

Joy and the Knowledge of God

1 John 1:1-4

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- (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;)
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Overview (1 John 1:1-4)



Purpose of Fellowship (v. 4)



Purpose of Fellowship

Purpose:

"That your **joy**
may be full"



Joy – What is it?

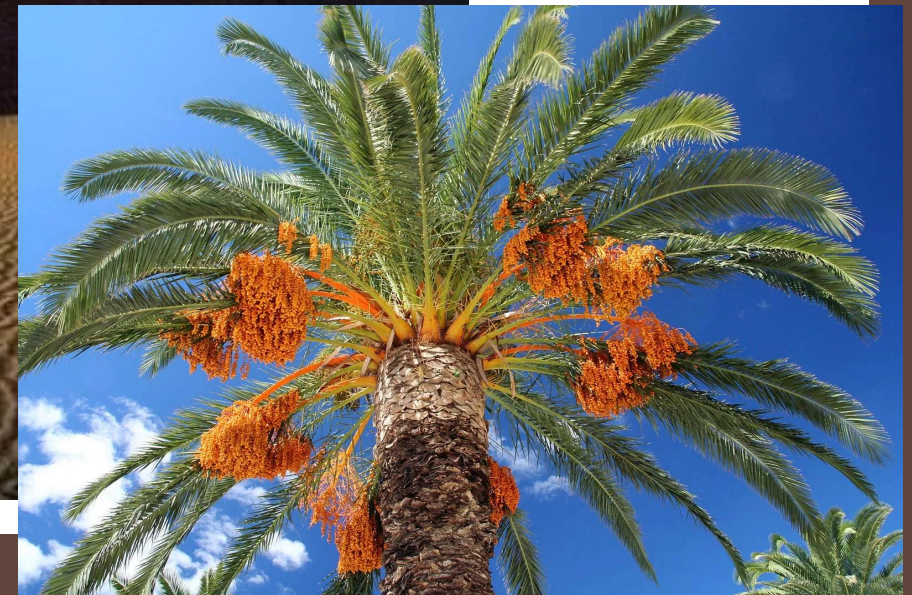
Joy – What is it?

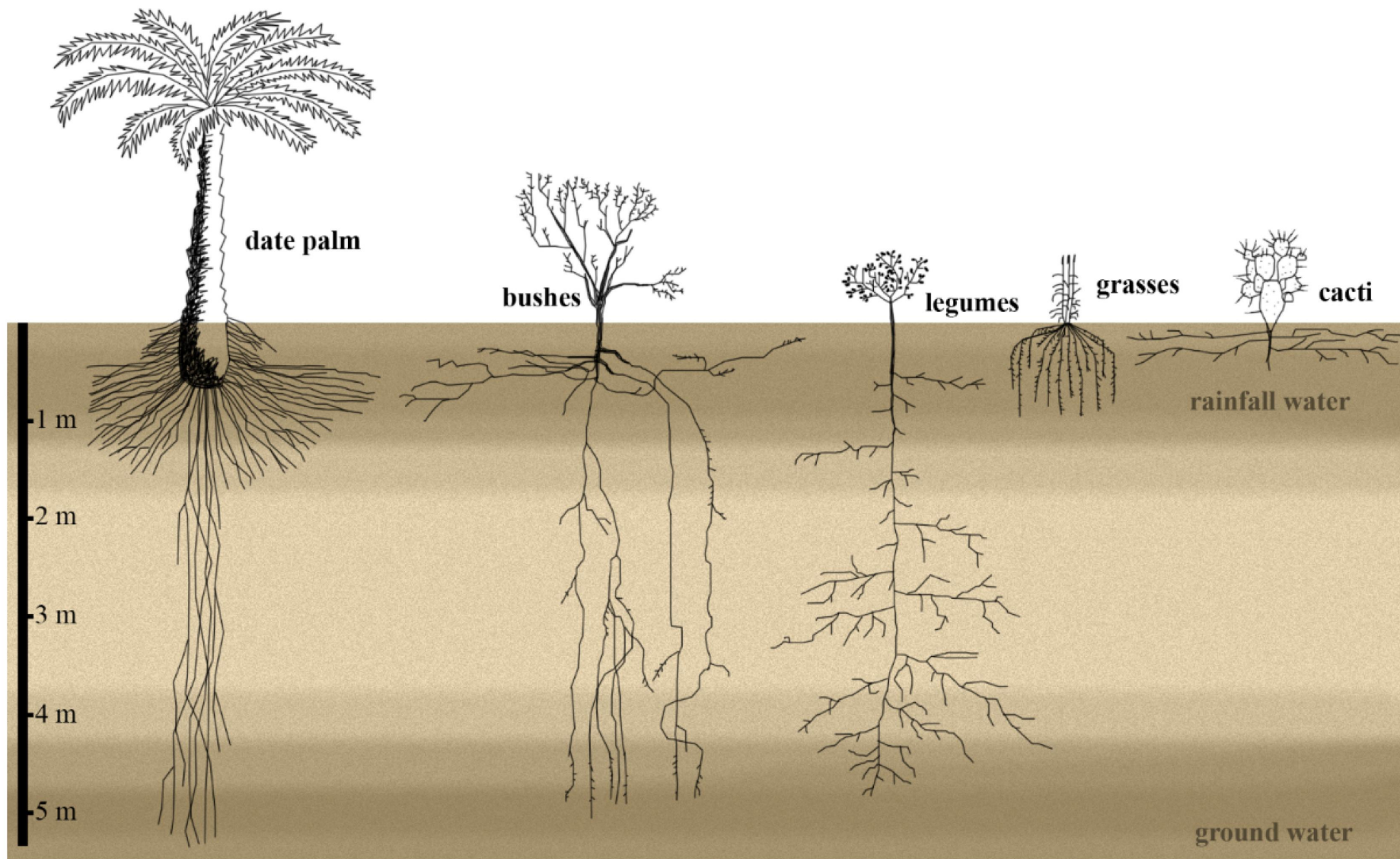
- A future joy? Or a present joy?

Joy – What is it?

- A future joy? Or a present joy?
- Lots of kinds of joy
 - Sometimes people patting you on the back
 - Sometimes there is success
 - Sometimes just enjoying the presence of loved ones

Date Palm





John's Joy

- But this is different
- Does not depend on external sources of joy

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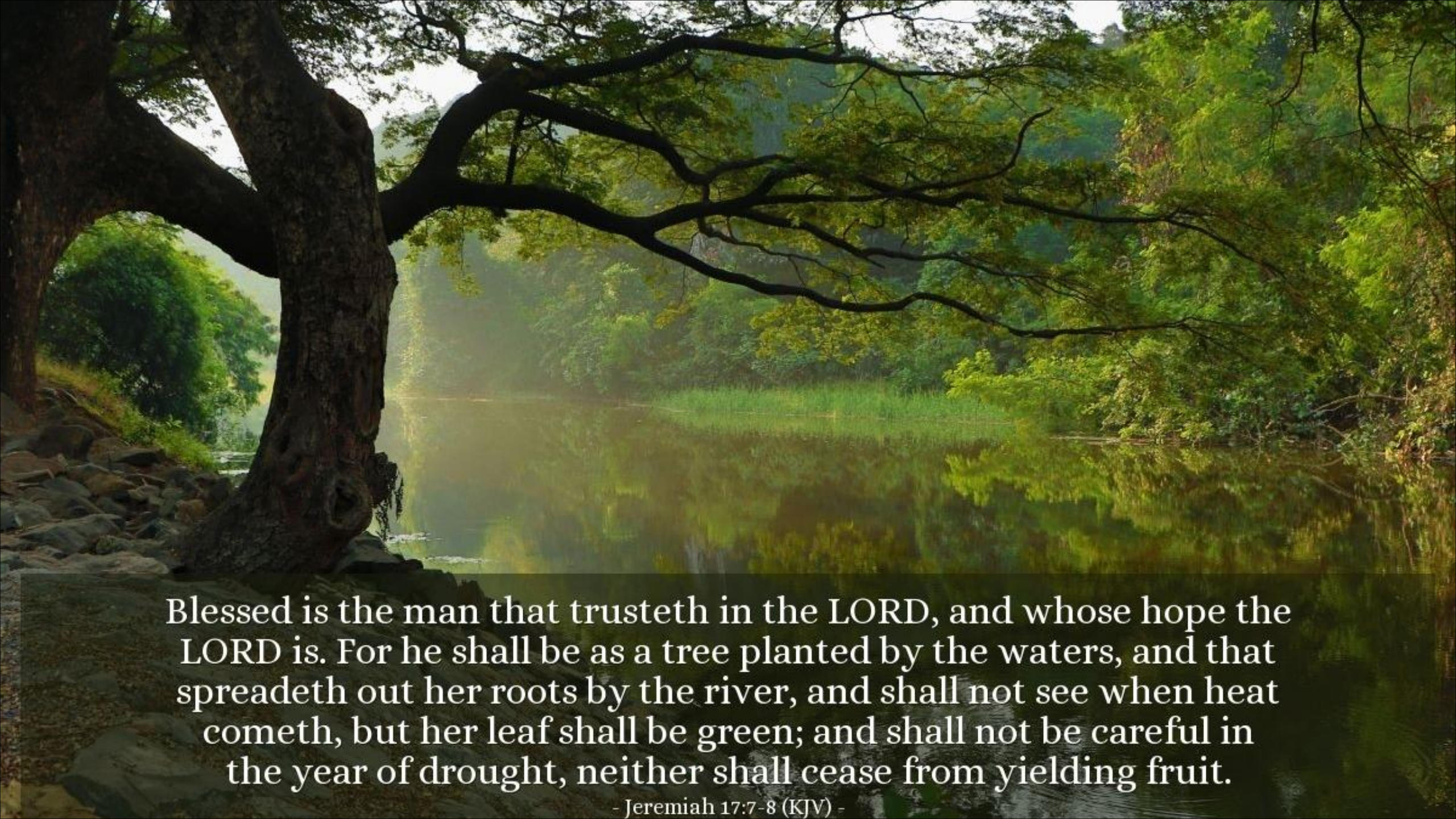
John's Joy

- But this is different
- Does not depend on external sources of joy
- A fulness of joy that is ever-present
- It is possible to have this everlasting joy
 - Source is in God
 - Psalm 1:3
 - Jeremiah 17:8

What is this Joy?



- A joy that always flows
- Psalm 1:3
 - "And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."
- Jeremiah 17:8




Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.

- Jeremiah 17:7-8 (KJV) -

Nature of Christian Joy

- Is it happiness in every circumstance in life?
- Joy in spite of grief
- John 12:35
 - The Lord Jesus wept
 - It is okay to weep and grieve in the face of wickedness
- Joy - not based on anything in this world
 - What if our external sources are slowly removed one by one?
 - What do we draw our delight from?





*In Your presence
is fullness of...*

JOY

Psalm 16:11



What is the source of this joy?







