

# Fellowship With God

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*"God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord." (I Cor. 1:9) "That which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. And these things we write to you that your joy may be full." (I John 1:3,4) "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him." (John 14:23)*

*"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me." (John 17:20-23)*

These scriptures along with many others state plainly that every member of the body of Christ has a "calling," and that our calling is to be in fellowship with God. This is a complete statement of what God is doing today. To move in fellowship with God is the only way that we can be a part of what He is doing on this earth and for eternity. As Christians, we may have accepted a "calling" according to our own understanding that is something less than this. But any calling that does not bring us into full fellowship with God by the power of His endless life is less than what God is doing, and is not His calling at all.

We may shrink from the idea of being "in fellowship with God," feeling that we are not worthy or that this is only for a special few. Then we wonder why we do not experience His power or love. We need wonder no longer, for we can search the scriptures from Genesis to Revelation and we will not find any other calling for the believer. The grace to function in this calling may vary, but the calling is the same for every member. Furthermore, fellowship with God is the very purpose for which we were created! How could we shrink from that?

If we want to know the joy that John spoke of, and if we do not want to stand empty-handed before our Lord on the final day, we need to come back to the foundation. We need to ask God to open our eyes once again (or maybe for the first time) to see what fellowship with God is. He promised to open the eyes of any man that would ask Him, but it will not come without asking, and we must ask in faith.

## Beginning With God

If we want to have fellowship with God we must begin with Him. This may sound like an elementary statement, but it is not, and we must carefully consider what it means or we will find ourselves wrong at the very foundation. So many today begin with themselves and then try to add God into their lives, but this we cannot do. Instead, God has made a way for us to enter into and participate in His life. His life is eternal, and perfect in every way. Our life is temporal, marred by sin and judged at the cross. Paul said it this way: *"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."* (Gal. 2:20) The reason so many of us never experience the fellowship with God that He desires and we may desire is that we have not accepted God's judgment on *our* life. We were born in death, separated from God by sin. God's solution is not to try to remake our life, but to give us His life. Jesus called it being born again, and He died on the cross to make this a possibility for every man. Until we enter into His life, we cannot even see the kingdom of God or participate in what God is doing. *"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."* (John 3:3)

The term "born again," through overuse and erroneous definitions, has lost its meaning to most of us today. It is often used to describe an emotional experience of repentance (which is frequently no more than remorse), but this definition falls very short of the way Jesus used it. To be born again is not just adjusting my old life to different goals and principles. It is to begin a new life, the very life of God. It is a cataclysmic transformation, a transition from one kingdom into another. *"He has delivered us from the power of darkness and translated us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins."* (Col. 1:13,14)

When we begin a new life, our old life dies. In this new life, there is no more consideration of myself--what I can do, what I want, my goals and aspirations, and so on. A man who has died is not concerned about these things. His concerns are with the new realm beyond the grave. If we have not died in Christ to our old life, and if we want to enter into fellowship with God, this is the first place we must transact business with Him. There is no way around it. It is a narrow gate and a straight way, and most today are missing it. They want fellowship with God, but they also want their life to be accepted before God. God will not accept our life, and until we accept God's way, fellowship with God will escape us. Our life must end before He can give us His.

How can we die to ourselves? There is only one way, and that is to be baptized into Christ by the Spirit. *"Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."* (Rom. 6:3,4) We cannot put ourselves to death. We cannot forsake our old life by our efforts. It must be the work of God, and that is why Christ died. We enter into His death when we are baptized into Christ by the Spirit. Not only do we enter into His death; we are raised in the newness of His life at the same time. This is the one transforming act of God by which we are born again and made alive unto God. It is the work of God, and Jesus said He would do this for any man who will come to Him. The question is, have you come? Have you been born again into His kingdom by the Spirit? If not, know that Jesus paid the price on the cross, and the door is open to "whosoever will."

