

Fellowship

([Gen 7:1-16](#), [Acts 2:16-47](#), [John 15:1-17](#))

[1John 1:6](#) If we say that we have **fellowship** with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

With out the Bible no one knows the answer to the question, "What on earth are we here for?" Those who have the Bible also do not know the answer if they don't read it. They just exist in this world having been born doing whatever they like till their death. Without the Bible nobody can have the answers to the questions, why am I here on this earth? Where will we go after death? What is the destiny of life?

Pastor Rick Warren in His famous book "The Purpose Driven Life" gave a fivefold answer to the question, "What on earth am I here for?" This book was adjudged one of the best 100 books in the year it was published. If you haven't read it please read it and make every member of your family read it. He wrote that book in the form of 40 day devotions giving the fivefold answer as 1) Worship 2) Fellowship 3) Discipleship 4) Ministry in the church 5) Mission in the world. At the end of the book Pastor Rick Warren urged the readers to develop a mission statement for their lives and live according to that statement. Today, we'll look at "**Fellowship**".

The most extraordinary thing we find in the Bible is the

fellowship of God and man both at the beginning and at the end. In between we find how mankind lost their **fellowship** with God and how God restored that fellowship. We find at the end of the Bible that "... the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God." ([Rev 21:3](#)).

Luke tracing the genealogy of Jesus to Adam said that Adam was the son of God. Dr. Mark Stibbe the founder of the trust 'My Father's House' said, "The Bible is my Father's book." The aim of this trust is to eradicate 'fatherless -ness' on earth by spreading the love of God the Father. Even when human beings went away from His house saying give me our portion of the inheritance like the prodigal son, heavenly Father is looking eagerly expecting when His children will return back home ([Isaiah 65:2](#)). This is the central message of the Bible. God makes all those who believe in His name ([John 1:12](#)) His children, and entrusts to them the work of His house.

In the Old Testament lesson we see how Noah was entrusted the work of His house. In the epistle lesson we find how he chose those people who can work with Him to build the Temple, His church so that He may dwell among His people. In the Gospel lesson we find our elder brother and our Master Jesus Christ telling us how we can glorify the Father by bearing fruit as

His children.

The Old Testament Lesson: [Genesis 7:1-16](#)

The fellowship of the Father with us is like the relationship between father and son.

Our heavenly Father is always is delighted when He sees His children doing the work he has asked them to do. How much God might have delighted when Adam was naming all His creation? In the same way in the time of Noah He was so annoyed that he repented why He created the human beings. But Noah gave him comfort during that sad period .So He entrusted Noah the work of pulling down His house and rebuild it. Noah gave perfect delight to His Heavenly Father by doing everything He was asked to do.

Apostle John told us that our **fellowship** was first with the Father and next with the Son ([1 John 1:3](#)). Therefore those who are not born again of the Father by accepting Jesus as their savior cannot be children of God and call God as their Father([John 1:12,3:6-7](#)). They may be saying prayers calling God as Father. Nobody can be children of God without the Spirit of Christ i.e. the Holy Spirit ([Rom 8:14](#)).So our **fellowship** begins with our relationship with God as our Father. That is the vertical dimension of our fellowship with our Father. There is also the horizontal dimension to this fellowship. Every family on earth has derived

that name because of God the Father ([Ep 3:15](#)). So all in the Universal church of God are our brothers and sisters in Christ. This is today's epistle lesson.

The Epistle lesson: [Acts 2:36-47](#)

In God's house our fellowship is of brothers and sisters

From the beginning God has been yearning for the **fellowship** of human beings. Even though they went out turning down his **fellowship** God has been calling them and waiting for them to return. God asked them to build the tabernacle only to dwell among them. ([Ex 28:3](#)). Now the place where God desires to dwell is the church. Luke has given in the book of acts how God started to build the church. Only those who accept Jesus Christ as their personal savior will be incorporated in the church. The early church was initially built by those three thousand people who responded to Peter's sermon and repented.

The pillars of the early church were Kerugma (preaching), didache (teaching), koinonia (**fellowship**), diakonia (ministry) and marturia (witness). This is the N.T model of the Fellowship. In this fellowship there is much prayer, singing, witness, encouragement, building one another. There is not only spiritual well being but they are also concerned with the physical well being of one another. In all circumstances they treasured the

fellowship and never imagined to be torn away from it. Making every effort to keep the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace they used to praise God and love one another as God had loved them. In this way the early church had a distinctive identity. The Roman soldiers used to call the Disciples of Christ with the nick name "christianos" meaning little Jesuses ([Acts 11:26](#)). The English word Christian has come from this Greek word. To be a Christian does not mean to belong to a denomination but to be a disciple of Christ. The early disciples lived and glorified God as true disciples according to what Jesus taught in the upper room in today's gospel lesson.

The Gospel lesson: [John 15:1-17](#)

Our fellowship with God is a bond that cannot be broken

We all know that 14, 15 and 16 chapters of John's Gospel contain Lord's teaching to His disciples before His death in the upper room. In it He taught them about the Holy Spirit and the principles of fruit bearing. Our **fellowship** with God begins when we start obeying Him. That obedience leads to still closer fellowship. The Bible describes our fellowship with God in various ways as the relationship of Father and children, husband and wife, master and servant, friend and friend. These pictures tell us various aspects of this fellowship. To be in **fellowship** with God is to depend on the heavenly father for everything, love him as

wife and husband love each other, recognize his authority as our master and know that he has treated us as his equals by calling us His friends .The goal of all these relationships is to bear fruit for the glory of God.

Today lord Jesus is telling us that we can bear fruit only when we abide in Him as the branches abide in the vine. That means we need to sow the seed of the word of God in our lives. That is we need to obey His word. This is also what it means to abide in Him. In other words it is implicit obedience to Him.

God has chosen us to be His disciples who bear much fruit that remains. This is the sign of a true disciple of Jesus Christ. When we bear fruit for the glory of God, our lives will always be full of His joy. Therefore let us obey His word to bear fruit and thus glorify Him. Let us live in this world joyfully with the joy of salvation whatever may happen in our lives. May God help us! Amen.

Life Application:

1. It was written about Noah that he did all that the Lord had commanded him. What will be written about us?
2. If in the early church, disciples could live, helping each other why are we not able to do that in our churches now?

3. Why are we not bearing fruit that remains? Meditate on Mathew [13:23](#), [John 12:24](#), [John 15:8](#).

Do you know the verses where the Lord defined what it meant to be His disciple? If not, look into these verses: 1) [John 8:31-32](#); 2) [Luke 9:23](#); 3) [John 13:33-35](#); 4) [John 15:8](#); 5) [Luke 6:40](#)

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

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