Find Money

Find Money



Finding Money



<https://blog.aprue.com/5-things-to-consider-when-creating-value-creation-strategies>

<https://www.netscribes.com/how-sales-intelligence-solutions-can-boost-business-growth/>

<https://www.usan.com/customer-self-service-ivr/customer-self-service-priorities-should-focus-on-service-not-cost-savings/>

Finding Money



Money is a **byproduct** of value creation / service provided.

Byproduct – Finding Joy

Blessedness and joy

- Never a result of pursuing it directly
- A byproduct of pursuing something else

Byproduct – Finding Joy

Blessedness and joy

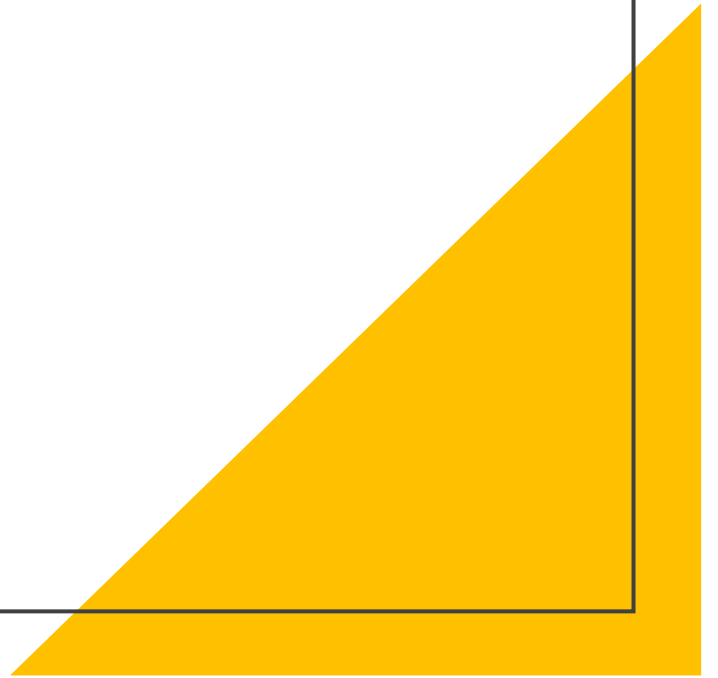
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Beautitudes

- Matt. 5:3 - "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."
- Matt. 5:6 - "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled."

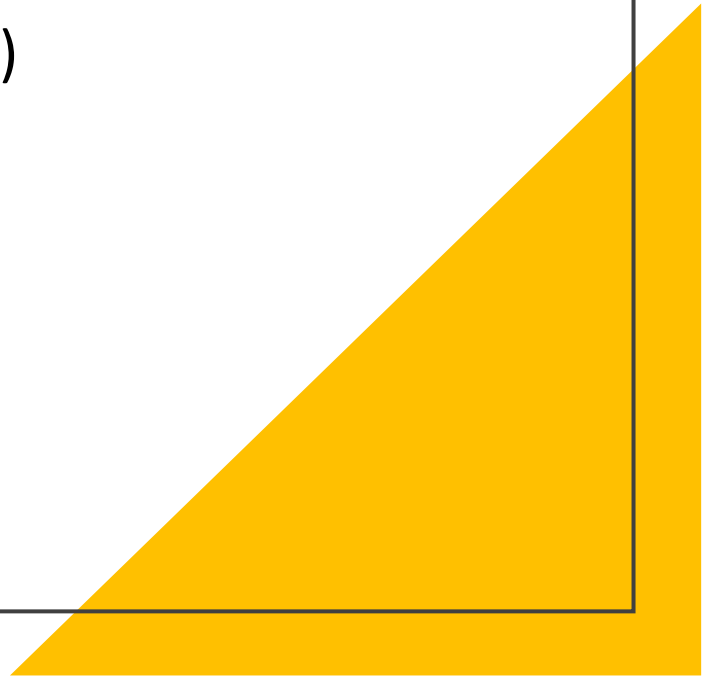
Purpose of Fellowship - Joy

- Joy comes from two (2) things:



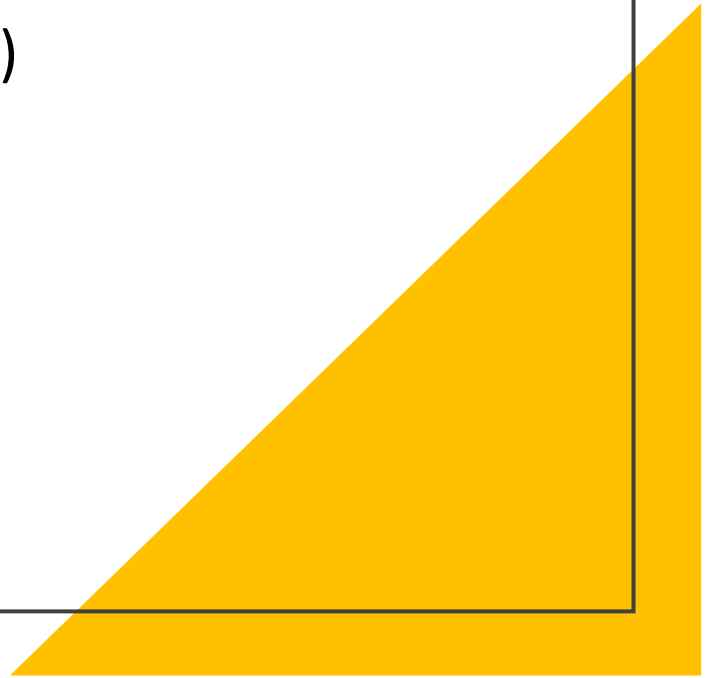
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 - **Fellowship – Know** God and His Son Jesus Christ (v.3)



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Know

- **G1097**
- γινώσκω
- ginōskō
- *ghin-oce'-ko*
- A prolonged form of a primary verb; to “know” (absolutely), in a great variety of applications and with many implications (as shown at left, with others not thus clearly expressed): - allow, be aware (of), feel, (have) known (-ledge), perceive, be resolved, can speak, be sure, understand.
- **Total KJV occurrences: 223**
- 1 John – 25 times

Know

- [1Jn 2:3](#) And hereby we do **know** that we **know** him, if we keep his commandments.
- [1Jn 2:4](#) He that saith, I **know** him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.
- [1Jn 2:5](#) But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby **know** we that we are in him.
- [1Jn 2:18](#) Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we **know** that it is the last time.
- [1Jn 2:20](#) But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye **know** all things.
- [1Jn 2:21](#) I have not written unto you because ye **know** not the truth, but because ye **know** it, and that no lie is of the truth.
- [1Jn 2:29](#) If ye **know** that he is righteous, ye **know** that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him.
- [1Jn 3:2](#) Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we **know** that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.
- [1Jn 3:5](#) And ye **know** that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.
- [1Jn 3:14](#) We **know** that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not *his* brother abideth in death.
- [1Jn 3:15](#) Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye **know** that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.
- [1Jn 3:19](#) And hereby we **know** that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him.
- [1Jn 3:24](#) And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we **know** that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.
- [1Jn 4:2](#) Hereby **know** ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:
- [1Jn 4:6](#) We are of God: he that **knoweth** God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby **know** we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.
- [1Jn 4:13](#) Hereby **know** we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.
- [1Jn 5:2](#) By this we **know** that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.
- [1Jn 5:13](#) These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may **know** that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.
- [1Jn 5:15](#) And if we **know** that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we **know** that we have the petitions that we desired of him.
- [1Jn 5:18](#) We **know** that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.
- [1Jn 5:19](#) *And* we **know** that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.
- [1Jn 5:20](#) And we **know** that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may **know** him that is true, and we are in him that is true, *even* in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

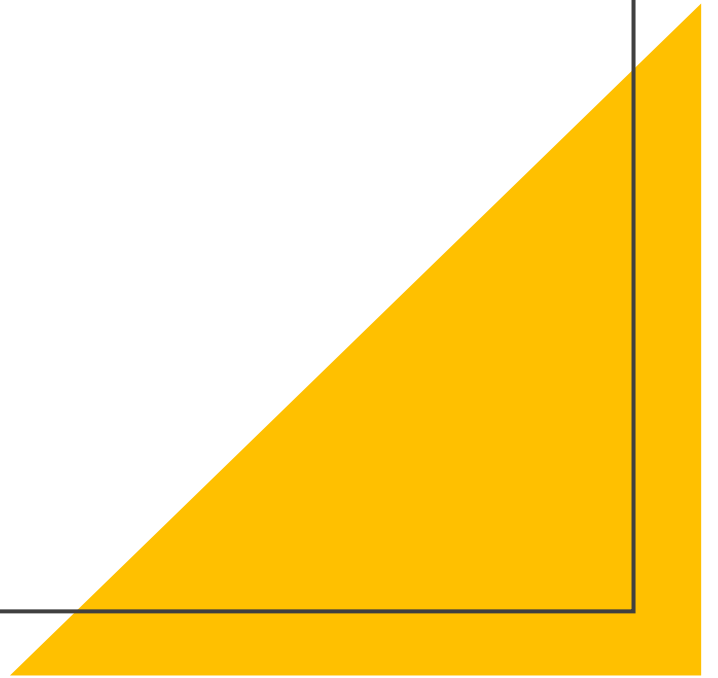
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What is Fellowship?