If I have not entered into the kingdom of God, it is because I do not want to come under His rule. Jesus will not force us. I must come willingly, laying down my right to myself, yielding myself to God. I must open the door and invite God to take up residence in my body. Jesus said that God would give the

Holy Spirit (God) to anyone who would ask (Luke 11:13). If I do not have the Holy Spirit, it is because I have not asked in faith. God is faithful and will keep His word. *"Ask and receive that your joy may be full."*

## **Continuing in His Life**

We are not to be brought into an experience but into the life of God. A prominent characteristic of life is that it continues. The way we are brought in is the same way we continue. *"This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law or by the hearing of faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh? Have you suffered so many things in vain--if indeed it was in vain? Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?"* (Gal. 3:2-5). Seeking the experience of receiving the Holy Spirit is different from having an experience that brings us into His life. In the first, we may be looking for something that will empower us to do what we want to do (even for God). We may be only wanting God's blessing on our lives. In the second, we are looking for God himself in order to enter into what He is doing. On the surface, the experiences may seem similar, but under the surface, they are vastly different.

The Galatians had entered into the life of God by faith. Their experience was real. But they made a big mistake. Instead of continuing in that life in the same way they had entered into it, they began to look at the natural things they could do, and to believe that these would count before God. Paul was severe in his condemnation of such thinking and actions. *"You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace."* (Gal. 4:4) We sometimes bypass this statement because most of us have never been under the Jewish law, so we don't see the application for our lives. But what was the real problem here? The underlying principle will speak to us.

The act of circumcision was something that the Jews could do without God's power. It was commanded by God at certain times for His own reasons, but in Christ, all of that has been put away. We are complete in Him, and nothing can be added to this completeness. Paul says that the only thing of value now is "faith working through love" (Gal. 5:6). This is where we are prone to go wrong. We can continue in the life of God only by continuing in faith through love. We need not and ought not add anything more. "The life I now live, I live by faith in (of) the Son of God." There is no experience that brings me into God and then allows me to forget about being responsible or to just sit down and rest. This is a continual walk of faith. The life of God is always active. Faith must be active to bring me into His life, and faith must be active to keep me living there. Faith is not self-effort, but it is an active relationship with God worked out by hearing and obeying.

## **One With God**

If we have entered into the life of God and are walking there by faith, we have been made one with God even as He is one. This statement of truth is possibly the most profound in the entire New Testament and serves as the very foundation of what God is doing today. This is not a theoretical "positional" oneness that has no meaning, but a real oneness, because we are in His life. Everything else that God does is based on this foundation. A growing expression of this oneness is vital, but it is only possible when we have partaken of the one life in reality. This is why it is so important to know that we have entered into His life. If we have not, trying to express something that is not true is a constant struggle and failure. God is not the author of failure.

God has not left it to us to define this oneness. Jesus prayed "that they all might be one as We [God] are one." How is God one? This question cannot be answered here in our discussion or by any words we might use in the attempt, but keeping the question before us and allowing the Holy Spirit to unfold the answer to our hearts will provide a guiding light to our pathway and judge everything that falls short. We must let everything less than this--the oneness of God and our oneness with Him and with each other--be judged by this truth lest we fall short of God's eternal purpose for us in Christ Jesus. Christ died so that we might be one. To move in God's power and grace, we must move from this place of oneness. Let us search the scriptures with this thought in mind. I believe we will not find teaching anywhere to indicate that God is doing anything less than making us one with himself, even as He is one, for all eternity.

The expression of this relationship with God can be seen in many areas. For example, when Paul told the Corinthians that they had been called into fellowship with Jesus, he then appealed to them on that basis: *"Now I plead with you brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment"* (I Cor. 1:10). Is this possible? It is only possible if we are living His life. God is not confused or divided. There is no disagreement between the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. They are one because there is one God and they have one life. God does not give us this one life separate from himself, but we can enter into it through the provision of Christ and by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. In an active faith relationship, we will then be able to express God's one life through one mind and one judgment. This is a miracle, made possible only by the miracle-working grace of God.

