

## Why We Need Fellowship With an Almighty God

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**Abstract:** Why is fellowship with God important? How does it affect one's life? God has created each of us with a purpose, He created Adam and Eve with an intention to have fellowship with them. He died on the cross not just to redeem us from our sins but also to develop a relationship with us, so the whole point of fellowship with God is based on one's trust, faith and love for Almighty God. When we see small toddlers, we see that they are very confident as long as their parents are around them because they trust in their parents and so no matter what happens the toddler's assurance lies in their parents and not their abilities or capacity, likewise we as children of God should have the same level of undaunted faith in the Almighty God, sometimes when walking through life it may seem beyond one's comprehension or logic but following the Word of God and the instruction of God is a sure life saver, soring above the storms of life like the eagle who soars above the winds that blowing against it.

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### 1. Introduction

We know that the world is becoming a commercial place by the day but the most grieving fact is that people are becoming commercial even with friends, family and mournfully even God. People are coming to God just to fulfill their personal needs and in other words are making a pact with God, saying if they receive a particular thing from God they will do something for God like God depends on them, *"Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap"*(Galatians 6:7)

This can be fixed if we change our attitude towards God and thereby everything that surrounds us, setting aside a particular time or an hour or two of the day to spend with the Almighty God is a resolution one must take.

Having someone during our troubles is an enormous blessing, imagine having Christ the maker of Heavens and Earth as our friend and guide. It is a humongous gift to life fortunately this is a gift that one can add unto themselves just by being in a relation with the Almighty God, trusting Him in the most impossible situations and circumstances and living according to the will of God and God's Word, *"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."* (Mat 6:33)

### 2. Fellowship with Almighty God

If you are given a personal invitation to meet a celebrity or the President, you will be so excited and honoured. But in our spiritual life, we are given the great honour of meeting and spending time with the King of kings and Lord of lords. Are we responding to this great invitation by Jesus Christ to talk to Him? I request you to learn to value the time of fellowship with God. It is at the time which you fellowship with God that you receive the power of God into your lives. This power helps you to solve or overcome all the challenges and problems in your life. More importantly, having a constant and consistent fellowship with the Lord helps us to be ever ready and alert to meet our Saviour at His second coming. As we can learn from the parable of the ten virgins (Mat 25:1- 13), communion with the Lord will keep the flow of oil (Holy Spirit) burning in us to let Jesus the light of our life to shine out. The primary fact of our life is that our lives are not our own, we belong to the Creator God of heaven and earth. But human tendency is to think it's my life and I can do anything and live anyhow I want. With such an attitude, we tend to drift away from God and so end up in trouble and sorrow. But the good news is that God is ever so loving, ever so gentle and patient with us that He will be waiting for His children to come back to Him. When a person turns from his own ways and seeks the Lord with a heart of repentance, He is so glad over that person that He bestows great and unimaginable blessings upon that person as we see in the parable of the lost son (Luke 15:11-32). Job said, *"Man born on earth is of few days, and full of trouble."*(Job 14:1)

Life becomes weary and painful because of the numerous troubles we have to face in life. But then let us answer this question- 'Was this the kind of life that God planned for us when He created man in His own image? Definitely God had something nobler and blessed. There is a great need to get an understanding of that excellent design which God had planned for mankind before the Fall. God knew beforehand that Adam and Eve would mess up His glorious plan for mankind. He also knew very well that everyone born on earth after the disobedience of Adam would become unholy and sinners in God's sight and that none of us would ever be good or righteous enough to enter into His holy presence. Adam became afraid and tried to hide himself. But God came seeking where they were. He wanted to talk to them and remove their fear, and the shame they had brought upon

