

**Scriptures and Doctrine :: Interesting... what do you think?****Interesting... what do you think? - posted by JFW (), on: 2019/1/8 9:05**

Having been focused on fellowship for several months now, camped out in John 17 making day trips to other books/passages and looking at various translations I stumbled upon this reference.... wondering if anyone had any thoughts or insights?

<https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/words/Fellowship>

Re: Interesting... what do you think? - posted by Gloryandgrace (), on: 2019/1/8 9:44

Well if you're the Holman translation group you combine peace offerings and sacrifices to make one single offering a 'fellowship offering'. When I look at other translations they do not combine the two distinct Hebrew words.

To me, this combination is attempting to convey a singular thought when in fact the Hebrew does not seem to license it.

I am NO Hebrew scholar, but looking at those who are, they seem to make a distinction in sacrifice and peace offering, therefore adding another 81 instances of 'fellowship' seems contrived.

In the end maybe not offering the accuracy of Hebrew will spin 'fellowship' in a way that contorts what we already know?

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2019/1/8 11:53

I did a quick search of when the term 'peace offering' or 'fellowship offering' (as in HCSB) first appeared and I did not see where this term is actually defined in scripture. I admit I did not spend tons of time looking.

I was thinking that perhaps 'peace offering' might have been defined as a fellowship offering which may solve the dilemma but couldn't figure out exactly what a peace offering was for.

ADD: Matthew Henry says the peace offering signifies reconciliation, concord and communion, 'because in them God and His people did, as it were, feast together, in token of friendship.'

Re: - posted by JFW (), on: 2019/1/8 14:53

Thanks guys:)

I'm not that familiar with HCSB translation other than basic info-

However this study the Lord has set me on has been quite fruitful in my walk with Him, and after missing 4 consecutive weeks of church this past Sunday I was able to attend and you wanna guess what my pastor preached on...? Yep- fellowship and even used the same scriptures the Lord has been directing me to study from John 17 to 1John 2 etc... one of the more interesting things was how the Lord has been revealing the correlation between 'fellowship with' and 'knowing Him' which was precisely the way our pastor preached on it))) sure seems like a confirmation of sorts-

I'm def open to any input or teachings someone may have to share?

Another interesting thing the Lord has been showing me is how our fellowship with Him has three readily definable positions that parallel the temple model in the OT - outer court being an entrance into or the beginning of fellowship- the Inner court being a tabernacling or more intimate level of participation - with the Holy of Holies being like communion :)

Re: - posted by JFW (), on: 2019/1/10 9:37

Isn't that (fellowship with God) what was lost in the fall of Adam... and isn't that (fellowship with God) what was restored by Christ Jesus and the work of the cross?

Would "walking with God" or "walking in the spirit" signify fellowship or knowing Him?

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2019/1/10 10:20

What exactly do you mean when you say "fellowship"? Are you taking about a "legal" positional fellowship or more of a relationship type of fellowship?

Christ did restore something, but arguably Moses had deeper fellowship with God than even NT apostles - if you are talking about relationship.

Also- I am curious about your OP and why you referenced all the OT passages regarding fellowship (or peace) offerings?

Re: - posted by Gloryandgrace (), on: 2019/1/10 13:38

Hi Fletcher: Fellowship lost in the garden was regained in the garden by means of sacrifice.

Fellowship equaling 'walking with God' is substantiated everywhere in the OT.

God says. walk before me, walk in my statutes, walk in my ways, walk in my law, walk uprightly, walk before me in truth etc.

Revelation 3:4

Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.

From first book to last walking with God is paramount it is part of living according to the law and part of what it is to be a Christian.

Fellowship holds another dimension to walking with God, it connotes friendship.

Walking with God, fellowship is part of our purpose as a man or woman.

Re: Brother Todd - posted by JFW (), on: 2019/1/10 17:23

Not so much a "legal" but also not so "typical"... more of a real abiding, intimate, proactive, mutual, living relationship-

Again this is something the Lord has had me focused on, excavating the gold, as it were, with regards to how He views it, the importance He places on it...

the reason, I suppose, that the OT references were included in OP was to instigate responses as to the perpetual desire and efforts (on God's part) to get us into relationship/fellowship/communion with Him...

Re: Brother Marvin - posted by JFW (), on: 2019/1/10 18:08

Yes this is closer to what He seems to be attempting to get me to see...

An example in the NT -

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost,

The term "communion" used here in KJV is also often translated as "fellowship" - and is defined as; fellowship, association, community, communion, joint participation, intercourse

the share which one has in anything, participation

intercourse, fellowship, intimacy

the right hand as a sign and pledge of fellowship (in fulfilling the apostolic office)

a gift jointly contributed, a collection, a contribution, as exhibiting an embodiment and proof of fellowship

I guess I'm asking if (perhaps because I had overlooked/underestimated the importance) this is not the point of it all

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Meaning didn't God create us for this purpose?