So much around us today under the name of Christianity falls woefully short of this. Instead of seeing a miracle of God's working, we see a display of men's efforts to serve God in their own way. It is not an expression of the oneness of God, but rather a lowly effort of men compromising to agree with each other as well as they can. There is no power and no glory to God. Their "gospel" is a form of godliness that denies God's power. There is no demonstration of the character of God, and no blessing of God on it. How can God bless what is not of Him?

The expression of the one life of God goes far beyond having the same mind and same judgment. It is also the same spirit, the spirit of love, which is God himself. It is an experience of this oneness that allows the body of Christ to move as "one new man" under the headship of Christ. Jesus said that God would use the expression of His divine oneness to convince the world that Jesus was truly sent of God. Oneness is expressed by the church, which is not a group of individuals each thinking their own thoughts about a matter and then trying to agree on an action, but rather every member holding fast to the Head, sensing the authority and mind of Christ together, and then moving as one under His authority to express the will of God on earth. Jesus prayed that God's will would be done on earth as it is in heaven. God's will is being done in this hour through the church, the body of Christ, moving as one in the life of God. It is being done as we are one, even as He is one.

## **Moving With God**

We said in the beginning of our discussion that we must begin with God, not with ourselves. God has been moving towards His eternal goal from the beginning of time, and continues moving toward it now. He knows the end and He will not fail. We are here somewhere between the beginning and the end, probably very close to the end of God's working in this manner on earth.

God so loved the world that He gave His Son (John 3:16). We are not told that "God so loved me that He gave himself for me." This is how the gospel is often expressed today, but notice where that puts the emphasis. The first statement puts God and His purpose at the center of all things. The second statement puts me and my goals at the center. God does not build His plans around me. He builds everything around himself and His ultimate purpose. Because of His love, mercy, and provision in Christ, I may enter into and participate in God's plan if I choose to. But if I choose not to participate, God's purpose will not be thwarted. God never fails. Man fails if he will not come God's way.

What we are saying here is so important if we want to know fellowship with God. Fellowship with God is experienced as we enter into what God is doing, not as we ask God to come into what we are doing. Many today set spiritual-sounding goals and then ask God to come and participate with them. He does not. God will not be brought down to our concepts and into our life. He will lift us up into His life if we will let Him.

Do we know what God is doing and how He is moving? Do we know what our part is? Do we know how to enter into our place in the body of Christ? All of these things and more are included in our fellowship with Jesus. Let us briefly consider some of these, while asking God to lift our vision to the place He dwells. He wants us to sit with Him in heavenly places.

## **An Eternal Kingdom**

Jesus said that His kingdom was not of this world. He also said that the kingdom of God does not come with observation (Luke 17:20). He said that we cannot enter into this kingdom (or even see His kingdom) unless we have been born from above (John 3). Paul said that what we see around us with natural eyes will all pass away, but that what is unseen will last forever. These scriptures and statements are familiar to most of us, but the key question is whether these truths have become part of us, controlling our way of thinking and living here on this earth.

God builds for eternity. He is not building in the kingdoms of this world. His kingdom does not consist of houses and lands, governments and nations, things that are seen and heard by the natural senses. We may know these things in our minds but do we really know them in a way that changes and controls us? If we have been born again, we have a measure of spiritual vision and spiritual hearing enabling us to begin to recognize the kingdom of God. We may see dimly, but if we are responding to God in faith, our vision is growing. Spiritual hearing may become dull for various reasons, but if we are in a right relationship with God, the voice of God is getting clearer and clearer. Apart from this spiritual sight and hearing, we cannot be in fellowship with Jesus in the kingdom that He is building.

We must let this truth judge what occupies our goals and ambitions. Too often we acknowledge the truth (in our mind) and then move right ahead in what we want to do rather than laying all else aside to let God have His way in all things. Our motive, so often, is wanting to do something for God. We want to offer up to God the work of our hands, and we may also want recognition for ourselves. God does not accept the work of our hands and never has, from the time of Cain until now. God only accepts what He can do in and through us. This strikes a death blow to our pride and it is meant to, for that is what caused Lucifer to fall and that is what brought sin into this world.