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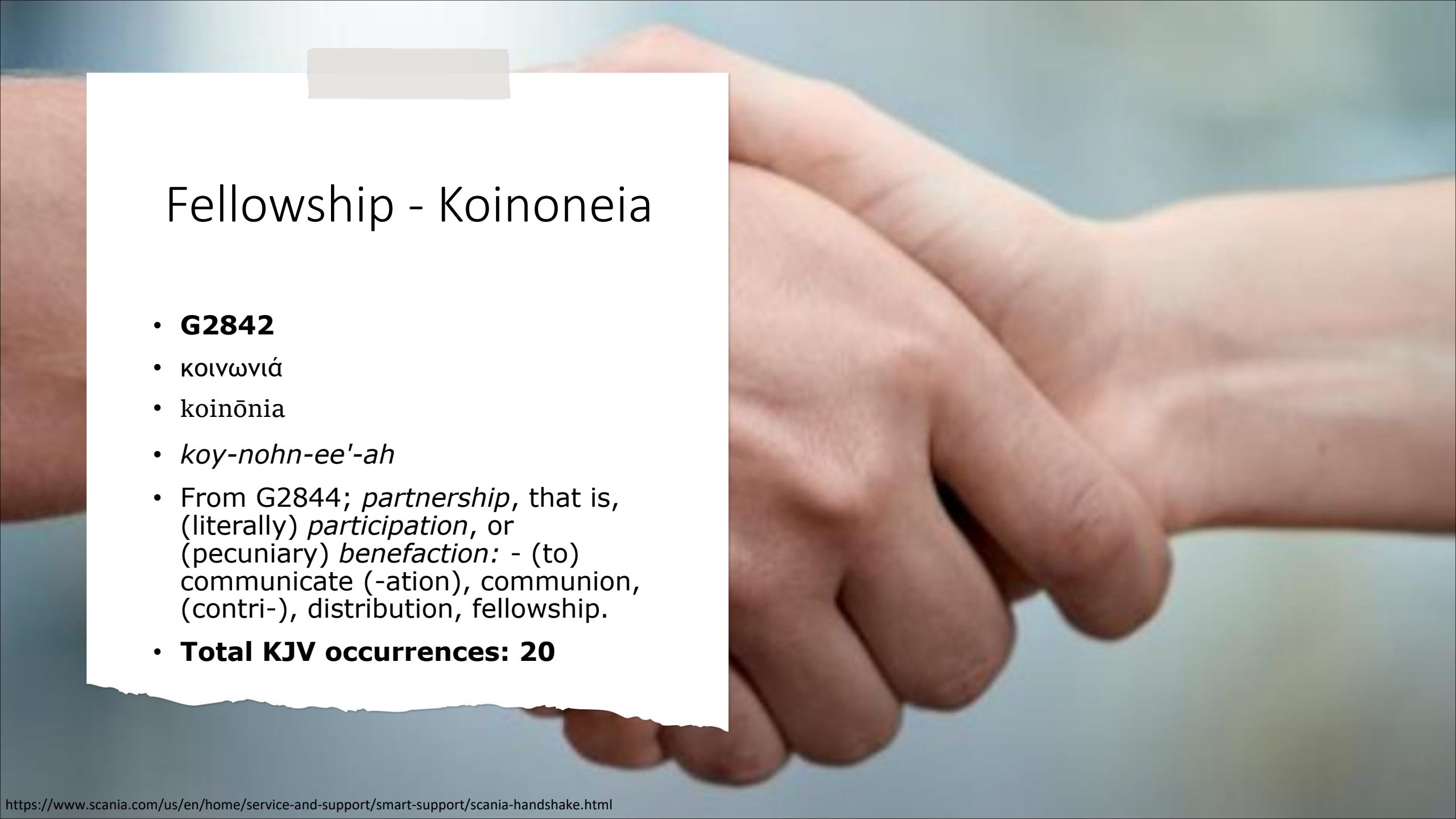


Participants of Fellowship (v. 3)

Purpose of Fellowship (v. 4)



Participants of Fellowship



Fellowship - Koinoneia

- **G2842**
- κοινωνιά
- koinōnia
- *koy-nohn-ee'-ah*
- From G2844; *partnership*, that is, (literally) *participation*, or (pecuniary) *benefaction*: - (to) communicate (-ation), communion, (contri-), distribution, fellowship.
- **Total KJV occurrences: 20**

Koinoneia - In common

- What is it?
- Why so important?





PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED
Some Material May Be Inappropriate for Children Under 13



Adam and Eve – perfect fellowship with God

- Genesis 3:8 - "And they heard the voice of **the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day**: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden."

