reconciliation makes fellowship possible.
   - We are no longer strangers to God.
   - Through Christ, we have access to the Father and can enjoy continual communion with Him.

3. Reconciliation is the divine act through which God, by Jesus Christ, removed the barrier of sin and **restored us** to a relationship of peace, acceptance, and **fellowship with Himself**.

a. **Colossians 1:19-20**
   NKJV "For it pleased *the Father that* in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him **to reconcile all things to Himself**, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross."
b. God actually reconciled HEAVEN and EARTH for those who would receive His gift of salvation.

D. Failure To Fellowship

1. You can be genuinely born again, possess eternal life, and yet fail to experience the fullness of the benefits of your salvation because you are not actively participating in fellowship with the Father.

2. **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."

3. This fellowship includes a relationship <u>today</u>, not just when we die and go to heaven.

E. What Is Fellowship with God?

1. Fellowship with God is not complicated.
   a. It is simply living in daily communion with the Father through His Word, prayer, worship and an **awareness of His presence**.

2. "*Praise is the highest type of prayer.*" — Kenneth E. Hagin

3. **Acts 13:1-2**
   NKJV "Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. **<u>As they ministered to the Lord</u>** and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, 'Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.'"

   Other Translations: "while they were worshipping the Lord"

   a. Notice that direction came as they were ministering to the Lord.
   b. Another way to say this is that the Spirit spoke to them as they were fellowshipping the Lord corporately.

4. Fellowship with God is drawing near to Him, not to merely ask for something, but to spend time with Him, to know His thoughts, understand His will, receive His wisdom and direction, or simply to enjoy being in His presence.

F. 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 position. Fellowship enables us to partake of our provision.
a. Our heavenly position is settled, but our earthly lives require a continual supply.

G. The Rewards of Prayer
1. An opportunity for 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.

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."
b. 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, then He will often see to it that we have the answer needed before the trouble arises.*

3. Greater revelation.
a. Revelation knowledge flows out of fellowship with God.
- **Jeremiah 33:3**
NKJV "Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know."
- 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.

b. 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.'"

c. Revelation knowledge is given to those who are receptive.
   - What you do with what you hear determines what you receive.
   - In Revelation Chapter 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 the Nicolaitans).
     - **Revelation 2:17**
       NKJV "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the **hidden manna** to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it."
     - The reward of repentance was "*hidden manna*" (greater revelation).
   - 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."
c. "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.

d. Supernatural strength is divine ability supplied by Christ that enables us to function beyond the limitations of our natural strength.
- Strength comes from our union with Him.
- We **draw** on that 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; to give up or lose the willingness to continue.
- Jesus' remedy against becoming faint was PRAYER or FELLOWSHIP with the Father.

H. Pastor's Personal Word: *"I meet you at the intensity of the search."*
- The **intensity** of your pursuit of God matters.
  - **Jeremiah 29:13**
  KJV "And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with **all your heart**."
  - **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.