



HOMESWORD

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...but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. Joshua 24:15b

Fellowship with God

In the last HOMESWORD we looked at what it means to have fellowship. We closed with I John 1:3 which says that we may have fellowship with God and with His son Jesus Christ.

I John 1:3

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.

According to the definition for fellowship, we may get together with God and share in something common with Him. Let us look at some of the things that God wants us to share in with Him.

Genesis 1:26a, 27

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness:

So God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

God created man in His own image. The image of God (according to John 4:24) is spirit. One thing that God wanted us to share in with Him was spirit life. To have spirit life and to share in that with God is a big deal.

Psalms 8:4-5 (RSV)

What is man that thou art mindful of him, and the son of man that thou dost care for him?

Yet thou hast made him little less than God, and dost crown him with glory and honor.

God made man a little lower than Himself. God's plan was for man to share in the greatness of spirit life with Him – to be just a little lower than God. Spirit life is the highest form of life there is. God did not give this life to the animals, He gave it to man.

Another thing that God wanted man to share in with Him was goodness.

Genesis 1:31a

And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, *it was* very good.

Everything that God originally made was very good. In the beginning man only knew good, not evil. There was no sickness, no depression, no discouragement, no oppression – there was no darkness.

God is light. And God wanted man to share in that light with Him. We are so used to darkness around us all the time that we can

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not fully understand what it would be like to have no darkness, to be only good. That was God's plan for man.

God's original plan was for man to share in spirit life and goodness with Him. But man listened to the devil, disobeyed God and sinned. And in doing so he lost the spirit life that God gave him and the goodness that God planned for man. There was now darkness in man and in the things that God originally made for man.

Genesis 3:8

And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

Prior to this, Adam and Eve did not hide themselves from the presence of God. Prior to this man had fellowship with God. Man shared in spirit life and goodness with God. But man sinned and that loss of spirit life and introduction of darkness made it so that God and man had nothing in common to share. Their fellowship was ruined. This was not God's plan for His man.

God did not give up on His desire to have fellowship with man. God did things for man so that they could have fellowship. One thing was to make spirit life available again.

Romans 10:9-10

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

When we confess Jesus as Lord and believe that God raised him from the dead, we are born again of God's spirit. We can then again share in spirit life with God. God made it simple for man to have spirit life because it cost God His only begotten son. God did this because it was His desire to have fellowship with man; for man to share in spirit life with Him.

John 7:37-39 (RSV)

On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and proclaimed, "If any one thirst, let him come to me and drink.

He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, 'Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.'"

Now this he said about the Spirit, which those who believed in him were to receive; for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

The spirit is referred to as a river of living water that quenches the thirst of man. To thirst is to painfully feel the want of and eagerly long for those things by which the soul is refreshed. Like a man in a desert who is dying of thirst and dragging himself to get to water.

When we believe on Jesus Christ our soul is refreshed by spirit life that we receive from God and share in with God. Spirit life is refreshing to the soul. God wants for us to share in this spirit life and be refreshed.

Galatians 5:22-25

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

Meekness, temperance: against

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such there is no law.

And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

God wants us to share in the spirit with Him. To live in the spirit, to walk in the spirit and enjoy the fruit of the spirit.

Another thing that God made available again for man was to share in goodness; to be able to walk in light.

I John 1:5-9

This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, he is

faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

God made it simple for us to walk in light if we desire. All we have to do (as we are endeavoring to walk in light and if we sin) is to confess our sins and God says He will forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

We need to know that when we honestly go to God from our hearts and confess our sins, that He is faithful and just to forgive our sins and cleanse us. It does not say we need to do penance, all we need to do is confess. That is how quick God forgives and cleanses – as quick as it takes to confess our sins. And that is how quick we are back sharing in the light and having fellowship with God.

God, the creator of the heaven and earth, the Almighty, wants to fellowship with us. Even though there is nothing about us that God does not know, He still desires to fellowship with us. God has done everything He can, short of complete control of our lives, to have fellowship with us. There is nothing stopping us from fellowship with God except our desire to want to do so.

We have been called by God into fellowship with Him. God wants to fellowship with us.

And that fellowship is a sharing in spirit life and goodness with God and His son Jesus Christ.

We share in spirit life with God, which is eternal life. This means that not only do we get to fellowship with God now but also throughout all eternity. If I was going to make it available for someone to fellowship with me for that long, I would make sure it was someone that I really wanted to fellowship with. Well God really wants to fellowship with us. All we have to do is want to fellowship with Him.

In God's Love
Ray