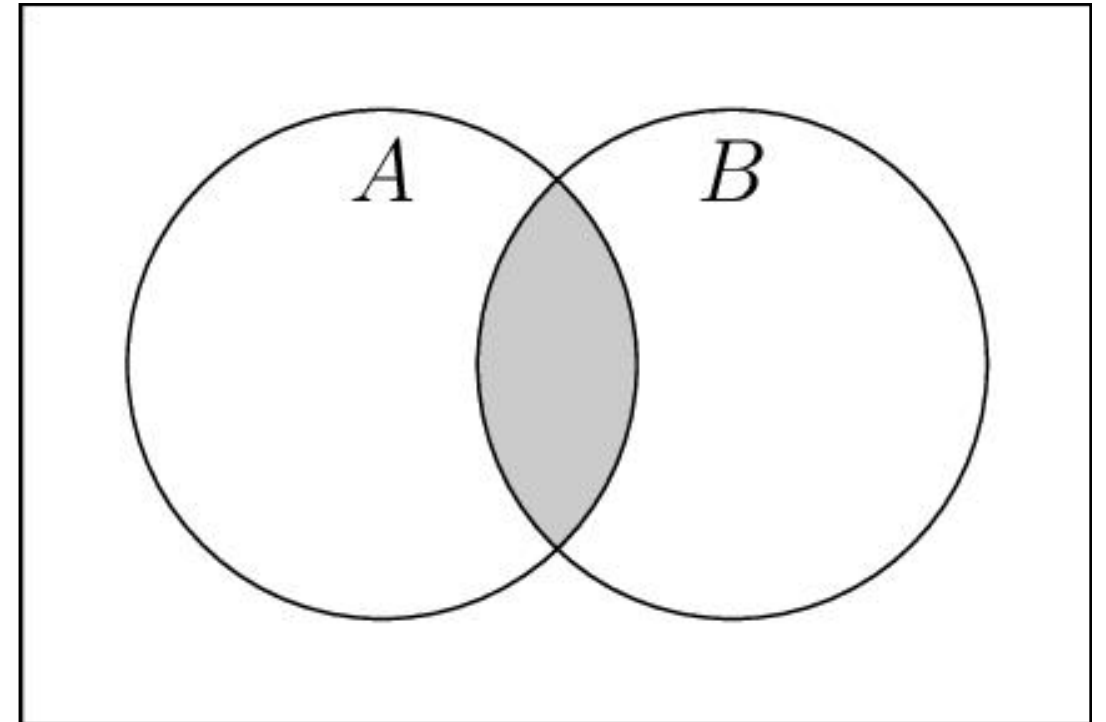


Adam and Eve

- Fellowship broken due to sin

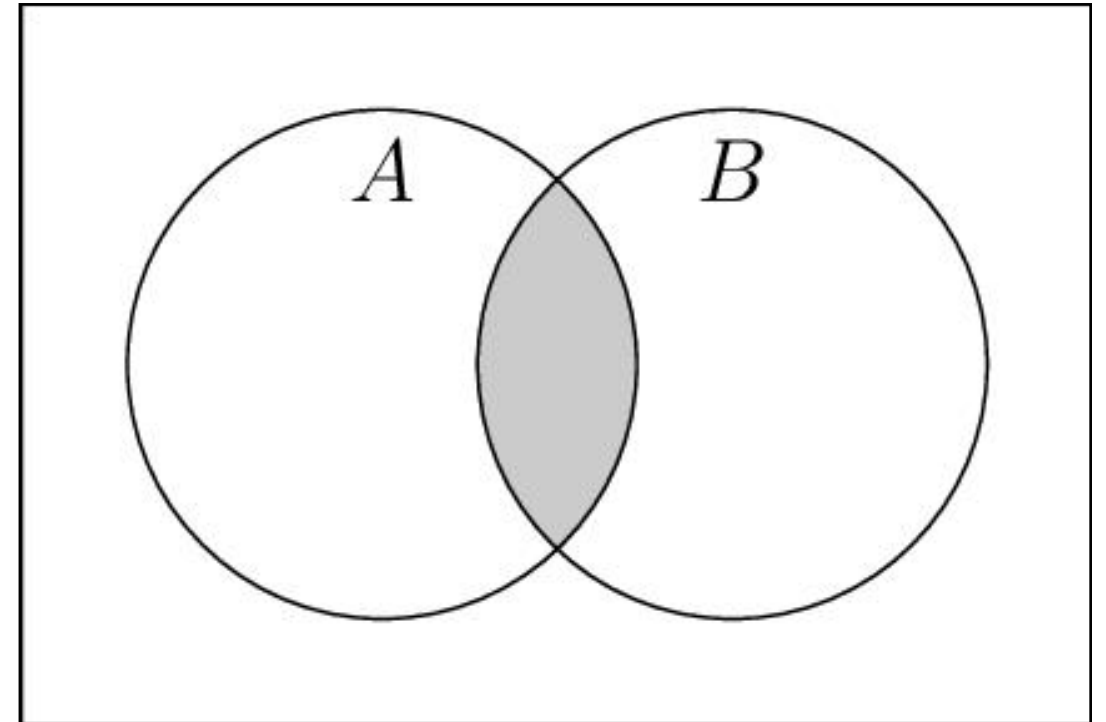


To share – hold
things in common



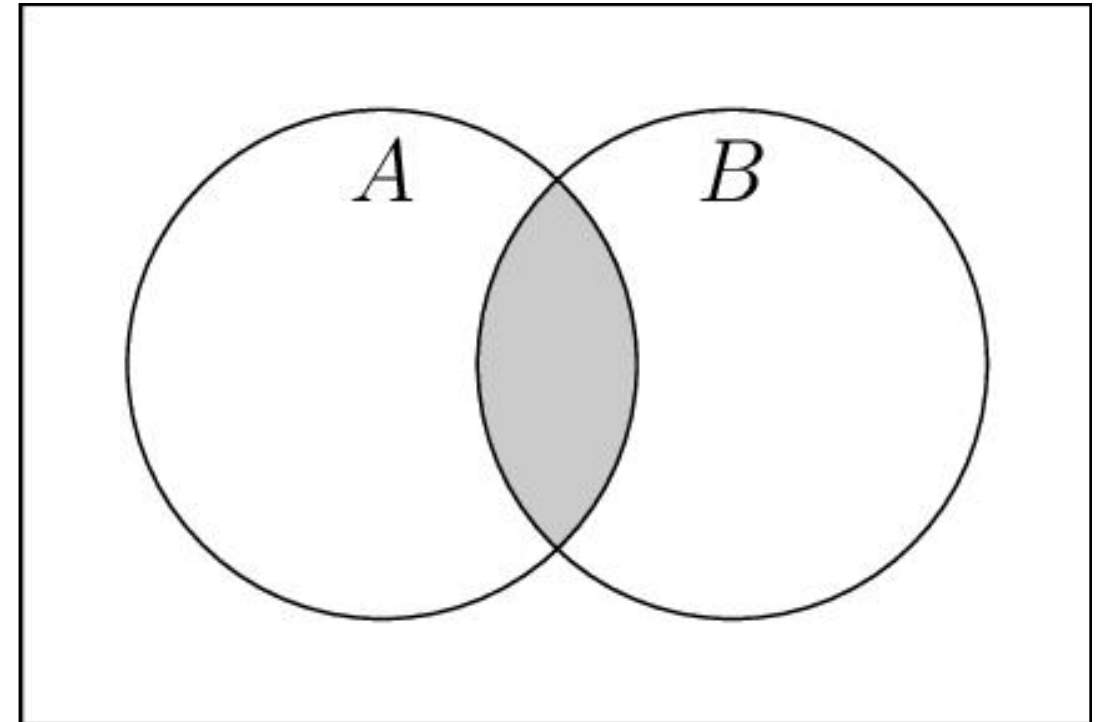
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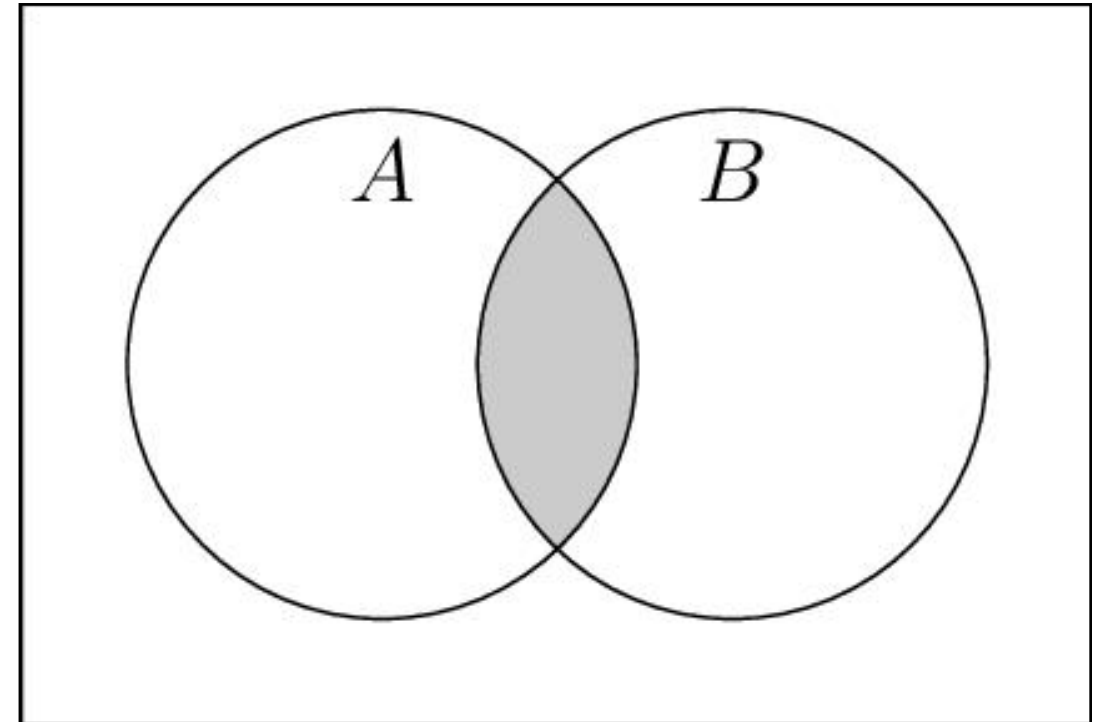
To share – hold things in common

- What is this fellowship?
 - To share – to hold things in common
- What do we hold in common? What do we share with God?



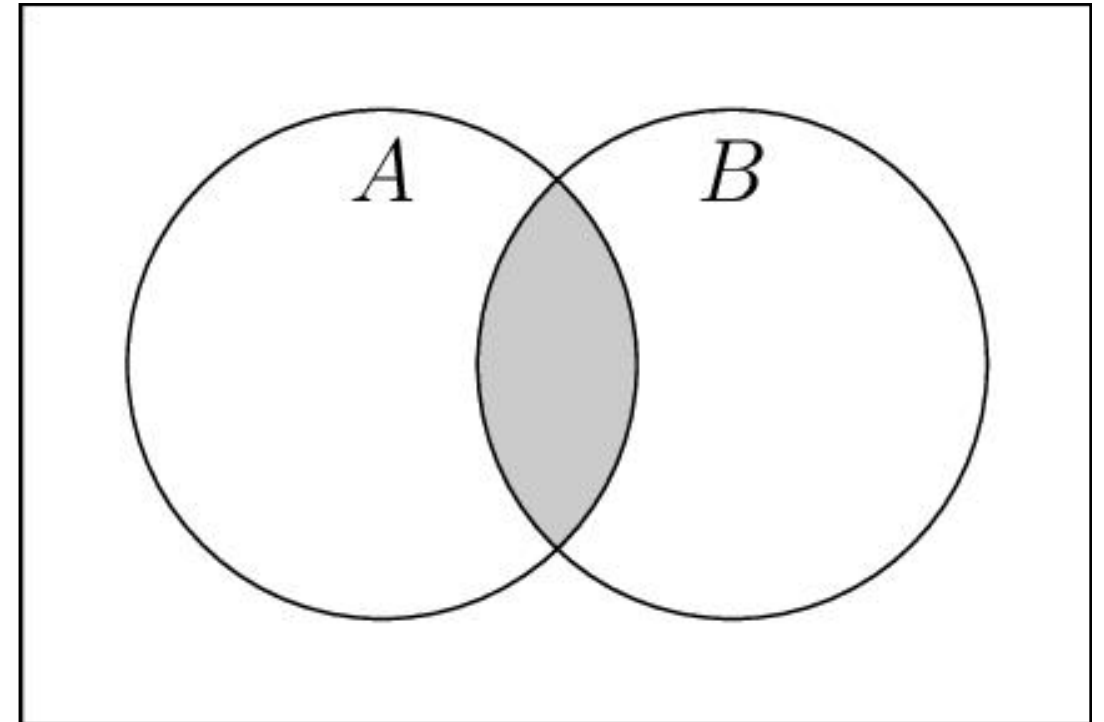
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 - We share in His life (2 Peter 1:4)



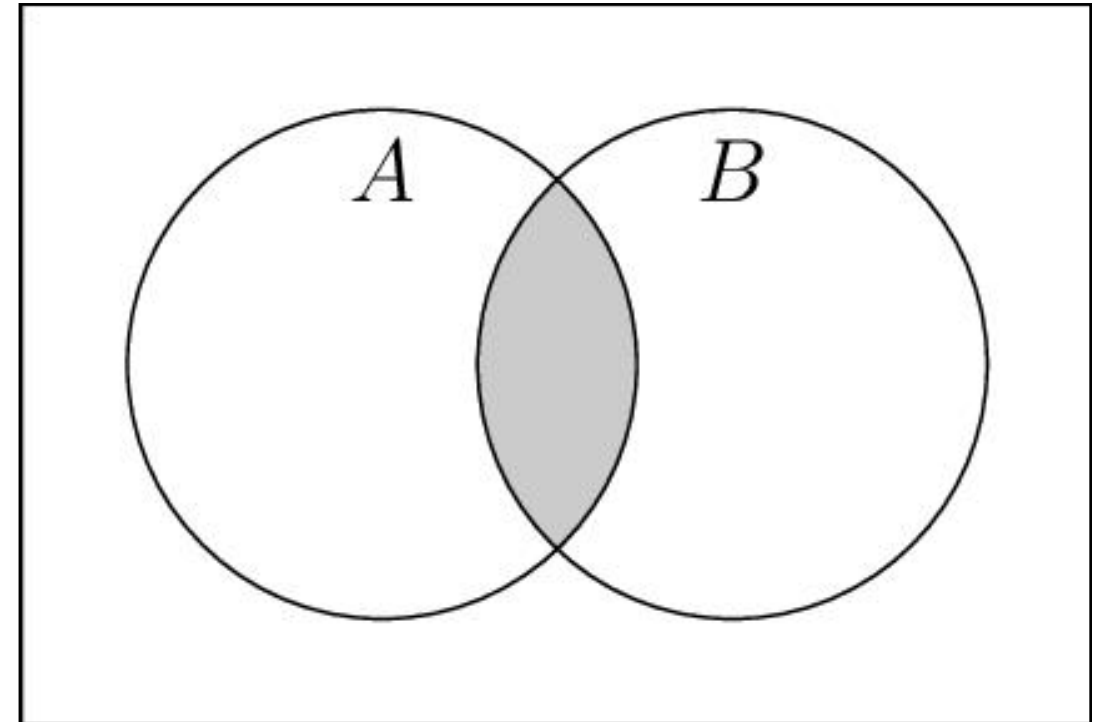
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 - We share in His interests (1 Cor. 2:16)



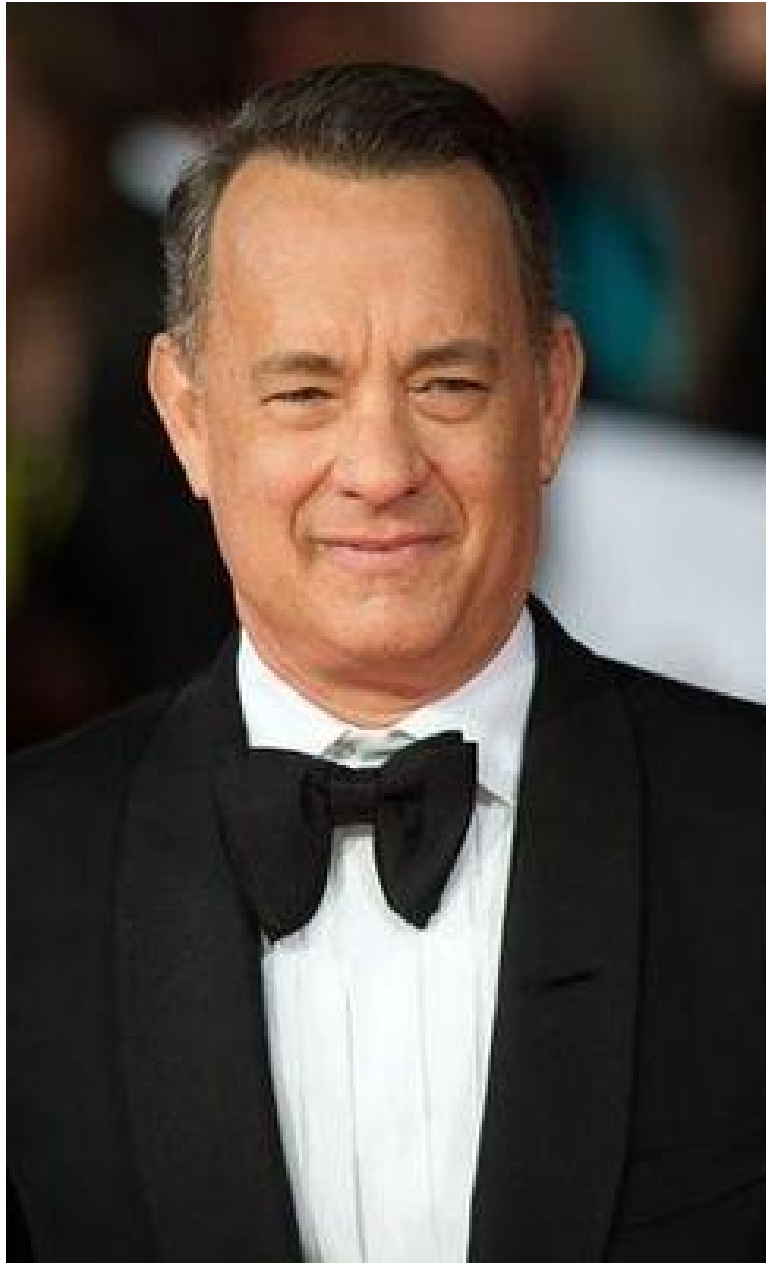
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 - We share in His communication (John 20:17)





