

The Fellowship of Life

Scripture Reading:

Hymn: 737

- 1 John 1:2-3 And the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and report to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us; That which we have seen and heard we report also to you that you also may have fellowship with us, and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.
- 1 John 1:7, 9 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin...If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

I. The source of the fellowship of life—the eternal life—1 John 1:2-3.

II. The meaning of the fellowship of life—1 John 1:3 note 3.

- A. Fellowship, the Greek word means joint participation, common participation.
- B. Fellowship is the issue of the eternal life and is actually the flow of the eternal life within all the believers, who have received and possess the divine life.
- C. Fellowship here indicates a putting away of private interests and a joining with others for a certain common purpose.

III. The two aspects of the fellowship of life:

- A. The fellowship with the apostles and the church, whom they represent—1 John 1:2-3; 1 Cor. 12:28; Acts 2:41-42.
- B. The fellowship with God and the Lord Jesus—1 John 1:3.

IV. The medium of the fellowship of life—The Holy Spirit—The fellowship of the Holy Spirit—2 Cor. 13:14.

V. The believers' responsibilities in regard to the fellowship of life:

- A. Continuing steadfastly—Acts 2:42.
- B. Obeying the teaching of the anointing—1 John 2:27.
- C. Walking in the light—1 John 1:7.
- D. Confessing our sins—1 John 1:7-9.

VI. The result of the fellowship of life:

- A. Receiving God's light—1 John 1:5-7.
- B. Receiving the Lord's cleansing by His blood—1 John 1:7.
- C. Receiving the Lord's abiding within—John 15:5.
- D. Bearing much fruit to glorify God—John 15:5, 8.

VII. The interruption of the fellowship of life:

- A. The relationship between the believers and God are unbreakable—John 10:28-29.
- B. The fellowship between the believers and God can be interrupted—1 John 1:7.

VIII. The restoration of the fellowship of life—through the confession of sins—1 John 1:9, 7.

Referenced Books: *The Important Topics of the Bible*, published in Chinese but not in English, Lesson 22; *The Knowledge of Life*, Chapter 5; *Life Lessons*, Lesson 31.

Excerpts from the Ministry:

The Source of the Fellowship of Life

Where does the fellowship of life come from? What is its cause? And from what is it derived? 1 John 1:2-3 says: “We (the Apostles)...show unto you (the believers) the eternal life...that ye also may have fellowship with us: yea, and our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.” These verses show that the Apostles preached unto us “the eternal life” so that we may have “fellowship.” The eternal life is the life of God, and the life of God entering into us enables us to have fellowship. Since this fellowship comes out of the life of God, it is the fellowship of life. Therefore, the fellowship of life comes from the life of God; its existence is due to the life of God; it is derived from the life of God; and it is brought to us by the life of God. As soon as we obtain the life of God within us, this life of God enables us to have the fellowship of life. The life of God, therefore, is the source of the fellowship of life. (*The Knowledge of Life*, p. 55.)

Having Fellowship with God and the Lord Jesus

The Lord’s life is inside of us. On the one hand, it causes us to have fellowship with God and the Lord. On the other hand, it also causes us to have fellowship with the churches represented by the apostles and all those who have the Lord’s life. It is like the electricity inside the light bulbs. On the one hand, these light bulbs have fellowship with the power plant. On the other hand, they also have fellowship with all the light bulbs in this city. If the fellowship of a certain light bulb with the power plant is interrupted, its fellowship with the light bulbs in this house and all the light bulbs in this city is also interrupted. In the same way, if a person who has the Lord’s life is interrupted from the fellowship with the Lord, then the fellowship with all the people who have the Lord’s life will also be interrupted. Although both you and I have the Lord’s life, but if either one of us broke the fellowship with the Lord, then you and I can no longer fellowship in the Lord’s life. If you have a problem with the Lord, without telling me, I cannot fellowship with you when I see you. Because the fellowship between you and our power plant—the Lord—is interrupted, therefore, you and I cannot fellowship. (*The Important Topics of the Bible*, published in Chinese but not in English, p. 421.)

The Medium of the Fellowship of Life

The life of God rests in the Holy Spirit of God, and it is through the Holy Spirit of God that the life of God enters into us and lives in us. Therefore, the fellowship brought to us by the life of God, though derived from the life of God, comes by means of the Holy Spirit of God. Hence, the Bible also calls this fellowship “the fellowship of the Holy Spirit” (2 Cor. 13:14, “communion” is “fellowship” in the original text). (*The knowledge of Life*, p. 56.)

Whether we fellowship with God and the Lord or fellowship with the church and the saints, it is in the Holy Spirit and through the Holy Spirit. Therefore, only our living in the Holy Spirit, walking

according to the Holy Spirit, being in the Holy Spirit and through the fellowship of life of the Holy Spirit can become our experience of life and spiritual reality. (*The Important Topics of the Bible*, published in Chinese but not in English, p. 423.)