Isn't this what was lost and restored?

Isn't this what we be doing in heaven?

Isn't this how He conforms us into the image of His Son?

Isn't this how we, as the body, operate?

Wasn't the mystery that was hidden but later revealed, 'Christ in us' aka communion/Union with Him?

He had, not so long ago, reminded me of when I had first met/came to faith in Him that in every situation I have a choice to either react to the situation in my flesh (wether good or bad) or respond to Him in faith by the spirit... it occurred to me that I had been cutting Him out of the loop as it were by utilizing my past experiences and biblical knowledge to guide me... but that is really just my flesh! And what He wanted was to be 'in the loop' in every matter...

Once this occurred to me, several scriptures came to mind that seem to illustrate this phenomenon of fellowship which is actually obedience by faith through the spirit. The better I get at utilizing the grace He gives me, to keep step, the more consistent my dependence on Him becomes and the habit of 'obeying my flesh/law' dwindles. Seemingly this progresses our relationship growing ever more intimate so long as I abide in Him/fellowship till the desired result of communion is not only achieved but done so in such a way so as to preserve itself.

Following Christ, being a disciple, walking with God, walking in the spirit, abiding in Christ, are (for me) being shown to be different facets of or metaphors for or aspects of - knowing Him... which itself IS eternal life per John 17:3... but this 'knowing' isn't a static book knowledge 'about' Him but an active participation in a relational 'knowing'.

Like when Jesus says; 'man shall not live by bread alone but by every word from the mouth of God'. I'm coming to realize that the mechanics of that is actually fellowship... this doesn't by any means exclude the scriptures but they in themselves do not contain eternal life however this does.

I apologize if this is being somewhat incoherently articulated, I'm still seeking to fully apprehend and as such lack the full clarity that affords simple expression-

Interestingly tho, ALL of my relationships have improved dramatically in almost direct proportion to my understanding that if I respond to Him first, then 'wait on the Lord' to give direction- following that by faith. Even when the habit of reacting in my flesh occurs (which it certainly still does) I'm almost immediately made aware of it and with it the deepening desire to draw in closer to Him. Would it be too much to believe that it's possible to virtually extinguish the flesh y reaction having the spirit so developed so as to be ever mindful of responding to the Lord first?

Re: - posted by Gloryandgrace (), on: 2019/1/11 22:47

Fletcher: your post was very well articulated.

What you have written is the best of the best that a believer can attain, a full communion with God, walking in a dependence, hearing of his voice, obedience to his word and freedom to live without the carnal mind pulling us sideways at every turn.

I know this is so true, God revealed this to me some years ago, it has been my experience to walk in it and walk out of it.

In those times that I recognized I was walking in a close communion with God some relationship improved immediately, others flew apart. It causes fear in me, I normally am not a fearful person, but being rejected in so many ways in so many places that I shouldn't be caused me to draw back. To keep silent when I should speak (who would have guessed?)

I have sensed a move of God on my spirit and I don't understand what is happening, but thank God for your encouragement in this, I need it. There are some spiritual truths you've shared that are so easily misunderstood, and the misunderstanding will arise from the mind not in step with the Holy Spirit's leading.

Edit to add: this 'fellowship' or communion in the Holy Spirit brings with it a two-edged sword. The necessity to die to self is always foremost when you are being led of the Spirit. There is always a new death awaiting and to no surprise a new vitality in our walk with God. As you said, a body of biblical head knowledge cannot be exchanged for it. It is such a blessing to recount the 'supernaturalness' to serving Jesus in such a way.

k to us and who will listen to us.

aside:...It is a terrible thing when I hear some ministers teach that God will not speak to us anymore but by his word in the bible. They say if you want to hear God speak just read your bible. Well, I found out from reading my bible they're all wrong. The bible tells us he will speak to his children by his Spirit, not just by reading. Did the prophets read God's intents or did he speak it to them? Did the apostle read God's intents or did they hear them?

To be in fellowship cannot be one sided or otherwise it is not fellowship. Our interaction with Jesus in prayer and worship, or during the day at work becomes dry and empty. So many have never heard the Spirit speak to them and if they did, they would never say it out loud otherwise their Church leaders would think them heretical for getting "revelation outside of God's word".

Here's where you can pick up stones if you like.

We are all absolutely forbidden to add or subtract from the word of God. No question, but we do receive revelation about ourselves from the Spirit. It does not say in scripture Marvin you are called to "....." It's not in there. But the Spirit of God speaks to our own spirit what God is doing in us and with us.