themselves. If we realize how fallen and corrupt our human nature is, we cannot explain or understand why God the Father still loves us and why He took such painful steps to bring us back to Himself by allowing His beloved Son Jesus Christ to go through the worst and most humiliating kind of death by being crucified on the cross. “*You are made of dust and to dust you shall return*”, was not said regarding the soul because the body is made of mud and that alone will return to mud. The spirit of God that was breathed into that body is eternal. Therefore the destiny of the soul is decided by the way we respond to the love and sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. The only logical reason why God seeks us is His deep and everlasting unconditional love for each and every one of us. Though Adam and Eve created a distance between themselves and the Lord God who loved them so intensely, by giving room for Satan to enter into their lives, God didn’t give up on mankind, or curse and destroy them. He made a plan that would bring back man to Himself – He put a desire in the heart of man to have an intimate fellowship with God. This would be made possible through the sacrifice & blood of Jesus Christ. When Jesus Christ offered Himself as a pleasing sacrifice on the cross by bearing the punishment of all our sin, the veil or thick curtain that separated the Holy of Holies in the Temple at Jerusalem, tore from top to bottom. By this act, the distance between God and man was removed. By faith we must ask forgiveness for our sins and cover ourselves with the sinless blood of Jesus Christ. Then we can go directly into the presence of God and have that close, personal, passionate one-to-one contact and fellowship with the Most High God & Creator of the universe. God is always waiting with wide open arms for us to approach Him. He’s waiting for us to have an intimate fellowship, prayer and communication with Him. He is waiting to hear us share our deepest thoughts, desires, sorrows & secrets. God is 3 waiting for those who seek to know Him, to take hold of Him, and to understand Him & His ways and to carry out His will. Only to those who seek God with all their heart, soul and strength, God imparts His awesome power and reveals His secrets. The Bible says, “*draw near to God and He will draw near to you*” (James 4:8).

*“Ask and you shall receive, knock and doors will be opened for you”.*(Mat 7:7-8).

This verse indicates that we must make an effort, make a move in asking, seeking, knocking and drawing near to God. The more we seek God, the more of Him we will know and the deeper and stronger will be our relationship with the Lord. We must seek God with all our heart, & soul & strength (Deut. 4:29). And Psalms 14:2 says that the Lord God looks down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there are any who understand, who seek God.” God is very lovingly, eagerly expecting us to respond to His love. We know well that the reason why God created man in His image was for fellowship. Many are content with a nominal or superficial relationship with God, but our Creator & Redeemer invites us into a more intimate & close relationship with Him. This is as simple as any human friendship. Bible says that God calls us His “friends” and ‘children”. This is such a wonderful relationship where there is no barrier between you and God. God calls you to share your deepest hurts, greatest fears, your ambitions & anxieties. You don’t have to hide anything from Him. He loves you and accepts you just as you are. People you trusted may have left you, hurt you or betrayed you, but Jesus will never hurt you or look down upon you even in your worst moments. He is always there to wipe your tears; He understands every feeling and will guide you through life’s journey. It’s my prayer to you dear brother, dear sister, spend more time with the Lord in prayer and studying the Bible. Your life’s journey will be transformed, it will be blessed and beautiful!

### **3.Trust in the Almighty God**

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him (to acknowledge means to consult or take the approval of God) and He shall direct your paths.”*

These are the words of good advice from the wisest man in the world – King Solomon.

We live in an age that teaches contrary to this sound biblical advice. It is easier to be self – sufficient, doing things in one’s own way. Recently, I came across a caption that said,

*“A bird is never afraid that the branch on which it is perched will break because it’s trust is not in the strength of the branch, but in the power of its own wings.”*

Now, we must understand that the bird has the inbuilt ability or power to fly. So when the need arises, the bird uses this God-given ability to fly. This does not mean that the bird is being self-sufficient and independent of God. It is just making proper use of the God-given ability.

The spiritual lesson we have to learn is that when God created you, He put a very special power or characteristic in you. No one else has that unique ability which God, in His love and wisdom, has placed inside you. Life is a journey that helps you discover this speciality in you which God has placed inside you to be used, to be developed to be a blessing to others and to bring glory to God.

In the Holy Bible, we read about people who used their God-given ability to serve God and they gained blessings. Bible also tells about people who misused their talents and incurred God's anger & curse upon themselves. We shall consider one of each type in this article.

You know about a young man called David. From his childhood, David showed a deep desire for the things of God. He was sensitive to the way God works. While he used to take care of his father's sheep, he used to go to the mountains to find good pastures for the sheep. There, when he looked around, nature used to come alive with the messages and expressions of the Creator God. So, in many of the psalms or songs that David wrote, he looks at the trees, clouds, the hills and lifts up his eyes and voice to the Lord and begins to praise God for the wonder of nature, he used to experience the presence of God everywhere. That's the reason he could sing and praise God all the time. This unique habit of singing praise touched the heart of God. So God lifted him up to a position that David could never dream of. From the duty of a shepherd boy, God anointed him to become the king of Israel. David's life pleased God so much that He made a covenant that the throne of David will be established forever, and that the Messiah would be born in his lineage. Eventually, Jesus Christ the Savior of the world was born to rule from the throne of David.

