

# Seamless Fellowship

by Michael Barrett

I received some understanding from the Lord years ago about “seamless fellowship.” This word is one of those, not unlike many others, that continues to unfold and bring greater understanding. In this writing I want to lay out the understanding that I currently have on this theme. The message I am giving here is, in my opinion, both doctrinal and prophetic.

Let’s begin at the heart of the message, which is found in 1 John 1:1-4, and says this: “That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.”

So, here we have, in the communication of John to us, an overview of a complete understanding. John offers us this understanding and invites us into the experience. John begins at the beginning, comes through his own experience, as well as all of those included in the “our” who clearly had firsthand and personal experience with Jesus, draws all of those who hear the message into a place of invitation and ends by saying that the result of coming into this experience will be the fullness of joy. Within these four verses John invites every one of us into a fellowship.

## *Fellowship Defined*

Fundamentally, we need to begin by defining Biblical fellowship. We need to qualify the context of our discussion as that which is Biblical. We do so because there are many different venues and contexts whose nomenclature is “fellowship”, but for our purposes we will narrow the context to that which is spoken of in the above passage. John was using as his basis a certain and a specific fellowship. And that is the context within which we will have our discussion.

The word translated “fellowship” in 1 John 1:3 according to the Strong’s Concordance is “koinōnia.” Strong’s defines koinōnia this way: g2842. κοινωνία koinōnia; from 2844; partnership, i.e. (literally) participation, or (social) intercourse, or (pecuniary) benefaction: — (to) communicate(-ation), communion, (contri-)distribution, fellowship. So, it is a partnership, a participation, social intercourse, or pecuniary benefaction. In other words, there is a legitimate exchange – a flow from one to the other in Biblical fellowship. This exchange actuates and results in something dynamic. In Biblical fellowship, life contacts life, and there is an exchange. It must be stated at this point that John specifically categorized his / their fellowship. It was fellowship “with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.” That categorization is specific! That categorization cannot be confused to be anything other or anything else!! Fellowship with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ!! That is Biblical fellowship.

Let’s take a few moments and speak to the natural extension of that fellowship which is also addressed by John in the passage we are exploring. John said that he was writing this letter with the goal of having those who would read the letter come into fellowship with him and with them. They are referred to in the passage as “us.” But remember who the “us” is. These are the ones whose eyes saw Him, whose ears heard Him and whose hands handles Him!! They were those who were the eyewitnesses. They were those who had the testimony. They were those who had firsthand

experience with the living Lord! Kenneth B. Wuest renders 1 John 1:3 in this way: "That which we have seen with discernment and at present is in our mind's eye, and that which we have heard and at present is ringing in our ears, we are reporting also to you, in order that as for you also, you may be participating jointly in common with us [in our first-hand knowledge of the life of our Lord]. And the fellowship indeed which is ours, is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ." So, the fellowship that we are discussing here is: 1) with John and all of the ones that make up the "us" (the ones that John refers to as those whose eyes saw Him, whose ears heard Him and whose hands handled Him); and 2) certainly the much larger context of this fellowship is the fellowship "with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ."

Now, this is huge! It is huge because this fellowship encompasses and transcends the temporal and reaches all of the way into the eternal. This fellowship that we are invited into is with John and the others, but larger, it is with Jesus Christ the Son of God and God the Father! It is for this reason that I use the term "seamless fellowship." The invitation is to experience a fellowship that is in the temporal but reaches into the limitless expanse of the eternal!

