

FELLOWSHIP IV

“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another -- and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” (Hebrews 10:25)

The Word of God teaches us to continue to meet one another not as a habit in doing it but for a good reason. God wants us to meet and to continue to do that for noble purpose as we can see the Day is approaching. What is meant with the word, ***the Day approaching***, is the second coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus came 2000 years ago. He died on the cross for our sins. He was buried but rose from the dead on the third day to give eternal life to those who believe in Him and follow His steps in their lives. After Jesus resurrection He ascend to Heaven and now He is at the right hand of God the Father, and He will come again to take us who belongs to Him, to be with Him forever.

Paul in his letter to the church at Thessalonica he wrote about the second coming of Jesus: ***“Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.” (1 Thessalonians 4:13-17)*** Therefore when we come together as a church we encourage one another with these promises of God; that Jesus will come to take us with Him to heaven.

Therefore the following are more purposes for our fellowship and why God wants us to come together more frequently:

1- To share experience and testimonies: ***“They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.” (Revelation 12:11)*** A testimony is our experience with God and what the Lord had done for us in our lives. Sharing a testimony it could be a reason to encourage others to pray more and to trust God for a miracle in their lives.

2- To share Joy: ***“Rejoice with those who rejoice.” (Romans 12:15a)*** As we hear testimonies of others and see how God blessed them we have the same Joy that they have. Any one in the family of God who receive a blessing this blessing will be shared with others. Therefore we rejoice with those who rejoice.

3- To mourn with those who mourn: ***“Mourn with those who mourn.” (Romans 12:15b)*** The other purpose for our fellowship is to mourn with those who have troubles and to share with them the burden of the new sad events that had happened in their lives. We need to show empathy to those who have problem and to give to them a hand of help and aid. ***“If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?” (1 John 3:17)***

4- To warn, to encourage and to help: ***“And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone.” (1 Thessalonians 5:14)*** In our fellowship we warn those who are running in a wrong way of life. We rebuke them and we instruct them to correct their path. In our fellowship we encourage those who are timid; those who have fear we encourage them with the Word of God, that the Lord is with them and He had a good plan for them. In our fellowship we help the weak; those who have low faith and they are facing trials in their lives we need to stand beside them and help them to pass their difficult times.

5- To love one another: ***“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” (John 13:34-35)*** God call us to a fellowship of love and to care for one another. We show our love by serving one another in love. ***“Now about brotherly love we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. And in fact, you do love all the brothers. Yet we urge you, brothers, to do so more and more.” (1 Thessalonians 4:9-10)***

6- To learn together: ***“They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” (Acts 2:42)*** We ought to love the fellowship that is around the Word of God. We need to devote ourselves for studying His Word, to pray together and to have fellowship with the Lord through breaking of the bread and sharing the cup in a worthy manner.

7- To build one another: ***“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.” (1 Thessalonians 5:11)*** The aim of our fellowship is to build one another: We come together not to bite, slander, or devour one another but the goal and purpose is to build one another.

My Dear and Beloved: Let us continue and persevere to keep the fellowship between one another and the elements that God had ordained for this fellowship. If we persevere we will receive the blessings of the true fellowship of believers as we agree to pray.

My Prayer: *Father God, I come before you in the name of Jesus who died for my sins on the cross and rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life. Lord guides me with Your Word and help me to be part of the church fellowship and to contribute effectively to it. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*