God is a gracious and wonderful God. He does not show any favouritism or partiality. He wants to bless and exalt and use you like David. The only requirement is that you should be just as committed to God as David. Remember, it's not your talent, but how sincere and dedicated you are to God, that enables Him to use you. Secondly, you should depend upon the Lord and His strength, trust in God's wisdom constantly and not your own. You can receive God's wisdom by reading the Bible and praying.

Let us consider the life of another young man in the Bible – Samson, he paid a great price for not depending on God. He was set apart for God's work even before he was born as an answer to his parents' prayer & faith. Samson was gifted with unmatched strength. But when he departed from God's ways, the divine grace and protection that was upon him till then, was removed, and Samson had to suffer so much. He lost his strength, he lost his eye sight, more than that he lost before his enemies. Those who used to dread at the name of Samson made him a prisoner. Enemies could capture him only because Samson gave the enemies a chance to take advantage of his weakness. Let not Satan take advantage of the gift which God has given you because you are not guarding or using that talent for God in a proper and acceptable way. I am talking to someone who has drifted from their dedication and commitment to God. There was a time when you promised to live for God's glory alone, but as time has gone by, success and pressure from friends has made you weak in your decision to live a completely holy life for Christ. It's never too late to turn back to the Lord. Stop trusting in your own strength or beauty or intelligence, quit that job, or place or that course which you have taken without asking Jesus for guidance first. Get on your knees dear child of God. Jesus is waiting for you. He just has to hear from your mouth that you want to come back to Jesus and be used mightily for God's glory in God's way, & not in your manner. If you do this, you will surely testify that there is none like Jesus in forgiving, in restoring and re-establishing you.

Child of God, please take time to pray and know where you stand in making your decisions. Are you trusting your own intelligence, strength, power or position or are you depending on Jesus? It's time to trust in the Lord with all your heart and He will guide you.

The Israelites were set free from their slavery and bondage in Egypt by the Mighty hand of God. For nearly four hundred years the Israelites had cried out to God, for deliverance from the torture and torment of the kings and rulers of Egypt. Generation after generation they had waited to be set free. Finally, when Pharaoh sent the people out of Egypt, God did not lead them on the road through the Philistine country, though that was the shortest way. God said,

*"If they have to fight, they might change their minds and go back to Egypt. So God led them through the desert toward the Red Sea; The Lord showed them the way; during the day He went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud, and during the night He was in a pillar of fire to give them light." (Exodus 13:17,18,21)*

In this way, the Israelites were travelling to the land which God had promised them. The actual journey would have taken only eleven days, but it took forty years. The reason for the delay in receiving or inheriting what God had kept ready for them is that they grumbled, complained and tested God instead of trusting God to meet all their needs. Secondly, they refused to obey God when they came to Kadesh Barnea, they did not go and occupy the promised land but sent spies to survey the land and those living there. So God had to punish them by turning their forty days of distrust into forty years of wandering in the desert (Numbers 14:34). In Deuteronomy 8:2, the Lords says,

*"Remember how the Lord your God led you in the desert for forty years, to take away your pride and to show you what was in your heart. He wanted to know if you will obey His commands."*

This verse teaches us an important spiritual principle. The delay to reach the destiny is not God's fault. It takes as much time as we take to reach the spiritual standard that God wants to see in us. As soon as we acquire the spiritual calibre that God is seeking in us, God can take us forward. The writer of Hebrews compares the Church to the Israelites wandering in the desert between "Egypt" (symbol of bondage to sin) and the "Promised Land" (symbol of the Heaven's Eternal Home). The way Moses led the Israelites through their journey in the desert, similarly, Jesus is guiding the believers through their journey on earth. (Heb. 3:1-6), till their faith is perfected and each one is transformed into the image of Christ Jesus. The story of the journey of the Israelites has two great lessons to teach us:

1. The failure of Israelites to trust God.
2. The unfailing love of God inspite of their lack of faith.

As I have mentioned earlier, the children of Israel had been longing for freedom, but after they were set free, they failed to depend and be guided by the Lord God who had delivered them from the hands of their enemies. So God did not allow this generation who came out of Egypt to enter the Promised Land with all their spiritual slackness. Bible says only Joshua and Caleb, just two out of six lakh and more people who came out of Egypt (and the innocent children entered the Promised Land of blessing. How sad! All those who refused to believe God & tested Him by complaining & grumbling, perished in the desert itself. Now, the lesson we believers have to learn is that we must not make the same mistake!

