

**Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church
2080 West Grand Blvd.
Detroit, Michigan 48208
Nathan Johnson, D.D., Senior Pastor**

“True Community - The Biblical Practice of *Koinonia*”¹

Lesson 3: Communion with God

Goal: To learn what true community is and to practice biblical *Koinonia*

Objective: To experience a Communion with God (experiential relationship) in a personal intimate way through His Son Jesus Christ.

Scripture: *One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.* [Psalms 27:4]

Last month, we found that we must be united to Christ by our saving faith before we can have fellowship with Him on a daily basis.² As believers, we are already partakers in the common life of Christ through spiritual fellowship with one another. Our goal is to become a church where true community and biblical *koinōnia* is practiced. *Koinōnia* is the Greek word in Scripture which is commonly translated *fellowship, sharing, partnership, and participation*. As we continue our study of what true community is and the biblical practice of *koinonia*, this month we are addressing the communion aspect with God. We will explore how communion with God leads to greater fellowship with one another.

Many of us know God as our Savior but how many of us know Him in an intimate and personal way? In our quest to know more about God and His Word, we become drawn to others who are “anchored in the Lord” or ‘rooted and grounded’ in His Word. When mature committed believers show evidence of their devoted life to God, others are attracted to them.³ They begin to desire the same intimacy with God. This enables the ‘devoted’ believers to teach others how to fellowship or commune with God. The Psalmist and the prophet Isaiah understood it perfectly.

¹ Bridges, Jerry. True Community - The Biblical Practice of *Koinonia*. Colorado Springs, CO, Nav Press (2012) Print.

² Ibid, 20.

³ Ibid, p. 35

*My soul yearns for you in the night; my spirit within me earnestly seeks you.
For when your judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world learn
righteousness. [ESV | [Is 26:9](#)]*

*.....when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night;
ESV | [Ps 63:6](#)*

As believers begin to model for others a committed life of communion with God and teaching others to do the same, the church begins to grow in its fellowship or communion with one another. Not only that, **they grow together as a church** in their communion with God. Just as David and Isaiah, **we should yearn for more continuous communion with God.** To do this, it should start first thing in the morning. *Our communion should be more than just having a quiet time in the morning; it should be an all-day-affair*".⁴ This early morning time with God lays the foundation for us to tune our hearts to commune with Him for the rest of the day.⁵

*O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: My soul thirsteth for thee,
My flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is; [KJV Ps 63:1]*

At Tabernacle's 93rd Church Anniversary Celebration Banquet, Reverend Dr. Tellis J. Chapman stressed the importance of spending quality time with God. What this does, he said: "It gives you "a praise" and a practice that is no longer private but public which not only influences your character and others around you but even your enemies. It is impossible to spend quality time with God and remain the same."⁶

As I walk in fellowship with Him,
I am given strength to be like Him.

Living our lives continuously in the presence of God boils down to what is the major thrust of our hearts and minds. In doing "*all-day-communion*" with God, ask ourselves about how we use our discretionary thinking time.⁷ Find moments during the day to meditate upon God's Word and to offer prayers to Him. We cannot grow closer to God and with the Body of Christ or grow spiritually without **a serious emphasis on the study of the word of God.**

⁴ Ibid, p.35

⁵ Ibid, p. 37

⁶ Rev. Dr. Tellis Chap, Galilee Baptis Church, Detroit, MI, November 9, 2013, Guest Speaker @ Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church, Detroit, MI.

⁷ Ibid, 35-36

⁶ Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. [ESV | Col 2:6-7]

Discussion Question #1:

What are some ways that we can develop the practice of depending on God?

Discussion Question #2:

What place does Scripture memorization and meditation play in our communion with God throughout the day?

Points to Ponder:

Does my life reflect all or some aspects of *koinonia* daily?
What does knowing God in a personal way mean to you?

Helpful Scripture Passages:

Psalm 5:3; Psalm 25:5; Psalm 27:8, Philippians 3:10; John 14:23

Closing Prayer:

Father, as we learn about the true meaning of biblical fellowship, we understand that we must have a purposeful daily communion with you. We pray that we will not only spend quiet time in the morning or evening with you but that we will have communion throughout the day with you, oh God. We pray that we will take advantage of the privilege to also share with you Lord. We thank you. We give you glory, honor, and we worship you. Lord we submit ourselves to the guidance of your Holy Spirit.