What I heard I discern using the word of God so that I can have a witness that what I have heard is substantiated by scripture.

Scripture does not forbid God's voice to me, it requires that I discern it with scripture.

Until one decides that this sort of thing is valid in scripture and for themselves, they will put little to no faith in any active 'fellowship' that is not all one-sided. You know what I mean...We talk and that's it. We question, we search, we knock and ask and expect no response other than some providential convergence of events.

I am speaking here of the probability of God speaking, I am not saying God is going to talk your ear off next prayer time.

As a young believer I came to know this very early, when I was just a year-old believer, I was amazed at so many who never had what I had. If some of you recall, I was an atheist, I had ZERO religious background or expectations. God begin to teach me his fellowship was not intercessions which means it's not about others. It's not about what I want from God, which means it's not about my needs. Fellowship with God is the adoration and enjoyment of his person right now, and the love and joy Jesus has for me/you right now. Fellowship is a 'now' thing. Fellowship is an interchange of emotion, love, words, desire with Jesus.

Fellowship is undertaken by faith. When you believe and set apart that time or you turn your heart and mind at work toward God and express yourself in silence, Jesus is there to continue what was had in a prayer closet.

Fellowship takes the relationship for 'granted', I don't come to Jesus as a stranger, nor do I come with a doctrine that says "Jesus your supposed to be here", or with an estranged heart that has become inward focused upon it's failures and sins so it cannot be at peace and know God.

My times of fellowship have always been times of revelation. They have been times of victory and direction giving. They have been soothing times when I was worried or fearful, they have been healing times when I was badly wounded and needed his love.

Sometimes I came to fellowship and I was a mess, sinful angry, rebellious and yet I did so because I believed he was merciful and kind, not just to others but to me, especially me. Jesus has been more than Lord or Savior, he has been my beloved and my hearts desire, I found this out in fellowship with him.

Re: Dear Brother Marvin - posted by JFW (), on: 2019/1/22 22:16

How good is it when we are laid bare before the Lord? How He covers us, clothing us in the righteousness of His beloved Son:)

There are so many ways in which I can relate to your experience written here and am genuinely blessed by it... just feels raw, real, without any need other than to offer confession of God's goodness and faithfulness and mercy and grace - His love :)

And yes this is what I mean by fellowshiping with Him~

Honestly there is nothing to compare it with as it supersedes all that is not of Him. The light of His love literally burns away all that is counterfeit, turning it to dust and ash, leaving only the splendor of His majesty which itself shines so brightly so as to illuminate life eternal.

Lord,... I just thank you for who You are.... for what You have already done for us through Christ Jesus.... for the invitation, for the adoption, for the eternal fellowship of the spirit that You oh Lord have caused us to become partakers of... for your patience, for your mercy.... for your unfailing love even and especially when we fail You- how it comforts us, lifting us again and again setting our feet firmly on Your promises and oh faces to behold Your Son, our Savior, our Lord, our friend and brother Jesus the Holy One.

Thank You oh Lord that you cause us to walk in Your ways, enabling us by Your grace, leading us by Your Holy Spirit to see You and know You as our Father.

Thank You oh Lord for Your Eternal Word...thank you that You lead us to find it... thank you that You open Your Word to us, revealing the Truth of Your Spirit as we turn to You... how Your Word shapes us as we consume it, making us more like You...

Thank You Father for the fellowship of Your body,... how You knit us together by Your Word, giving us comfort and encouragement and hope as we bear with one another in this life...

Thank You Lord for Your voice,... thank you that You give us ears to hear it, how it calls us out of the darkness, leading us into Your Kingdom... ever urging us to surrender, trusting in Your lead...

You oh God are sooooo good to us,... You oh Lord are sooooo precious,... You Almighty God are our Father and Your Joy is our pleasure~

Thank You for my brother Marvin, and for how he loves me:)

Re: - posted by Elibeth, on: 2019/1/23 12:27

This is precious and beautiful,...
Surly identifies with my thoughts.

Love it,

1 Jn. 5:1,

Whoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.

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elizabeth

Re: - posted by Gloryandgrace (), on: 2019/1/23 14:16

Brother Fletcher:

To speak out praises, as easy as breathing, that is a blessing of fellowship with God. We fellowship in specifics just like your praises expressed, we see God's hand and goodness in a myriad of places and displayed in all manner of events. It is easy to multiply words of adoration, it is a double blessing because such praise and adoration are received of him. He seeks those who will worship in Spirit and Truth, and in fellowship we find out he created in us such a spirit and revealed his truth for that purpose.

Fellowship with God gives us vision to see afar off. There is a sort that have God in a sentimental way. These sentimental feelings are like cat-tails, where the small black bird can land upon and search for food. But men of God are like eagles, they cannot be born up with sentiments, they need the strength of a solid branch, so fellowship supplies a solid point, a place where the eagle looking afar off can see what God will supply.