Life





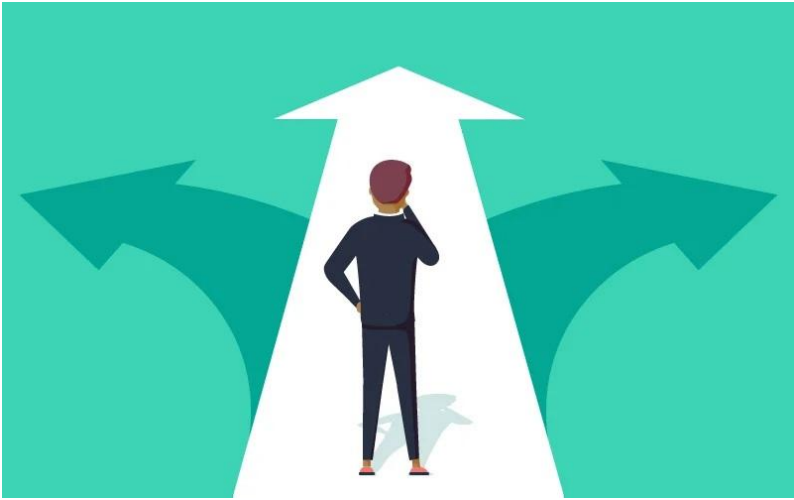
Life

- Goes beyond believing and applying
- We inherit His characteristics
 - Share in the divine nature
 - "A bright stainless mirror" – C. S. Lewis



Life

- Goes beyond believing and applying
- We inherit His characteristics
 - Share in the divine nature
 - "A bright stainless mirror" – C. S. Lewis
- His nature – 2 Peter 1:4
 - "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be **partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."
- His life – Gal. 2:20
 - "Christ **liveth** in me"



Interests

Interests

- We get:
 - His mind
 - His heart
 - His priorities become our priorities



Interests

- We get:
 - His mind
 - His heart
 - His priorities become our priorities
- 1Cor. 2:16 - "For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have **the mind of Christ.**"





Interests

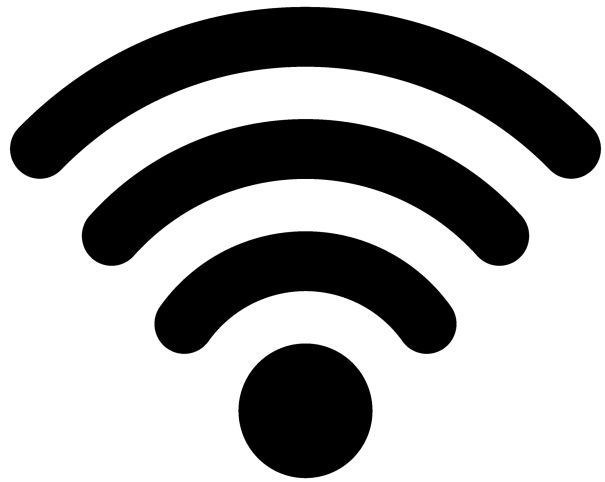
- We get:
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 - His priorities become our priorities
- 1Cor. 2:16 - "For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have **the mind of Christ.**"
- **Religion** – we bring God in at critical times
vs
- **Fellowship** – you put God on and He becomes a spectacle through which you see everything

Interests (cont.)

- Example: Family member

Interests (cont.)

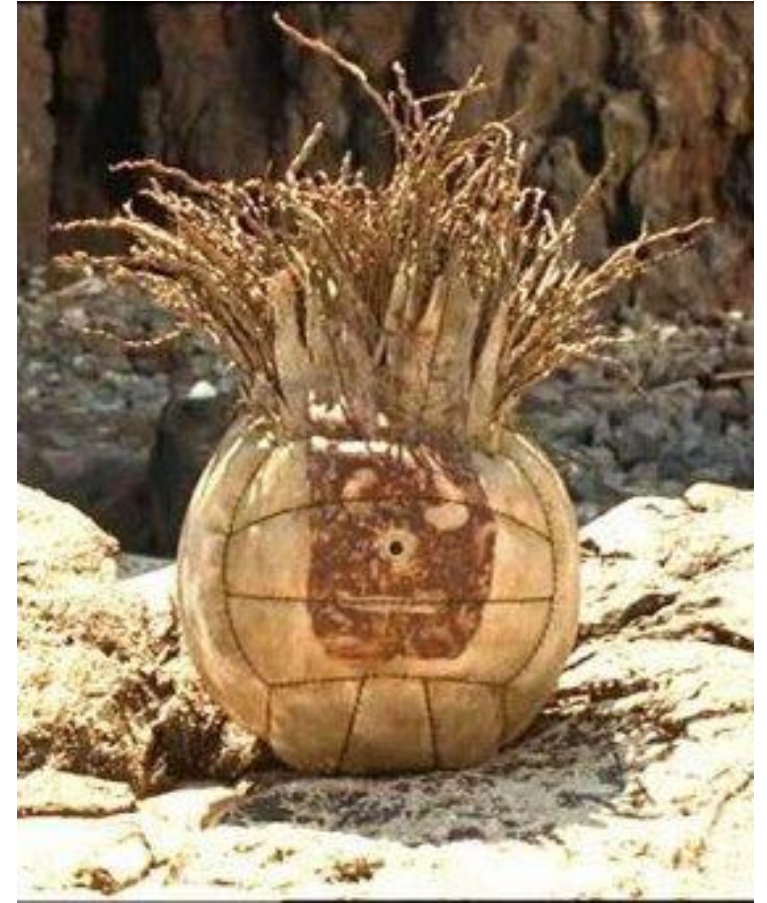
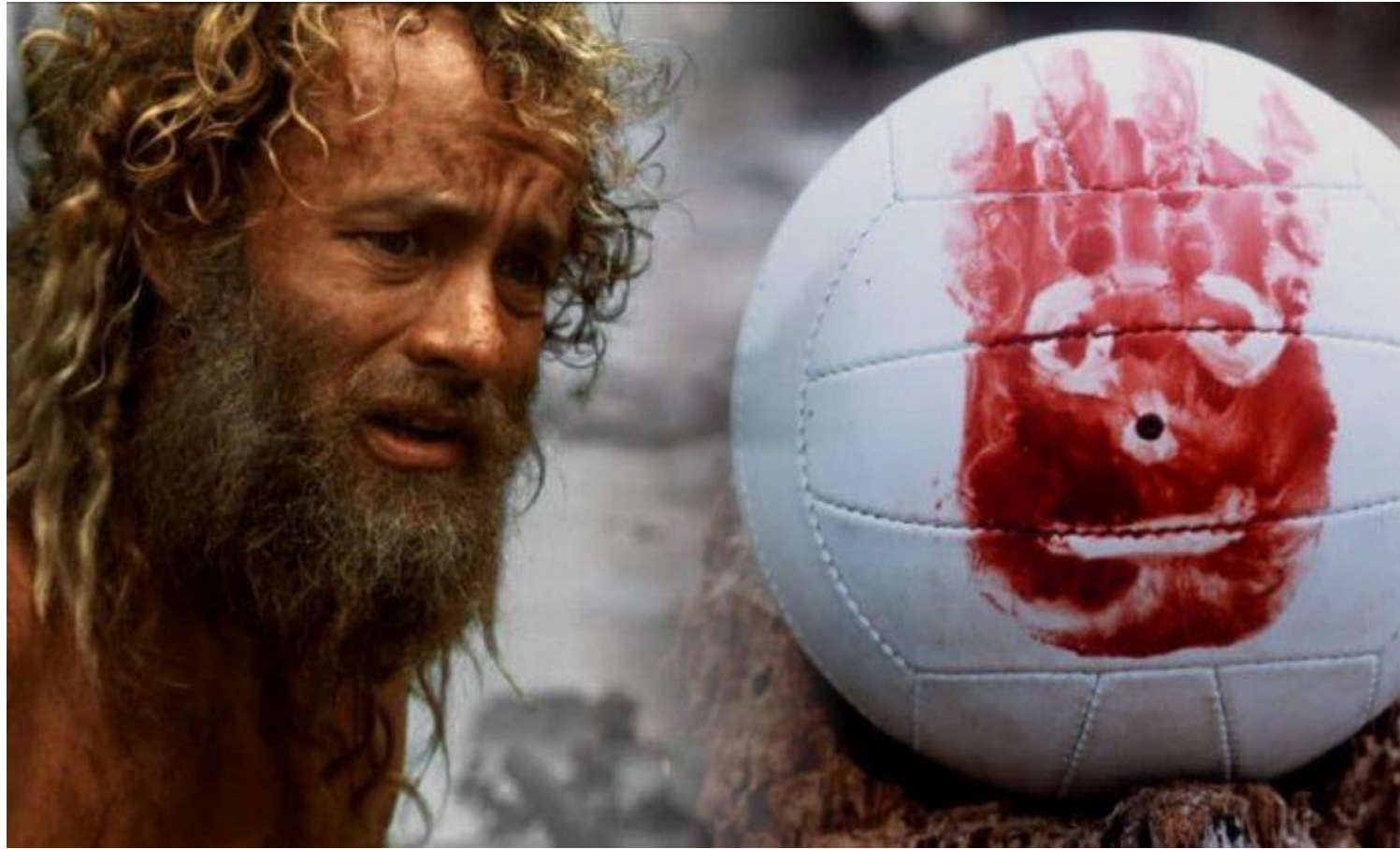
- Example: Family member
- Dynamic is far more profound with God
 - Things we know are wrong now turn our stomachs
 - Things that make Him sad grieves us
 - Light and darkness, sin and grace and redemption, and eternity



Communication











God's Reception

- **Isaiah 59:1**
 - "Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:"



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- **Jeremiah 29:13-14**
 - "And ye shall **seek me, and find me** when ye shall search for me with all your heart.
 - And I will be found of you, saith the LORD: and I will turn away your captivity, and I will gather you from all the nations, and from all the places whither I have driven you, saith the LORD; and I will bring you again into the place whence I caused you to be carried away captive."