Beloved, I so want to experience more and more fellowship with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. I so want you to experience fellowship with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. You see, our choice every day, every hour, is one that will determine what and who we will fellowship. You and I are free to choose. We are free to choose what and free to choose who we will fellowship. Many are stuck in a fellowship with their circumstance. Many have chosen to fellowship things religious, which things will always fall short of our Father's true intention for our lives. Many will choose to fellowship the things of national politics or the many crisis' in the world today. Let me say to you in the plainest terms dear one, do not be confused, however impassioned you may be about any of these alternative arenas, spending your time, your energy, and your focus on "lesser things" will never lift you up to a transcendent place! And it's a double whammy. Until I "come up here" as John was invited to do in Revelation 4, I can never see the thing I am looking at as the Lord sees it. Apart from fellowship with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ, none of us can truly know what the Lord is doing in the earth today. And, as John expressly writes, the invitation is being issued to you to enter into and experience this seamless fellowship. When we do, we enter into the experience of partnership, participation, a social intercourse or pecuniary benefaction. And that is why John would say, "that your joy may be full!"

It has been said that fellowship is "two fellows in a ship." I would say that this is a kind of fellowship, but it is not Biblical fellowship. I have come to understand that the two fellows in the ship may hate each other. One or both may be so blinded by bigotry that they have no chance of actually seeing each other. Either or both may be so fearful that it makes true fellowship impossible. Two fellows being on the same ship doesn't guaranty anything at all. Neither does two church members being in the same church building guaranty anything. I have seen church members fall out over paint colors and budget line items. I have routinely seen the believers in Christ divided over church doctrine. I have seen the very ones who are light and glory bearers, be reduced by political persuasion, race, minor church doctrine to becoming, as the Scripture says, "mere men." Paul rebuked the Corinthians about sectarianism and the divisive result. He called them "babes" and told them that their actions portray the conduct of carnality. They had elevated their "party" above Christ and so divided themselves from member of His one body. Consequently, Paul said that he could not deliver the message that he was carrying for them, but rather had to ratchet down his message to their level. I urge you to hold yourself accountable to the standard of fellowship that is "with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ!"

## *Seamlessness*

Seamless is defined as: having no seams; having no awkward transitions, interruptions, or indications of disparity. And that is what this fellowship that we are discussing today actually is! It has no seams, no awkward transitions, no interruptions, or indications of disparity. The eternal nature of this fellowship is seamless.

This brings me to another body of thought that fits together with and fits into the matter of seamless fellowship. There are two segments of this body of thought, that I will pull together now. I believe that they merge perfectly with the seamlessness of fellowship that we are called into. I begin this part of the discourse with John 6:12, which says, "Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost." This was Jesus giving instructions to the disciples after feeding five thousand people. The food that was given was more than the multitude could consume. To extend that reality, without overstretching it, I will say that very often, if not always, the food that God gives is more than the multitudes can consume. The way that the food that God gives is received and metabolized determines the actual affect that the intended spiritual nutrition has in our lives.

Jesus instructed that the fragments that were left over be gathered up so that nothing would be lost. What then of the fragments of spiritual bread that God gives that are uneaten? The purpose of that portion is unexperienced. Is God willing then to allow those purposes to be unfulfilled? No. The fragments are gathered so that the unfulfilled purposes may be reserved for future experience. Those experiences could be manifested in the lives of the initial participants or could be manifested in the lives of others. The point that I am making here is to say that God will complete His purposes, whether in the lives of those to whom the initial engagement is with or with others who will come along later. Many times we have heard that the Lord has offered His purpose to individuals who refused to engage, or if they engaged, refused to continue to the conclusion of the purpose. If one draws back and doesn't finish the assignment, God, who is unwilling to see the assignment unfinished, will raise up another to complete what was started and not finished. God is not willing for the unfulfilled portion to be lost. So, the fragments that have been gathered up are held in store for those that are being prepared to engage the next phase of the assignment.

This brings us to the place of discussing the next part, which is found in Acts 3:21. This text says, "Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began." Note that the Amplified Bible Classic Edition renders the verse this way, "Whom heaven must receive [and retain] until the time for the complete restoration of all that God spoke by the mouth of all His holy prophets for ages past [from the most ancient time in the memory of man]." The time of the restitution of all things. Some would argue that this can only mean that when Jesus returns, it is then that all restitution will occur. I think that is ultimately true, but that there are phases of restitution, some of which will occur prior to the return of Christ.