There will be no sin in heaven. Heaven is pure because there, all things are of God and He is complete in himself. On earth, now is the time that God is separating a people unto himself. If we are in relationship with God now, living His life, all things are of God now in His kingdom here on earth. God cannot dwell with sin either in heaven or on earth. Have we accepted the implications of that truth as it pertains to us now? Have we allowed God to judge everything that falls short, so there may be

purity in His testimony in the church?

If God is building for eternity, why should we want to be part of anything less? Why would we put God's resources into anything that is passing away? Why would we want to build only to see our work come crumbling down? Paul said that some would build that way and in the end they would see all their work destroyed--while they themselves would barely escape (see I Cor. 3). Who would want to be found there? Lest any of us experience this in any measure, let us come honestly and with deep humility before God, asking that everything that is not of Him be revealed now, not on the final judgment day.

## **God's Will in All Things**

When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, one of the things Jesus said to pray was: *"Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."* (Matt. 6:10) Many today expect this to happen in the kingdoms of this world, but that time is not yet come. Others think this is only for a future time when Christ will rule the world with a rod of iron, and that it has little or no application at this time. But God's will is being done at this time in one place on earth: in the church, the body of Christ. God's will is to be done there not just partially, but fully, and at all times. If we want to move in fellowship with Jesus, this must captivate our attention and direct our walk. We are not to waste our time trying to bring in the kingdom of God in this world by our efforts and wisdom. Instead, let us simply live the life of God in the body of Christ underneath the headship of Christ for the purpose of God. This has meaning to God and will be blessed by God because this is His purpose for our time. It is not a place of weakness but of power, as we will begin to see as God opens our eyes. When we do the will of God, God can begin to work, and Christ said, *"I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it."*

When Christ walked the face of this earth, He did the will of God in all things. He stated plainly that He never moved or spoke separate from the Father. When the Father was working, He was working. If the Father was not working, He did not work. He was a living expression of the will of God at all times. In all that He did, He declared who God is. John said, *"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."* (John 1:14) When Christ departed this earth, He did not leave the world without a witness. He sent the Holy Spirit to take the things of God and make them real in us. Now the nature and character of God is not declared in just one Person, but through a many-membered body united in the life of God. As each member abides in the Vine and holds fast to the Head, the will of God continues to be done on earth.

When we think of "doing the will of God," we may assume that it is to turn away from what we want to do, to do "God's will." Although this may seem to be true in our beginning walk with God because we have been in the habit of living a life separate from God and affected by sin, this is not God's way for our ongoing life in Him. The will of God is not something we try to figure out or try to remember to do, but something that flows naturally because of who we are in God. We are sons, abiding in the Vine (Christ); thus we are always living His life. Doing the will of God was not a struggle for Christ because He was God. Even when facing the cross, though the flesh shrank from the pain and suffering to come, there was no thought of turning aside from the will of God for the redemption of the world--the ultimate declaration of who God is. Christ's battle was won on His knees in the Garden of Gethsemane, and God's love triumphed to redeem us back to himself. That battle is never to be repeated, for Satan is defeated. We only stand in Christ and in His victory.

We could say that Jesus was the Will of God just as He was the Word of God. His whole person expressed the will of God. This was a calling not just for Jesus, but also for those who have entered into His life. How else could Jesus make this promise: *"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you."* (John 15:7) If we are abiding in Jesus, there is no conflict of will. There is only one will, and that is the will of God. As a spiritual man, Paul made the statement that "we have the mind of Christ." This is a place not just for Paul but for all those who are in Christ. It is a life of perfect freedom and joy as we learn to live continually under God's authority and in His life. This is what we were created to enjoy.