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Communication

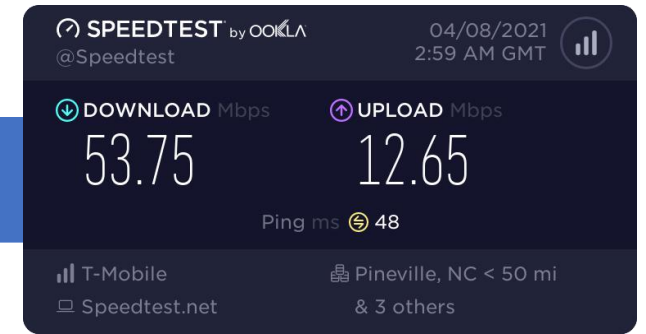
- **Interchange of ideas and feelings**
- **The way we know we have fellowship**
 - **2 way exchange**
- **Subject to degrees – sometimes there is hostility
intimacy / enjoyment**
- **We pour out to Him and He pours out to us**



Communication

Us to Him

- If we have received Him and the mind of Christ growing in us
- We automatically find that we want to pray
- Fellowship – pray just to spend time



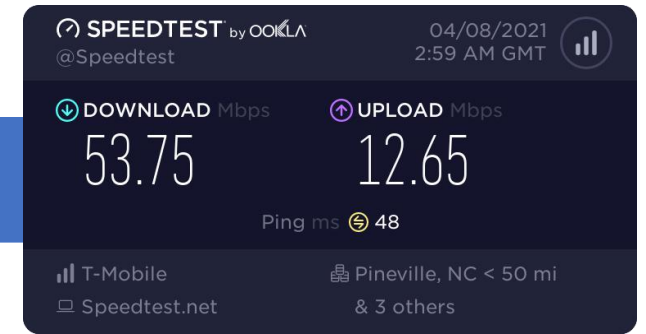
Communication

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Him to us

- You sense His presence – He lets you know that He's there
- Every Christian – there has been a time He has shown Himself to me
- When we are having fellowship with God
 - When we meditate on His Word
 - His truths get big / get huge
 - Truth began to shine – that's how God makes His presence known



Manifestations of His reality

- Know, not just know about
- Fellowship, not just belief

Manifestations of His reality

- Know, not just know about
- Fellowship, not just belief
- Truth begins to shine
 - John 16 – the Spirit of holiness – take of mine and glorify Me
 - He will make My words vivid
 - Take the Lord Jesus' words and make them new
 - Every part of the Bible is about the Lord Jesus
 - He doesn't give you new words, He makes it new

Practically... What does it mean?

1 Thess. 5:17

- "Pray without ceasing"
- Nehemiah 2

2 Tim. 2:15

- "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

2 Tim. 3:16

- "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:"

John 20:17

- "Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God."



He was forsaken so that we can be heard

- Mat 27:46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

MY GOD, MY GOD,
WHY HAVE YOU
FORSAKEN

ME.

M A R K 1 5 : 3 4

ace.nd.edu

Two Way Communication



Not just possible to say prayers now

- Hebrews 10 - boldly approach
- But interactive communion with God
- An exchange

Is He listening / counselling / showing Me things?

Is there an exchange going on?

Is there a personal interactivity in our prayer life?

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Passive or Interactive?

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Passive or Interactive?

- Is our religion
 - Flat?
 - One dimensional?
 - Subscription based?

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Passive or Interactive?

- Is our religion
 - Flat?
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 - Or do we KNOW Him?
- Personal interactivity



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Overview (1 John 1:1-4)



Participants of Fellowship (v. 3)

Purpose of Fellowship (v. 4)

Overview (1 John 1:1-4)

Prerequisite of Fellowship (v. 1-2)



Participants of Fellowship (v. 3)



Purpose of Fellowship (v. 4)



Prerequisite of Fellowship





Prerequisite

- I want you to see what we saw
- I want you to hear what we heard
- 2 Peter 1:16
 - "For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty."
- That which we have heard, seen, looked upon, hands have handled
- An objective reality with an personal experience

Intellectual + Experiential

- Christianity
 - Not a left-brained
 - Not a right-brained
- Intellectual
- Experiential



God can be known experientially

- Moses – I want to see your glory
- That is, I want to know you, intimately



Exodus 33:18 - "And he said, I beseech thee, shew me thy glory."

God can be known experientially

- Moses – I want to see your glory
- That is, I want to know you, intimately
- But that would kill Moses – no man can see God and live
- Just the back parts



Exodus 33:18 - "And he said, I beseech thee, shew me thy glory."

The Lord Jesus makes it possible

- The Lord Jesus – 2 Cor. 4:6
 - God shined into our hearts – knowledge of the glory shone into our hearts
 - "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."



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- Can have intimate fellowship
 - Personal connection
 - What Moses wanted
 - What God wants as well
 - John 4:23b – "... for the Father seeketh such to worship him."





Prerequisite

Why is it necessary for v. 1-2 to reach v. 3?

- It is necessary for the mind to be filled with truth and for it to descend into the heart - that is fellowship with God



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Luke 24 – 2 on road to Emmaus

- It becomes real
- Did not our hearts burn within us?



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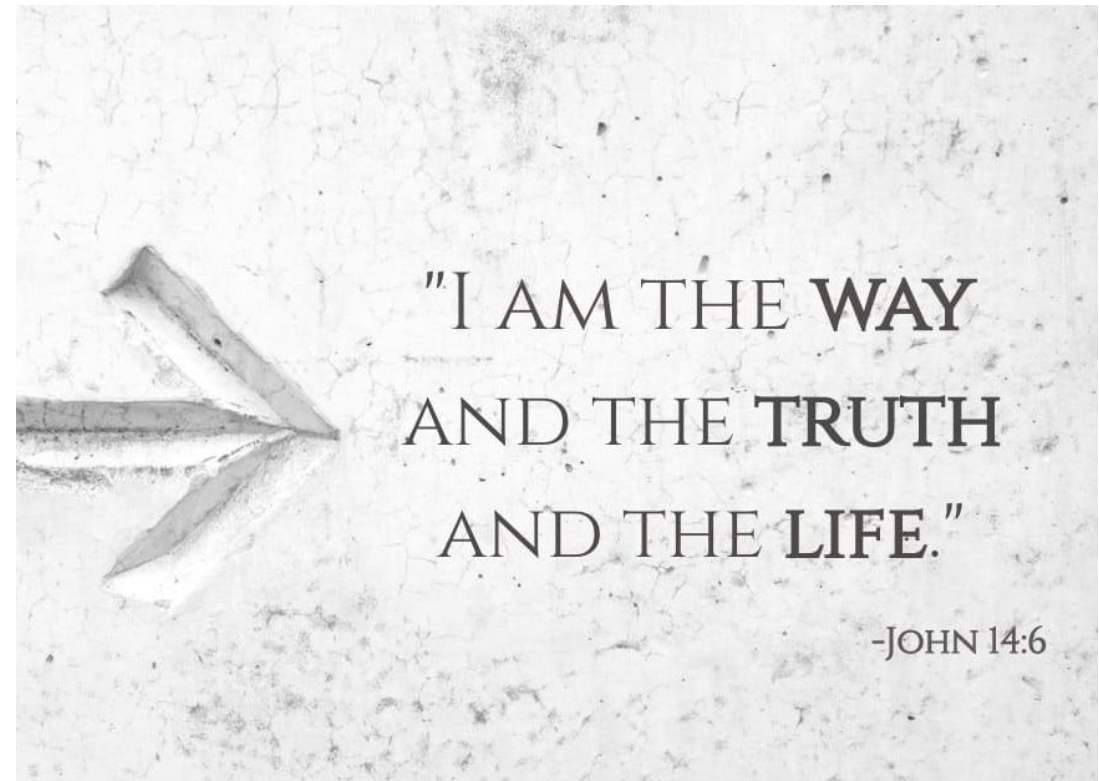
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Go to the truth

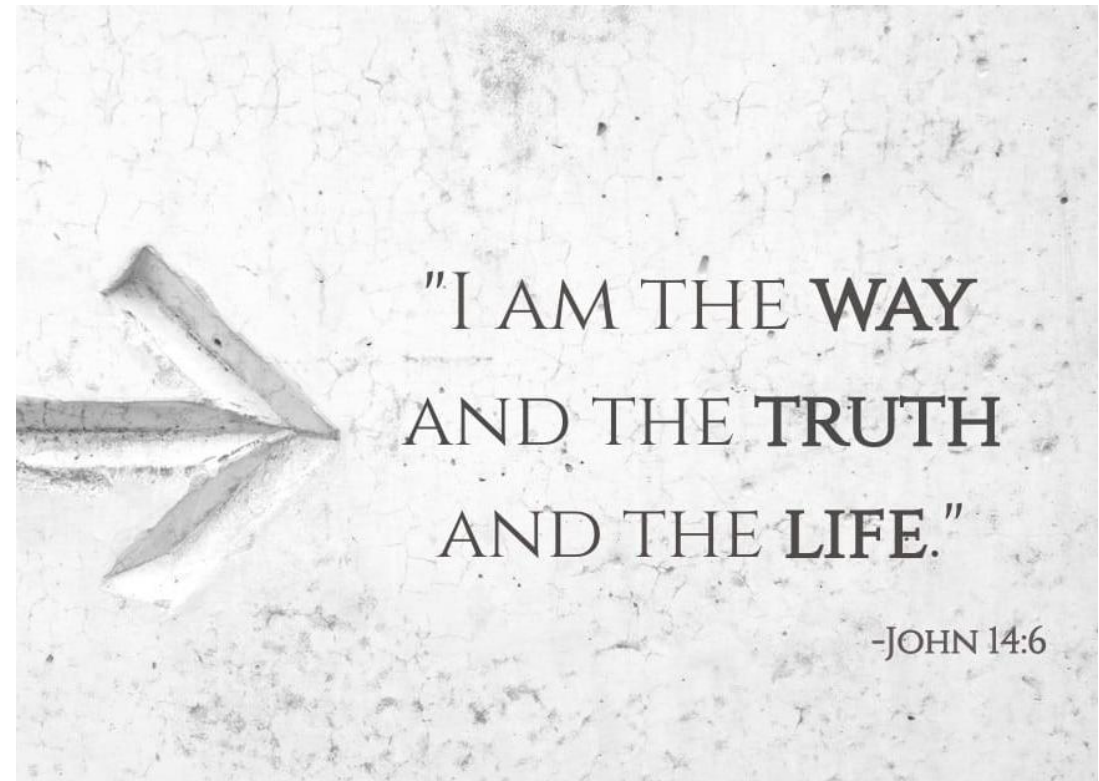
- Contemplate on it, meditate on it, reflect on it, submit to it
- Until it starts to catch fire, and it will, if we have accepted Him as Saviour
- It can happen even now, are we ready for it?
- 1 Peter 1:8 - "Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:"