*"One of the greatest tragedies in life is to live and never discover your destiny, but worse than that is to discover your destiny and lose it."* The Israelites were given the unimaginable opportunity, their generation was more blessed than the previous generations, yet they lost the opportunity to inherit the blessings God had chosen for them. We also stand in danger of losing the promises and blessings for which God has called us out of the world. There is a great purpose for your life. God is calling you to inherit all the blessings. But, if you grumble or complain about what God is doing in your life today, or fail to obey Him, you will sadly miss the manifold blessings which your Saviour God wants you to have. Secondly, though the Israelites had hurt God so much, yet He preserved them through all those forty years -He provided manna as food in a miraculous way. He gave them water from the rocks. Their clothes did not wear out, nor did their feet weary. The Lord God Almighty sustained them in such a marvelous way and loved them inspite of all their complaints. Similarly, God is very gracious with the believers and the Church too. God walked with the Israelites as a pillar of cloud, & pillar of fire. Similarly, His presence is with us always. We are in the last days, very soon we will be hearing the sound of the trumpet and we will be caught up in the midair with Jesus Christ. However, there is a warning too, in Matthew 25:1-13, the ten virgins are a symbol for the Church. Out of the ten girls, five were alert and spiritually ready, whereas the foolish five virgins, were left behind. All the ten virgins came up to the door but five could not enter into the celebration with the Bridegroom who is represented by Jesus Christ. So let us remember that though we are all getting ready to meet Jesus, if there is sin or disobedience in our life, we will not be allowed to go with Jesus at Rapture. You may ask why it should take forty years for the Israelites to reach the destiny? The Lord who did such awesome miracles to bring the Israelites out of Egypt could have miraculously led them through a short-cut way!. But the lesson God wants to teach us is that there are no short-cuts in our spiritual life. That's the reason we don't go to heaven soon after we get saved. God allows us to live in this world and learn to depend upon him, be guided by Him, win our spiritual wars by drawing strength from Jesus and to glorify Him. This is the time of grace given to every child of God to build, to purify & to prove their faith in the Saviour. We must remember that spiritual giants cannot be made overnight. It takes time to build a building, it takes times for a seed that is sown to form roots and bear fruit, it takes time to go from one place to another. In the same way, it takes time and testing of your faith, before you become a conqueror for Christ. Also remember that Jesus is the Author and Perfect of your faith. He is interceding and working in your life to present you in a glorious manner, without having spots or wrinkles in your spiritual life; He is moulding & working on you to present you blameless and holy before the throne of God Almighty.

#### **4.Fellowship with God is a Firm Foundation**

Let's draw our attention to the thought of building your life in Christ, in faith, in values, in things that matter for eternity; the temporal things are attractive but in reality, they are very deceptive and leading to destruction. (2 Cor. 4:18) A few years ago an English song became very popular among youngsters titled – *"It's my life...I live the way I want to live... It's my life..."* Many people take life for granted. They think they have the right to live and do whatever they like. Anyone can continue with that attitude but then, there will come a time when you will have to assess all that you have said and done, because what we think, say and do will show its fruit and consequences in the future. You will be forced to evaluate your philosophies, your attitudes & values which guided you through life. The Holy Bible tells us the Parable of a house built on a rock, & the house built on sand in Matthew chapter 7:24-27. Both houses look very nice in good times, but when storm hits, the house built on the sand is washed away in the flood, but the storm could not harm the house built on the rock. This is a great lesson

about the way all people face storms in life. It is God's desire to enable everyone to build their lives in such a way that storms cannot shake them or harm them. A bitter truth that all of us must face is that everyone has to face storms in this world (storm is a symbol of suffering, pain, loss, disappointments and death). Whether good or bad, rich or poor, famous or not, sorrow, suffering and trials come equally to all. A preacher said,

*"You cannot escape sorrow & pain as long as Satan is in this world and sin is in your heart."*

So every now and then, there is possibility for storms of loss, ill-health, debts, & sorrow to hit us. That's the reason why Jesus is teaching through this parable to build our lives in a way that we can withstand the blows in life. When look around us, we see buildings of different kinds and of different strength. Many recent buildings have collapsed but the constructions which the British, Portuguese and other foreigners have constructed in India still stand strong. Why is it so? Also in other countries like Japan, we see houses built of strong wood to withstand earthquakes. You must have heard of houses built of ice in snowy regions called Igloo. There are floating houses, boat houses etc. all of them planned and designed to remain strong in the midst of adverse conditions. Jesus the Foundation: House is a symbol for Life. Whether concerning buildings or persons, a good foundation is of utmost significance. If the foundation is faulty, the whole building is in danger. Similarly, our life has to be built on the foundation of faith, love, hope, attitudes, and moral values. While writing to the church in Colossians, apostle Paul says,

