



# KEYS TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH

## HOW TO DEEPEN YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

### #9: FELLOWSHIP: WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER

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Rather, you must grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ...  
1 Peter 3:18a (NLT)

## I. WHAT IS FELLOWSHIP?

### 1. Fellowship is building the relationships with other believers that God designed to help me grow spiritually.

- God created we humans with a need for relationships

Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone  
Genesis 2:18a (NLT)

- God created His church to be my spiritual family

Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.

Ephesians 1:4-5 (NLT)

Love your spiritual family...  
1 Peter 2:17 (The Message)

### 2. Fellowship is loving and receiving love from my spiritual family—the church

...I am writing these things to you now...[so] you will know how to live in the family of God. That family is the church...

1 Timothy 3:14-15 (NCV)

The person who loves God must also love other believers.  
1 John 4:21 (GOD'S WORD)

## II. WHY IS FELLOWSHIP SO IMPORTANT?

Fellowship is a strategic part of my spiritual growth because it is where:

### 1. I can be mentored by mature believers

Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.  
1 Corinthians 11:1 (NIV)

As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.  
Proverbs 27:17 (NLT)

## **2. I can be encouraged through my struggles**

Encourage each other every day while you have the opportunity. If you do this, none of you will be deceived by sin and become stubborn.

Hebrews 3:13 (GOD'S WORD)

Share each other's troubles and problems, and so obey our Lord's command.

Galatians 6:2 (TLB)

Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.

James 5:16 (NLT)

## **3. I can know that I belong**

...you are members of God's very own family...and you belong in God's household with every other Christian.

Ephesians 2:19 (TLB)

so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.

Romans 12:5 (NLT)

## **4. I can experience true acceptance**

Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

Romans 15:7 (NIV)

## **5. I can be held accountable for my life**

Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself.

Galatians 6:1 (NLT)

## **6. I can share my life with others**

We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us.

1 Thessalonians 2:8 (NIV)

# **III. HOW CAN I DEVELOP FELLOWSHIP THAT WILL MAKE ME MORE LIKE JESUS?**

- 1. Think "we" and not "me"**
- 2. Be proactive in building relationships (See Acts 2:42-27)**
- 3. Participate regularly in church events**
- 4. Get involved in ministry**
- 5. Open my home to fellow believers**