Because this fellowship is based on Truth



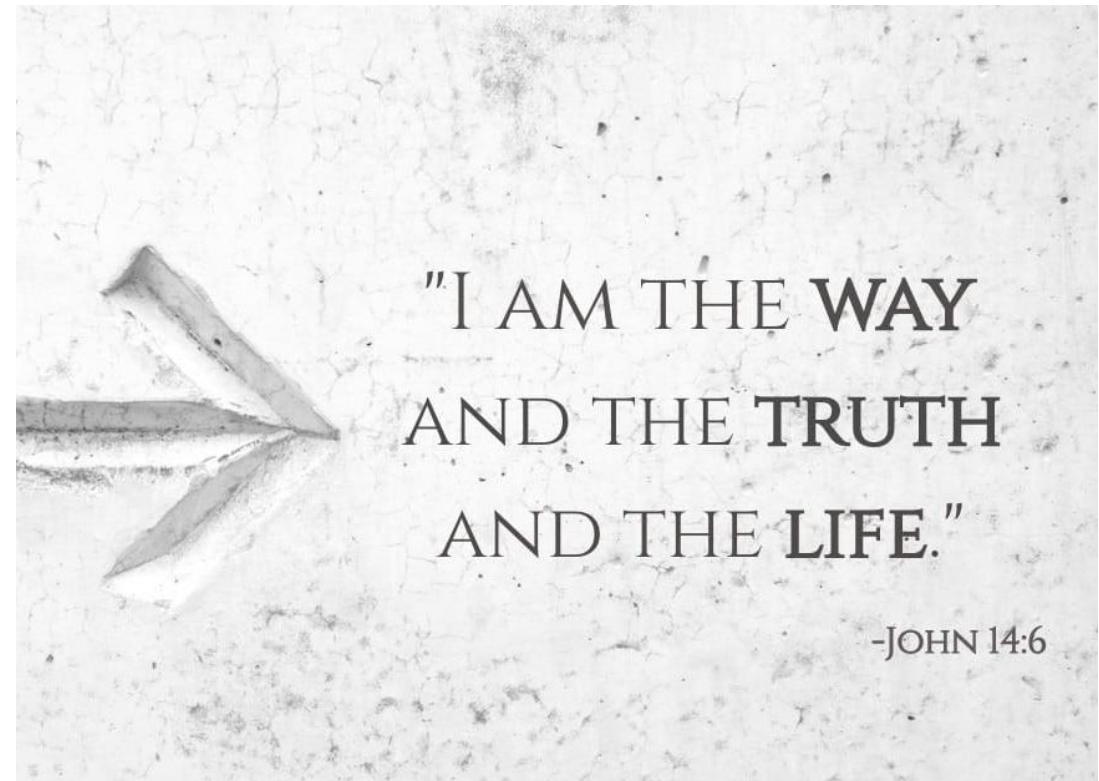
Because this fellowship is based on Truth

- The Son of God really did come
 - He really lived, heard, seen, touched (Humanity/Deity)
 - John declares / proclaims



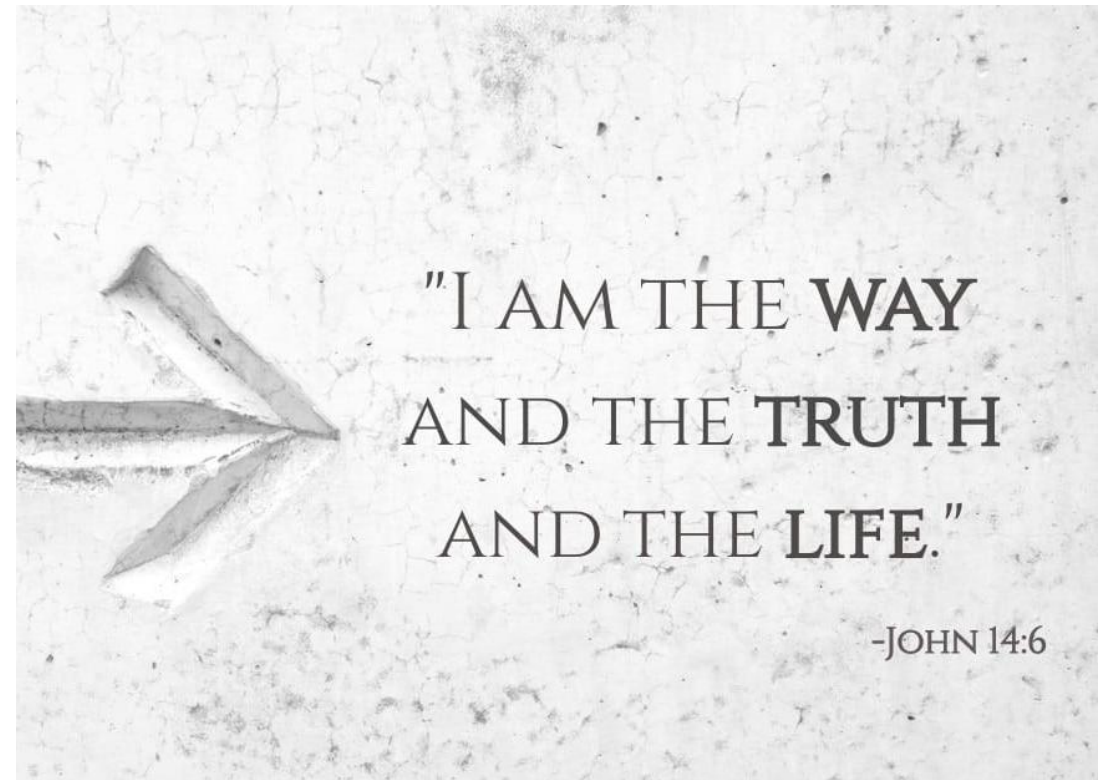
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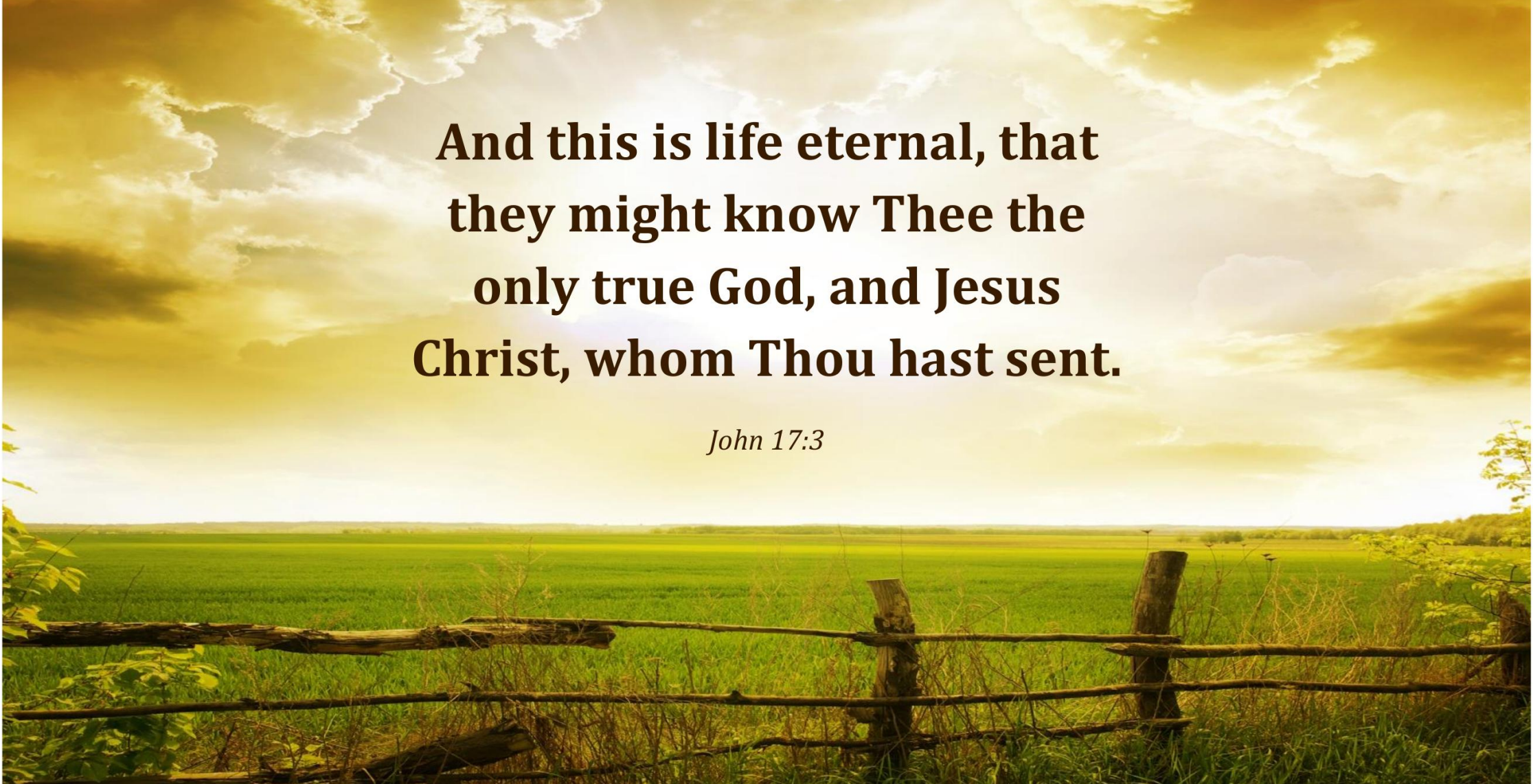
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- Purpose of the Gospel (everything He said and did)
 - Fellowship with God
 - Very purpose of the declaration of the Gospel
 - Not just belief in God but also sharing in God



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- Purpose of the Gospel (everything He said and did)
 - Fellowship with God
 - Very purpose of the declaration of the Gospel
 - Not just belief in God but also sharing in God
- Aim of the Gospel – the Goal of everything the Lord Jesus
 - Eternal life not just results in fellowship with God
 - Eternal life IS – definition – what it consists of
 - If we haven't experienced it, we haven't even begun to live





**And this is life eternal, that
they might know Thee the
only true God, and Jesus
Christ, whom Thou hast sent.**

John 17:3

Eternal Life

Joy infallible – How?


- Know Him and His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ
- Know that you know Him

How do we know Him?