*"...I see the steadfastness of your faith in Christ as you have received Jesus Christ as your Lord, walk also in Him: rooted and built up in Him, and established in the faith." (Col 2:7-8)*

He tells the believers to be deeply rooted in the teachings of Christ, so that the wrong teachings of the world will not wipe them off their feet when difficulties and troubles test their faith. Let me explain with another example. You surely have heard about the legendary ship named Titanic. It was designed and built to create history. It was launched in the early twentieth century when people had great faith in new science and technology. The captain of Titanic Edward Smith said, *"I cannot conceive of any vital disaster happening to this vessel. Modern shipbuilding has gone beyond that."*

Another person is said to have expressed his opinion about Titanic thus, *"Not even God himself can sink this ship."*

But all of us know about the tragic end of the famous Titanic .....in its very first voyage, it hit a huge iceberg and sank into the depths of the ocean! This incident, as well as the Tower of Babel which we read in the Bible, are a reminder and big lesson for everyone, and for all ages. Great talent, skill, planning or technology cannot guarantee anyone against disaster. We must believe in the Maker and Sustainer of the universe. Everything that has breath must look up to Him and live in harmony with its Creator.

Whether concerning buildings, studies or individual life, the most important thing is its foundation.

1 Corinthians 3:11 says, *"For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ."*

It is not surprising to find people who think they don't need God to help them through their journey on earth. Such people put confidence in their own selves, their ability and intelligence. But life will teach them that their life is not in their control. There's a Father in heaven who monitors and guides everyone. If we align our thoughts, our will and desires to His will and purpose for us, we will experience the meaning and fullness of life. We will be able to fulfil the purpose for which God has kept us in this world. Bible tells us that when we have faith in God, and submit to His Sovereign will, we will be like a tree with deep and strong roots, planted by the river. Faith in the power of the blood of Jesus to forgive our sins, by reading the Bible and praying will nourish and shape our thinking, our desires and our actions. So when storms of sorrows, loss or pain hit us, being rooted in Christ, and in the Word and Promises of God, we cannot be shaken. Satan's target is always to hit us with calamities, like he did to Job, and then to make us complain, curse and doubt the love and mercy of God our Saviour. So, it is very essential to have a daily and personal walk with the Lord. Considering the comparison of life with a tree, there is one more spiritual lesson to learn. In our neighbourhood, there used to be a big tree. It so happened that one morning, this tree which was the biggest and strongest in the vicinity, was suddenly uprooted. Everyone was shocked to see it fall down. When we went near, we could see that the roots were completely infected and eaten up by termites and pests. Since the tree was destroyed from the inside, it could not stand. Similarly, there are some Christians who look very good and holy on the outside, but if hidden sins are in their heart, it destroys the man from inside. In a tree, the root is the part that absorbs water and nutrition from the soil and supplies it to the entire tree. Root is the source of life and sustenance. In the same way, our heart is the root of life and sustenance of our spiritual life. If our heart is rooted in Jesus Christ who is the true Fountain and Foundation of life, our spiritual life will flourish and bear fruits of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-25). If our heart is rooted in the world, the termite called sin infects our heart and will eat up our lives from inside. We may have all worldly possessions, positions and power.

But on the inside when we are alone, our conscience will be pricking, we will not have anyone to comfort or encourage us, we will be lonely and empty inside. As the Word of God exhorts, I request you to please build your life on the Word of God, on Jesus Christ the Rock. Then, no matter what challenges, what opposing stormy situations come against you in life, it will not have any power to harm you. On the other hand, Jesus will make you to walk over the storm just as He did.

### **5.Conclusion**

We live in the most uncertain of days, where our going out of the house and coming back home is not guaranteed, but we can rely on the fact that God is the one who controls out every breathe and is a constant protector and help. We have seen the importance of building our life on the firm foundation, the rock called Christ. He is a very pleasant help in life's turmoil and trials, and putting our trust in Him is so comforting and assures us that whatever tomorrow may await us, trying to pull us down we have a firm foundation and hence cannot be shaken, let it be tsunami, earthquake, war, famine, pandemic or any other kind of violence or natural calamity we can be confident of our confidant. And when we trust and have completer faith in Him, such that is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

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