## **Declaring Who God Is**

When Christ began His ministry, He read this scripture from the prophet Isaiah: *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord."* (Luke 4:18,19) The world did not know who God was. Even though God was manifested before them in living flesh, they did not recognize Him because their ideas about God were warped and distorted. The life Jesus lived, the words He spoke, and the acts He performed declared the very character and heart of God. The love of God, finding its expression in Christ, led Him through His earthly ministry and ultimately to the cross to fulfill this calling.

Just before Jesus finished His earthly ministry He made this amazing statement: *"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father."* (John 14:12) How can this be? It is not that we will perform a miracle superior to any that Jesus did, but rather, that as we live the life of God, Jesus will move in a greater way throughout the whole earth, performing the same ministry He did while He was here in bodily form. He stated very plainly that He would send the Holy Spirit (who is God) to fulfill this ministry in us (read John 14-16 with this in mind).

The amazing and wonderful truth is that we are given the privilege of participating in the ministry of Christ through the church, which is both mystically and actually the body of Christ. *"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."* (Acts 1:8) The foundation of this witness is that we together in the church illustrate and declare the character of God by who we are in Him. Paul strongly exhorted the churches to walk "worthy of this calling." Gospel talk without a holy walk as its foundation has no power and is despised by all men. We witness to the character of God by the life we live together. Every attribute of God and the fruit of His Spirit is to be seen in the church. To speak of the love of God to a needy world without experiencing and manifesting the love of God together is nothing less than a tragedy.

Listen to the final statement in our Lord's high priestly prayer: *"And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them"* (John 17:26). Jesus not only declared the nature of God (love) in all that He had done up to that point; He went on to ultimately declare it on the cross. But He has not stopped declaring it in this hour. Now by indwelling "whosoever will" and binding them together in His life (love), He is still declaring who God is, through us. When we enter into His life, we enter into this calling. This is not a small thing. It is an all-consuming calling that takes nothing less than the resurrection life of God to fulfill. It cannot be done in our strength, for if we move separate from Christ and His life, we will declare who we are instead of who God is. We can only declare who God is as we see who we are in God and move in

union with Him by the Spirit in all things.

## **Standing in His Strength**

Fellowship with God is moving in union with God in all that He is doing here and now. God is calling out a people to dwell with Him for all eternity. No situation is too hard for Him, and no situation takes less than the almighty power of God. So much today that goes under the name of Christianity is men moving only in their own ability. We are called to move in the power of His might, not in our own power or wisdom. Our glory is not in who we are, but in who God is, and our responsibility is always to move in His strength. This is demanding, because it means that we must continually abide in Him and let Him live His life through us.

The provisions that God has made for this great calling are all spiritual. If we are abiding in Christ, Paul tells us we are actually "a new creation." Old things have passed away and all things have become new. Now all things are of God. (II Cor. 5:17,18) We have a new life, a new purpose for being here, and a new calling. We also have a new provision for fulfilling this calling, and the provision is God himself. His power is the only power that can redeem men and set them free from sin and death. Our ideas cannot do that, no matter how good they seem to us. Our efforts may appear good, but they are powerless to set captives free in this spiritual warfare.

Writing to the church at Ephesus, Paul admonished the believers to put on the whole armor of God, that they may be able to stand against the cunning strategy and devices of the devil. Satan is a defeated foe, but he is still at large until the final day when God will shut him up. He is out to deceive and keep as many as he can under the bondage of sin and their own desires. The admonition is to be strong in the power of God's ability. We can only do this as we truly abide in Christ and live His life.

The elements of God's armor should occupy our attention as we wait on God. Do we know Him who is the truth? Do we stand in His righteousness, not our own? Are we ready to go with the gospel of reconciliation that will bring men into the peace of God? Do we know that without faith it is impossible to please God or move in His life? Is Christ himself our salvation? Do we preach a true salvation from sin and death into the life of God? Is the Word of God himself our food day by day? Does the Holy Spirit have control of us so that we always declare the word of God and not our own wisdom? Does every day find us on our knees before God interceding for the saints according to the will of God?