I say this because of the language of a companion text in Paul's letter to the Romans. In Romans 8:19-22, Paul speaks about all of creation groaning and travailing, and yet in expectation and hope of restoration. The hope, Paul says, is associated with the manifestation of the sons of God. The sons that Paul refers to that will be manifested are the huioi sons, the mature sons of God. The deliverance of creation into the glorious liberty of the sons of God is a picture of restitution / restoration. In a world gone mad, with chaos spinning up more and more, the only answer is God. And God intends to come in the huioi sons, manifesting His glory and splendor; bringing His order and government, which ultimately establishes the order of His kingdom. Remember that Jesus said to His disciples, "pray this way, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

This is the reality that Paul saw when he wrote about all of creation being delivered into the glorious liberty of the sons of God! Of the increase of His government and of peace, Isaiah prophesied, there will be no end (Isaiah 9:6-7).

The fellowship that is with the Father and with the Son, Jesus Christ, connects us to the seamless, uninterrupted intention of God. Nothing else can open the way to such an experience. It is for this reason that the enemy constantly gins up the endless alternatives of a million “next shiny objects.” National politics, breaking news about global events, and yes, even all things purported to be spiritual that are no more than religious counterfeits designed to distract and beg for the attention of the masses. Blood moons, feast-days, the latest and the next “prophetic” predictions, declarations, prognostications, and a plethora, even endless iterations of all things human, packaged and made available for consumption, wrapped, and made to look like some spiritual offering. These represent nothing more than the quintessence of a bait and switch. The whole while, they actually keep us from connectedness to the heart of the Father and His holy intentions for our lives.

### *Conclusion*

The manifestation of the glory and goodness of the Father disburses among men and into creation by way of His characteristics embodied in the seven spirits of God. These attributes rested upon and attended the Lord Jesus. Isaiah prophesied that these seven would rest upon and empower the Lord. The spirit of the Lord, wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge and the fear of the Lord attended Jesus. These empowered and motivated Him. His uninterrupted connection to the Father was His essential fellowship. He said, “I have meat that you know not of.” “I don’t live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of my Father’s mouth.” “I can do nothing of myself”; “I only do what I see my Father doing”; “I did not come to do my own will, but the will of Him who sent me.” “A greater than Solomon is here”, He declared. Jesus could boldly say this because the spirit of wisdom, one of the seven spirits of God was resting upon Him.

As He is, so are we in the world, according to 1 John 4:17. But the higher operations of the spirit of wisdom have the prerequisite of maturity. The glory of a young man is his strength; the glory of an old man is his wisdom. That’s in the natural, but also certainly true of the spiritual. Spiritual wisdom is seldom found in its sustainable form in the young. The wisdom manifested from the source of the spirit of wisdom finds larger expression among the mature. So, the creation isn’t groaning and travailing in anticipation of the immature, but rather the mature.

Fellowship with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ opens the flow of the seven spirits of God. In fact, I believe that the access that this fellowship affords positions us to engage the unfulfilled purposes of God. I also believe that this fellowship connects us to the faith of Abraham, the wisdom of Solomon, the courage of Daniel, the keen eye of the prophetic of Elijah, the heart of David – you get the picture. All that came before us who operated in some measure and portion of the manifestations of the seven spirits of God, were operating as prototypes. We are connected to them by way of the connection actuated in the fellowship with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ!

Beloved, I urge you to not habitually trade down to the worldly, the earthly, the natural. Make it your aim to hold yourself accountable to the standard of fellowship with the Father and with his Son! At all times, remember who you are. That which is born of the flesh is fleshly; that which is born of the spirit is spiritual. Seamless fellowship awaits you. You will never be more at home than in the experience of fellowship with the Father and with his Son!! My love and blessing to you,

*Michael*