

Bible Fellowship

The Bible word “fellowship” has been greatly misused and misapplied by many.

1) MEANING OF THE WORD.

The word “fellowship” means joint participation in a spiritual work or spiritual service. It is never used in a social way in the New Testament.

2) FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD.

John wrote, “That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his son Jesus Christ” (1 Jn. 1:3). We have fellowship with God when we walk with Him in truth (1 Jn. 1:6).

3) FELLOWSHIP WITH CHRIST.

Paul declared, “God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord” (1 Cor. 1:9). As a Christian holds his “confidence stedfast unto the end,” he is said to be “made partakers of Christ” (Heb. 3:14).

4) FELLOWSHIP WITH THE SPIRIT.

Paul wrote the Corinthians that they had “communion” or fellowship with the Holy Spirit (2 Cor. 13:14; Phil. 2:1) as they were led by the words of the Holy Spirit to be of one mind.

5) FELLOWSHIP WITH ONE ANOTHER.

Paul and Barnabas were given “the right hand of fellowship” (Gal. 2:9). As we “walk in the light...we have fellowship one with another” (1Jn. 1:7). Many believe the word “fellowship” includes social gatherings and eating of a common meal. Take the words “chicken dinner” and insert in place of fellowship. “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, having a chicken dinner one with another...” See how ridiculous this becomes! Fellowship here has to do with spiritual things only. Nothing is said about church sponsored meals or entertainment!

6) FELLOWSHIP IN SUFFERINGS.

As Paul penned a letter to the Philippians, he said, “That I might know him, and the fellowship of his sufferings...” (Phil. 3:10). Christians share in Christ’s sufferings as they participate with Him in these sufferings (Acts 14:22; 1 Th. 3:3).

7) FELLOWSHIP WITH POOR SAINTS.

Paul refers to “the fellowship of the ministering to the saints” (2 Cor. 8:1-4). Acts 11:27-30 is a good example of disciples having fellowship with other needy saints.

8) FELLOWSHIP IN PREACHING.

When the church at Philippi “sent to Paul’s necessity” (Phil. 4:15-16), he called it, “fellowship in the gospel” (Phil. 1:5).

Johnie Edwards. *Back To Basics*, September 2009, page 1

Know Your Bible

Women

1. Who called herself “Marah”, a name meaning “bitter”?
2. What woman in Acts made her living selling purple?
3. Who was given a miraculous supply of food by the propjet Elijah?
4. Who was the first woman to see Jesus’ empty tomb?
5. What devout woman was described by Paul as “our sister” and “a servant of the church”?

Answers On Back

Sunday Sermon

Point your phone camera at the square below, then click on the link to hear the sermon. Recordings will change mid-week.



Keeping Our Direction

Ricky Jenkins

Growing and learning. That’s the life of a Christian in a nutshell, isn’t it? There are more growing and learning days than great and fantastic days. Growing is a process. At times it is difficult and painful. Ever fell like you take one step forward and two back? The life of a Christian can be tough. It is no Disney Land. Paul said, “We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed” (2 Cor. 4:8-9). That’s true. But, that also demands persevering through those moments that are hard. Refusing to give up.

The Christian life does not mean because we are a Christian all our problems are solved. The Bible never says that. The Bible assures us we will be new creatures; it also assures us that we have a promise that is secure. But no where does the Bible guarantee as downhill slide once we are Christians. In fact, in some instances the road may get tougher. Life certainly was not easier for Paul after he became a Christian (2 Cor. 11:28-33).

Also, the life of a Christians does not mean all the problems we ever face are addressed in the bible. There are many times we do not find an explicit answer in the Bible for our particular problem. At such times we are forced to walk by faith, trusting the Lord. Abraham certainly did.

Furthermore, being a Christian does not mean if you have problems that you are unspiritual. Sadly, this pervades even the thinking of Christians. Having problems simply means you are human! We all have problems, and wrestling with a dilemma does not mean we are unspiritual. Some of the most spiritual men and women wrestled with significant problems in their life. Consider Job and his suffering. He did not have an answer. He did not understand why. His counselors, with their severe and heady statements, were grossly wrong. They didn’t know either.

Finally, being a Christian does not mean being exposed to sound biblical teaching automatically solves problems. Bible instruction alone will not result in instant solutions. No matter how reliable the teaching or gifts of the teacher, the declaration of truth does not provide the removal of difficulties.

Think of the Bible as an absolute road map. A map that tells how to get to a certain destination. But just looking at a map won’t automatically transport us to Arizona or England. Getting to our destination means we have to make the effort, pay the cost, and take the time for travel. We must stay at it until we arrive. So it is with the life of a Christian. God’s map is reliable and available. It is clear and direct. But there is no hocus-pocus in it’s pages that automatically sends us on a magic carpet ride. Christians must persevere in order to grow.