These are all demanding areas that take our full involvement and God's power to work out in reality. They are God's provision for the church, not just for individuals. Together we must take on the whole armor of God if we are to stand against the deceptive tactics of the enemy. The world has the slogan "United we stand," but in God it is even more true. If we have entered into His life and continue to abide there, we are one and that oneness will be expressed in all of these areas. Any other way will end in defeat, for we are no match for the devil. We must stand in Christ's victory at Calvary, together as His body.



## **The Triumph of God's Love**

*"But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life."* (Jude 20,21) Keep yourselves in the love of God. That may be the most demanding commandment we will ever hear. Many of us have a lowly revelation of the love of God. Some think of love as a warm feeling felt at special times. For others, love is worked out by always doing something good (according to natural thinking) for somebody else. Still others have the idea that love overlooks anything and everything for the goal of keeping peaceful relations with everybody, but at the cost of truth and morality. God's love is none of these things.

The love of God is the very nature and character of God, which moves in every situation to deliver men from sin and bring them into fellowship with himself. In the same way God did not leave it to us to define oneness, He also did not leave it to us to define love. We are plainly told that "God is love," and that His love was fully expressed at Calvary. When we want to enter into fellowship with God, we find that His love brings us in at the beginning, and that it is the motivating factor in all that He does. God's love is what holds everything together for all eternity. How we need an expanding revelation of God's love! We must have this to be able to move in fellowship with God and to be involved in what He is doing today.

God is love. God so loved the world that He gave his only Son. Love is the bond of perfection in the church. Paul prayed that we would know the love of Christ which passes knowledge, so that we may be filled with all the fullness of God. Christ declared who God is, so that the love with which the Father loved Him may be in us. Love will never pass away. Love never fails. Apart from the love of God filling our heart, we are powerless, but as we abide in His love we stand in His triumph. We have the promise of Jesus that if we keep His commandments, He will love us. We are commanded to keep ourselves in this love.

We cannot initiate this love on our own. When we try to love out of who we are, there is no power and no fragrance of God. We struggle and falter, and there is no fruit. We are not commanded to love in our own strength, but to keep ourselves in His love. There is a vast difference between those two. The first is self-effort, trying to do something for God in our own wisdom. The second only happens as we humble ourselves in His presence, acknowledging our lack and utter dependence on God to work in and through us for His own purpose. He must fill our hearts with His love, and this is not a one-time filling. God's love flows like a river, and our part is to live in that river.

## **Fellowship With God**

Are you moving in fellowship with God? Don't re-define fellowship to mean something lower, in order to "feel comfortable" with yourself and with others. Have we allowed the standard to drop so that we have no need to continually wait on God to see fellowship worked out? Are we content with enjoying the company of others on a social basis, but not experiencing the love that gave Jesus to die and the power that raised Him from the dead? Is our fellowship with one another natural or spiritual? Do we know each other according to the flesh or according to the Spirit? Christ declared who God is by His whole life and ultimately on the cross, so that together we may experience the same fellowship and love that was between Him and the Father. Let us not neglect so great a salvation. If Christ died to make it possible to enter into true fellowship with God in all things, what answer shall we give to God on the final day if we have not availed ourselves of His glorious provision and entered into this holy calling?

Brethren, the appeal and exhortation in these few words is to reconsider what fellowship with God is all about. If we feel we have arrived, we leave no place for God to speak to us and expand our revelation and experience. Paul had experienced a great deal of God, but at the end of his life he had one cry: to know God in all things. Is this our cry? If not, it should be. Let him who has ears to hear listen to what the Spirit is saying to us in this hour. The time is short. The issues are eternal. The provision is God himself.

May we not miss this great salvation and the privilege of entering into this high calling. From the evidence we see around us, most have missed the way. May we not be numbered among them, for one day, it will be too late to come back into the right path. May God in His mercy open our eyes and lead us into full fellowship with himself in all things for His glory alone.