Our Responsibility in Regard to the Fellowship of Life

For us to continue in the fellowship of the Lord's life, we need to follow the teaching of the anointing to abide in the Lord and we need to obey the teaching of the anointing. The teaching of the anointing is the moving of the Holy Spirit within us. We need to obey the moving of the Holy Spirit within us and follow this moving to abide in the Lord so that we may continue steadfastly to live in the fellowship of the Lord's life. Once we disobey the moving of the Holy Spirit, our fellowship with the Lord will be interrupted.

If we live in the fellowship of the Lord's life, then for sure we are in the light of the Lord's life. The light of the Lord's life in the fellowship of His life will cause us to see our sins in us. As soon as we see—sense—our sins, because of the light of the Lord's life in the fellowship of the Lord's life, we confess to God. If we would confess our sins to God, our sins will be forgiven by God and be cleansed by God so that we may enter into deeper fellowship of the Lord's life. Otherwise, our sins will remain with us and will interrupt our fellowship with the Lord. (*The Important Topics of the Bible*, published in Chinese but not in English, pp. 426-427.)

Restoring the Fellowship of Life

Praise God, although our fellowship of life with God may be interrupted it can also be restored. Since interruption is due to sins, then restoration must be through the confession of sins. If we would confess our sins according to the Lord's shining, God is faithful and righteous to forgive us and cleanse us from our sins based on the blood of Jesus and restore the fellowship of life between us. If we would confess our sins, He would immediately forgive, cleanse, give peace to our conscience and to free it from condemnation, and restore our fellowship of life with Him. This is like a child who has stolen some candies. As soon as he would confess to his mother, his mother would forgive him immediately and restore his fellowship with his mother. We can restore our interrupted fellowship with the Lord at any time. This restoration is based on the Lord's efficacious blood and our confession of our sins. (*The Important Topics of the Bible*, published in Chinese but not in English, p. 423.)

Being Cleansed by the Blood

When we confess our sins to God, those we see under the light of the Lord's life in the fellowship of the Lord's life, the Lord's blood cleanses our sins. Therefore, after we are saved, the cleansing of our sins by the Lord's blood is obtained in the fellowship of the Lord's life. If we sin after we have been saved, we cannot confess it to God loosely to obtain the cleansing of the blood. If we would be cleansed of the sins that we have committed after we got saved, we must be enlightened by the Lord's life in the fellowship of His life. The cleansing of the Lord's blood needs the fellowship of the Lord's life. Without the fellowship of the Lord's life, we cannot be enlightened by the Lord's life. Without the enlightening of the Lord's life, we cannot see our sins and confess our sins to God. Without the confession of our sins to God, we cannot be cleansed by the Lord's blood. Because the sins that we commit after we were saved, must be confessed by us to God in order for them to be cleansed by the Lord's blood. In order to confess to God, we

must be enlightened. In order to be enlightened, we must live in the fellowship of life. Therefore, it is the fellowship of life that causes the Lord's blood to cleanse us from all sins committed after we have been saved. (*The Important Topics of the Bible*, published in Chinese but not in English, pp. 428-429.)

The Relationship between the Feeling of Life and the Fellowship of Life

Once a believer ignores the feeling of life, he will immediately lose the fellowship of life. The fellowship of life is maintained in the feeling of life. As soon as we ignore the sense of life, the fellowship of life is interrupted and lost.

Once a believer loses the fellowship of life, the feeling of life becomes dull. The fellowship of life is maintained by the feeling of life and the feeling of life is kept sensitive by the fellowship of life. Therefore, if the fellowship of life is lost, the feeling of life becomes dull.

Once a believer submits to the diminishing feeling of life, the fellowship of life is restored. The reason why the fellowship of life is lost is that we did not submit to the feeling of life. That is why if we would submit to the diminishing feeling of life, immediately the fellowship of life is restored.

Once a Christian restores the fellowship of life, the feeling of life will become sensitive. The reason why the feeling of life is dull is that we have lost the fellowship of life. Since the fellowship of life is restored, spontaneously the feeling of life will be sensitive.

The more sensitive is the believer's feeling of life, the deeper is the fellowship of life. The deeper the fellowship of life, the more sensitive is the feeling of life. These two matters have a cause and effect relationship that goes in endless cycle for the believers to grow in life. The feeling of life requires us to have the fellowship of life; the fellowship of life increases our feeling of life. The more we have the feeling of life, the more fellowship of life we have. The more we have the fellowship of life, the more feeling of life we have. These two matters increase in a cycle to cause life to grow in us. (*The Important Topics of the Bible*, published in Chinese but not in English, pp. 434-435.)

Questions:

1. What are the source and meaning of the fellowship of life?
2. According to the Bible, what are the two aspects of the fellowship of life?
3. According to the Bible, what is the medium of the fellowship of life?
4. What are the responsibilities of the believers to the fellowship of life?
5. What are the results of the fellowship of life?
6. How can we restore and maintain the fellowship of life when it is interrupted?