Peter enjoins us with specifics "add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge temperance, to temperance patience, to patience godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, to brotherly kindness love. For if these things be in you and abound you will not be unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Theology in a sense looks at this and sees symmetry and balance the making of a man/woman of God. But fellowship may not always comprehend symmetry but it will apprehend the beauty of God's ways. Fellowship with God imparts a delight and desire for the ways of God, in a sense it adores the beauty of God's manner of making man/woman of God. The signature of a man's work is seen in his manner of performing his work. Fellowship imparts a love for the signature and the manner in which God works. There is a very personal distinction to be made rather than the observance of a 'thing'.

But this description is mostly husk, it's bone with no marrow. The life giving essence of fellowship with God is his own presence. The conveyance of God's love and the reception of God's lovingkindness at such a moment surpasses quaint explanations.

Fletcher my brother you have chosen that good part which Jesus identifies because in sitting in front of him you are encountering life and truth in one, rather than serving men.

Re: Brother Marvin - posted by JFW (), on: 2019/1/24 8:40

It's funny how He sometimes turns us, taking us in a completely different direction - After your "reposted" response, I had cut/copied several excerpts intending to offer an intimate and detailed response tho the Lord had something different in mind:)

And yes dear brother, sometimes the sweetest fellowship is in silence, not needing words.

In some instances,... we don't even know for sure it's Him initially- perhaps we feel led to do something, tho only after acting on the influence and then being convinced it was the Lord we thank Him, only then to have Him bear witness in our spirit that it was Him all along, helping us to better discern His voice.

Something that is truly remarkable is just how many ways He interacts with us,... each of us having our own unique and personal experience of Him yet we share this corporately with the singular signifier being His word, which itself being alive, bears witness of itself in us:)))

Again this may not be "exactly" how your understanding of it works, and yet that itself is where the genius of God's plan rests,... like He places a copy of His plan (Christ) in each of His children but in each case there are slight variations in how they/we are able to receive and process, with certain aspects being keyed to each individual. Together as a body, each of these aspects contribute to benefit the other:)

The more quiet I am, listening for His still small voice, catching glimpses of it- the more fascinated I become with Him:)))

Hahahaha, my 5 yr old just came down the hall (randomly) singing "the wise man builds his house upon the Rock, heyyy don't be a foolish man, build your life on the the Lord" and it is indeed the only life there is that lasts- the one built on the revealed word of God to His children ~

Re: - posted by Elibeth, on: 2019/1/24 10:30

Hi Fletcher,... good morning,

Every morning lately I have been listening,..sitting,and absorbing the Book of Genesis,... seeing how it reflects / shadows our day.... REMARKABLE.

How Fellowship was so important to God, and for us, from the beginning.

And thinking,.. how else would / or could we be led by His Spirit in these New Testament times.... still important and necessary it seems.

Scriptures and Doctrine :: Interesting... what do you think?

Although it was lost or somewhat lost in the fall of Adam, it seems God continued to seek that fellowship with man. I am thinking of Abraham,...etc.,... then Moses.

Then how men later wanted ..?,to hear God through Moses ,.. and not hear Him directly.

God ,though continued to direct man, through Moses, (wouldn't that be in the context of fellowship?

You were talking about your little son, and his singing,.. "build your house upon the Rock,and not on the sand,"..... oh how near God is when we draw near to Him!... He worked with "fellowship" to you through this little child.

But on thinking,.... and man does not always like to hear this,..but The song,...The Word says, for us "to build",.. so I would say , in this fellowship w/ God He is directing the building of this house,.. (that houses The Holy Spirit.) It seems man does not always want to hear that we have a part of "work" in this....That is hearing/obeying ,....(part of what fellowship is, as it was w/Adam)

What a great subject, Fletcher,.. it is truly blessing me.

Oh!... there is sooo much more to be seen in the shadows of Genesis.

A blessed day of fellowship w/ Him , to all of you.

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elizabeth

Re: Sister Elizabeth - posted by JFW (), on: 2019/1/24 14:44

YES! AMEN ••»

This is very much how it was revealed to me:))

You articulated the innocence, the essence of fellowship and Gods desire to be known by His children in a way that I still struggle to... it's refreshing to read your words and recognize the same spirit in them- and yes I took my son singing the same way as you did:)

When we receive and respond in faith, we are building and being built up- as Peter says "we are spiritual stones".

Interestingly I've noticed that when in close fellowship with the Lord that His influences tend me toward intercession more frequently and intensely. While I'm not certain, I'm considering that these may be more closely related than I had previously imagined...?

In any case, I rejoice along with you in fellowship of the Spirit:)