

## **“The Concept of Fellowship”**

***1 John 1:1-4***

### **Introduction**

As Christians, we stay right with God when we fellowship with Him and His people and His Word. Fellowship refers to a shared experience with God’s person, God’s people and God’s precepts. To have an intimate relationship with God, we need a shared experience with all three elements.

God wants to share His life with our life. He desires to give us a deeper experience of spiritual intimacy, so we can obtain His closeness in a tangible way, not just academically or intellectually. Based on the testimonies of the apostles in Scripture, we witness the intimate relationship between Jesus and His apostles. Their stories demonstrate how the only way to keep our relationship right with God is to stay in close fellowship with Him.

As Christians, we are required to have a shared experience with God’s people. We cannot live this Christian life alone. As we continue to pursue God, we will experience spiritual unity with our fellow believers. Unity bonds us together and makes us stronger. God wants us to bond with His people, so He commands us to love one another (John 15:12). By acting out of love, the world will recognize us as disciples of Christ (John 13:35).

Fellowship with God’s precepts implies a shared experience with His guidelines found in His Word. As we learn from Scripture how to deepen our relationship with Him, we experience joy. Joy is a settled quality on the inside that transcends circumstances on the outside. God’s reality gives us inner calm despite the storms of life. If we desire joy, then we must pursue a higher level of intimacy with God.

### **Getting Started**

1. How do you determine who your close friends are? What intimate details of your life do you share with them that you do not share with other people?
2. How does our culture view the difference between happiness and joy? Which one gets priority?

### **Let’s Get Personal**

1. What is your current level of fellowship and closeness with God? Do you have a right relationship with Him?
2. Where are you lacking in unity with God’s people? When have you missed opportunities to show love to your brothers and sisters in Christ?
3. How much time do you spend in Scripture weekly? How well do you know God’s precepts?

### **Take the Next Step**

1. What changes will you make immediately to prioritize your spiritual intimacy with God?
2. What steps can you take to love God's people more intentionally in your church and community?
3. Want to go deeper? Take time to look at the following passages: John 15:1-16; John 14:7-15; John 17:13; John 17:3; Philippians 3:8-16.

### **Renew Your Mind**

***"These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete."***

***1 John 1:4***

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