- Not just objective belief (John 14:6)
- But subjective experience of fellowship with the Father and the Son


Results in joy

- Essence of eternal life (John 17:3)
- Essence of being a Christian




Implication #1 (that eternal life is fellowship with God)

- Test
 - Test yourselves – this is what a Christian is
 - Ultimately a Christian needs to believe that Jesus died for them
 - We need to approach this truth with fear and trembling
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 - Truth MUST penetrate the heart – to be born again
 - Seed penetrate ground for life to be released
 - Truth must change / transform / alter us – spiritually / thoroughly
 - We have the truth but no inner life? - Just religion if no thorough inner transformation
-



Implication #2 (that eternal life is fellowship with God)


- Encouragement
 - God is not trying to play hide and seek





Implication #2 (that eternal life is fellowship with God)

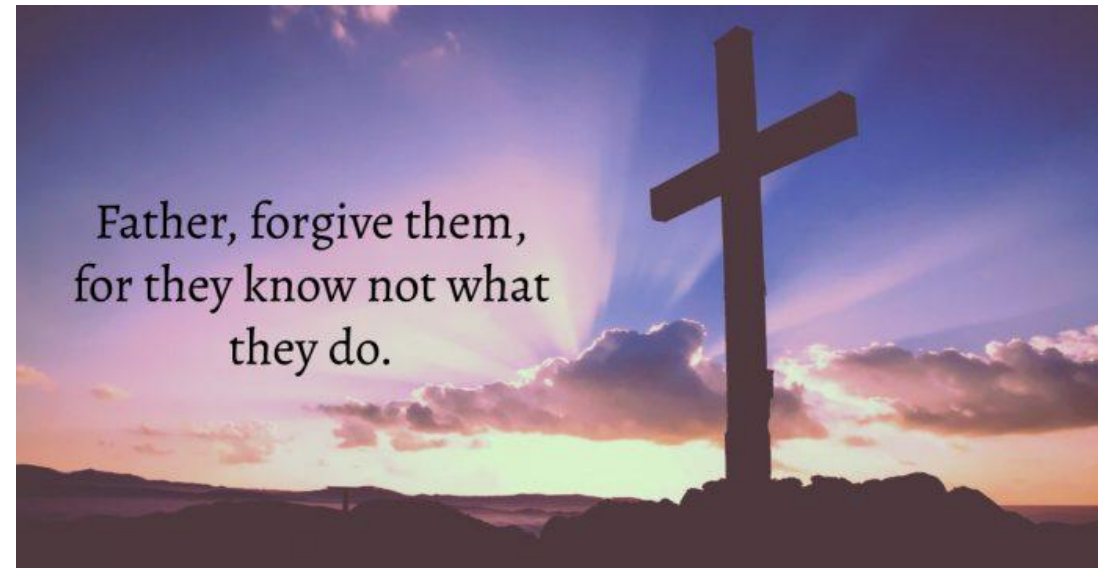
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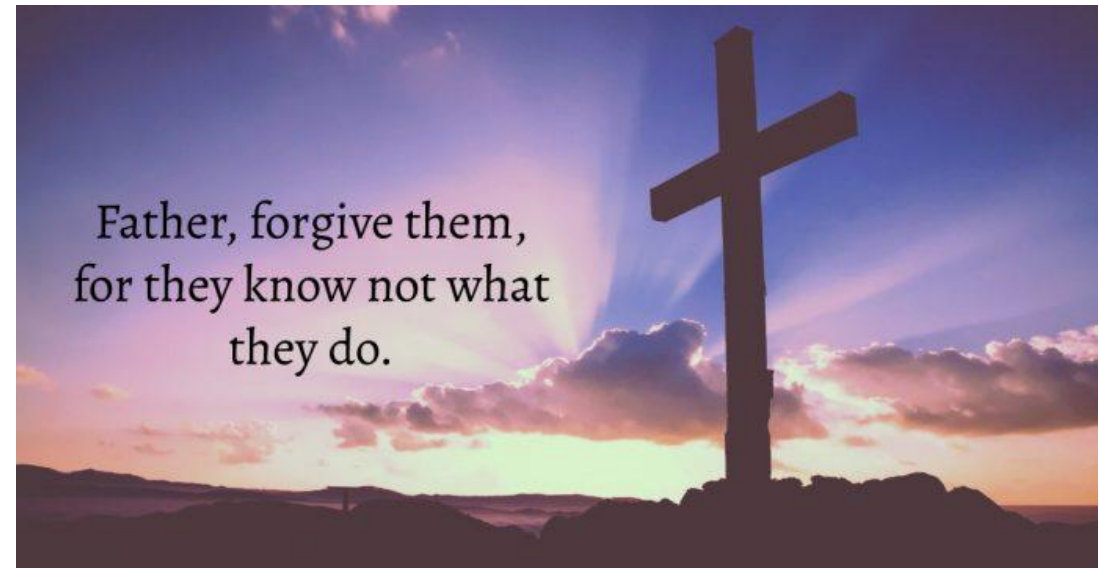
- Encouragement
 - God is not trying to play hide and seek
 - Dry – lack of spiritual discipline
 - Lack of concentration / lack of purity
 - God is not trying to stay away from you
 - God has done everything to make sure you can reach Him
 - Go pray – John 4 – the Lord seeketh those to worship Him
 - He wants it – with us
-

Example: Forgiveness & Resentment



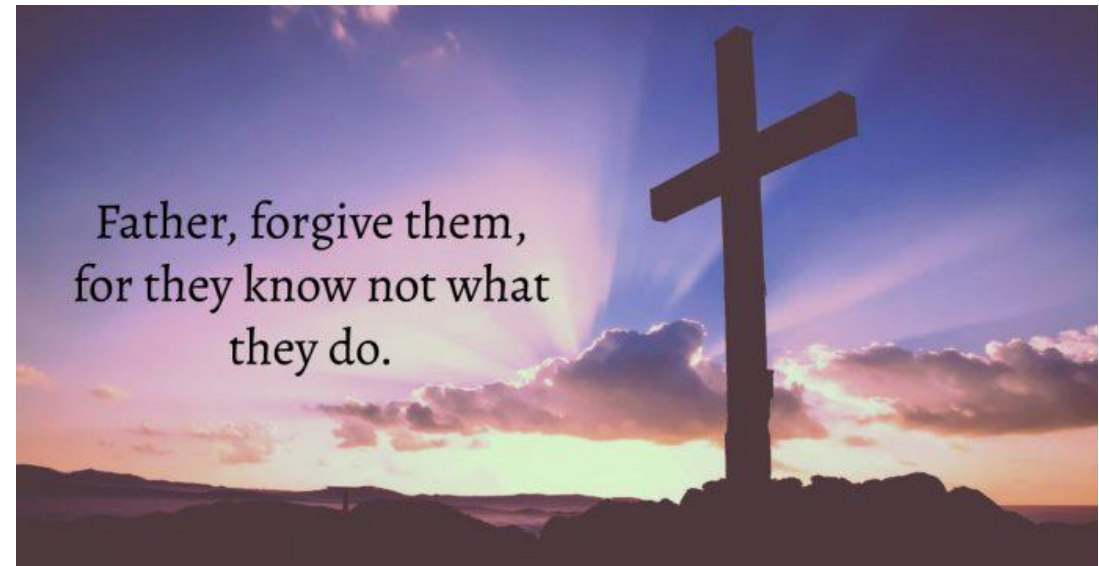
Example: Forgiveness & Resentment

- Pray
- Does His truth shine?
- He has forgiven me



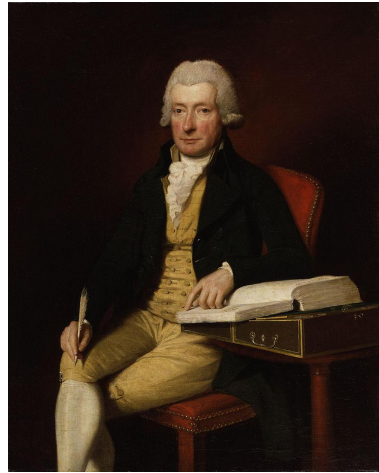
Example: Forgiveness & Resentment

- Pray
- Does His truth shine?
- He has forgiven me
- Spirit of God comes and glorifies the Lord Jesus in our eyes
 - If we look at our wounds, not His – we cannot learn to forgive
 - Need the truth of God's Word to become big



William Cowper

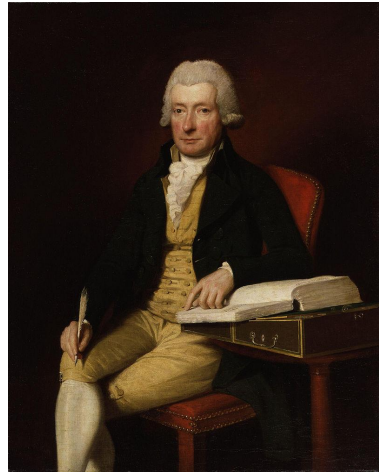
- Sometimes a light surprises
The Christian while he sings;
It is the Lord who rises
With healing in His wings;
When comforts are declining,
He grants the soul again
A season of clear shining,
To cheer it after rain.
- In holy contemplation
We sweetly then pursue
The theme of God's salvation,
And find it ever new;
Set free from present sorrow,
We cheerfully can say—
E'en let the unknown morrow
Bring with it what it may.



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Meditation?



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- **How can we know God?**
 - Experience of God's direct presence

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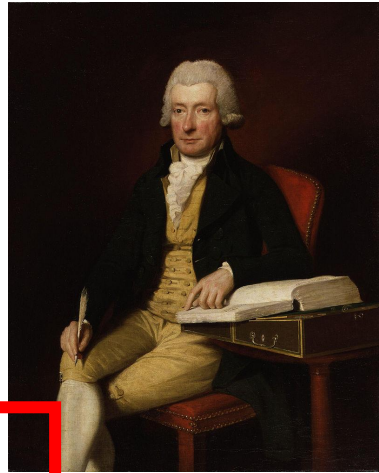


- **How can we know God?**
 - Experience of God's direct presence
- **How do we seek it?**
 - In holy contemplation
- **Meditation on His Word**
 - First the actual study and interpretation of God's Word
 - Something between Bible study and prayer
 - Take the Word of God and pray it in – making the connection

William Cowper

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Questions for Meditation?



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1. How can I **praise** Him on the basis of this text?
2. How can I confess my **sins** on the basis of this text?
3. If this is true, what wrong **behaviour**, harmful **emotion**, false **attitudes** result in me when I forget this?
4. What should I be **aspiring** to?
5. Why are You telling me this **today**?

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 5. Why are You telling me this **today**?
- Find the connections – taking the truths and taking it down into the heart
 - Sometimes – a light surprises us

Martin Luther's Meditation

- Known to take a passage
- Meditate on every word



Martin Luther's Meditation

- Known to take a passage
- Meditate on every word
- Example – The Lord's Prayer
 - Until the Holy Spirit began to speak to Him
 - He wanted it



I like to have fellowship but don't know how

HOW?



I like to have fellowship but don't know how

- Going to Him and saying I thirst
- Going to Him and saying I'm not having fellowship with You

HOW?



I like to have fellowship but don't know how

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1. Study
2. Contemplate
3. Enjoy

HOW?





Be like Blind Bartimaeus



Be like Blind Bartimaeus

- Sat down where the **Lord Jesus** was **passing by**



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- "**Lord, have mercy on me**" - Mark 10:46



Be like Blind Bartimaeus

- Sat down where the **Lord Jesus** was **passing by**
- "**Lord, have mercy on me**" - Mark 10:46
- **Seek** Him and **Know** Him

Overview (1 John 1:1-4)

Prerequisite of Fellowship (v. 1-2)



Participants of Fellowship (v. 3)



Purpose of Fellowship (v. 4)





Joy and the Knowledge of God

1 John 1:1-4