

Fellowship with Christ

LeRoy Eims

I. Introduction

A. From the beginning of faith we belong to Jesus Christ.

1. One of the first things a Christian learns to do is to establish a personal relationship with the Lord in a daily walk.
2. Jesus is the door of relationship with the Father. (John 10:7)
3. Jesus is the one who walks with us every day and all things revolve around him.

B. Today we want to develop the idea of fellowship with Christ because we belong to him. (I Corinthians 1:9)

1. Many Christians act like fellowship with Christ is spending time with him on Sunday morning.
2. Jesus died in order for believers to have intimate fellowship with God.

II. How do we develop an intimate fellowship with the Lord?

A. Prayer

1. Prayer needs to be genuine fellowship with the Lord.

a. God has a stethoscope on our hearts so our communication with Him needs to be genuine.

2. Prayer needs to be specific.

a. Vague prayers like 'Lord bless Texas' do not get God's attention.

b. 'Lord I want to talk to you about my unsaved roommate' is specific and God pays attention.

c. Jesus said that He would do whatever we ask Him for, implying specific requests. (John 14:14)

3. Prayer is often offered in the morning.

a. Jesus prayed early in the morning. (Mark 1:35)

b. Get with God early before the day begins.

c. Abraham rose early to be with God. (Genesis 19:27)

1. If you are going to get up early you need to get to bed early.

2. Staying up late makes one feel lousy in the morning and messes with quality time with God in the morning.

4. Have a specific place for morning prayer.

a. In prayer we are meeting a Person, not a force.

b. This is not legalism; it is fellowship.

5. Daniel and Joseph both provide great ideals for prayer with God. (Daniel 6:19)

a. Daniel refused to bow down to the king's idol.

b. Daniel continued to pray to God, cultivating his relationship with the Lord.

6. You can't tempt an eagle to live on the ground, and you can't tempt a spiritual Christian to live without fellowship with God.

a. We are all being tempted to live without being in touch with God.

1) We are all prone to wonder and leave the God we love, as the old hymn says.

2) Daily, morning prayer with God is the best way to safeguard against wandering from God.

B. The second aspect of fellowship with God is paying attention to what God speaks to us.

1. We are to be doers of the word not hearers only. (James 1:22)

2. James spoke of a perfect law of liberty; rules are not for hindering our fun, rules are for our benefit.

4. The Bible is our manual for life, and God is the Author. Liberty is found only in paying attention to this manual.

5. The Word of God has power to affect change in our lives. (Hebrews 4:12)

a. Jesus said He came to give abundant life to people now. (John 10:10)

b. The personal application of the word to our lives is what brings power to live the abundant life. (Ps 119:59; Lamentations 3:40)

c. The practical effects of Bible reading results in harmony in the home as people apply it to their lives.

d. If every Christian lived by obeying and applying the word of God to our lives we would transform the world.

e. Jesus is our Lord and He should be obeyed.