A Christian
and
Fellowship life

Fredrick G. Omondi

Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are taken from King James Version of the Holy Bible.

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ISBN:978-9914-767-37-7

Design and Layout © Beautex Image Designs

First Published 2018 By:
Inspirational Publications
P.O Box 14500 – 00400 Nairobi
Kenya. East Africa

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INTRODUCTION

In Christianity there are many activities that Christians do take part in and one such activity and which is equally important is in fellowshipping together be it in a church building or in a house or home.

It is therefore my pleasure to bring this important activity to you in this book as the Scripture records.

In this book I have endeavored to bring various aspects touching on Christian fellowships on things as where to fellowship, how often to fellowship, how fellowships need to be conducted, what is expected from each believer in the assembly of the saints and the importance and benefits accruing therein.

I do believe by the foregoing you will come to appreciate and embrace Christian fellowships the more and be nurtured and sharpened in them to the glory of God the Father.

Be encouraged accordingly in Jesus' name through the reading of this book. Amen.

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Chapter One

A glance at Christian Fellowships

The word fellowship in the Christian context comes from the word ‘Koinonia’ and which means close association, close relationship and communion.

In the beginning at creation God did create man in his own image after his likeness and one of the reasons among others was so that God can have fellowship with him. Christians who are in God’s family as his children therefore need to fellowship with God first and with fellow Christians (1 John 1:3, 1 Corinthians 1:9, Philippians 2:1, 1 John 1:7, Hebrews 10:24-25, Acts 2:42-47). That friendly association among Christians is paramount in the Christian walk as it involves people who have the same mind and purpose for the common good.

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over the earth, and

over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

Genesis 1:26-27

God created man in his image, after his likeness with a view to be in a position to fellowship with him daily in life. Now look at the following scriptures on the fellowship of God and man.

And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

And out of the ground made LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became into four heads.

The name of the first is Pi'-son: that is it which compasseth the whole land of Hav'-i-lah, where there is gold;

And the gold of that land is good: there is bdellium and the onyx stone.

And the name of the second river is Gi'-hon: the same is it that compasseth the whole land of E-thi-o'-pi-a.

And the name of the third river is Hid'-de-kel: that is it which goeth toward the east of Assyria. And the forth river is Eu-phra'-tes.

And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the Garden of Eden and dress it and to keep it.

And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it, for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

And the LORD God said, it is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a help meet for him.

And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.

And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found a help meet for him.

And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

Genesis 2:8-25

Now do you know why God said it was not good for man to be alone? It was because he was lonely when God had not visited him and therefore God made for him a help meet for him, that is, a help of his like, a friend to give him comfort as well as fellowship.

NOW the serpent was more subtile than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

And the woman said unto the serpent, we may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

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.

And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, where art thou?

And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.

And he said, who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?

And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.

And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:

And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise his heel.

Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field:

In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living.

Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:

Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the Garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.

So he drove out the man; and placed at the east of the Garden of Eden cher'-u-bim, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

Genesis 3

In the above scripture we see the conversation between God and man when God went to visit man in the Garden of Eden as he used to, to fellowship with him. Satan too also went to fellowship with man but not for his good as God used to do with man; but with an ill motive. It is at that visit by God after Satan had appeared to man that the relationship of God with man was severed and God had to send man out of the garden of Eden and the fellowship was broken as man had become an enemy of God instead of a friend of God then (Romans 5:1-2, 6:11).

The fellowship between God and man was broken as a result of man's fall in the Garden of

Eden and they were separated as man was no longer holy and righteous and God is ever holy and righteous (Isaiah 59:1-2, Romans 3:23, 1 Peter 1:15-16).

AND the LORD appeared unto him in the plains of Mam'-re: and he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day;
And he lift up his eyes and looked, and, lo, three men stood by him: and when he saw them, he ran to meet them from the tent door, and bowed himself toward the ground,
And said, My Lord, if now I have found favor in thy sight, pass not away, I pray thee, from thy servant:
Let a little water, I pray you, be fetched, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree:
And I will fetch a morsel of bread, and comfort ye your hearts; after that ye shall pass on: for therefore are ye come to your servant. And they said, So do, as thou hast said.

And Abraham hastened into the tent unto Sarah, and said,

Make ready quickly three measures of fine meal, knead it, and make cakes upon the hearth.

And Abraham ran unto the herd, and fetched a calf tender and good, and gave it unto a young man; and he hasted to dress it.

And he took butter, and milk, and the calf which he had dressed, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree, and they did eat.

And they said unto him, Where is Sarah thy wife? And he said, Behold, in the tent.

And he said, I will certainly return unto thee according to the time of life; and, lo, Sarah thy wife shall have a son.

And Sarah heard it in the tent door, which was behind him.

Now Abraham and Sarah were old and well stricken in age; and it ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women.

Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, after I am waxed old shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?

And the LORD said unto Abraham, wherefore did Sarah laugh, saying, Shall I of a surety bear a child, which am old?

Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.

Then Sarah denied, saying, I laughed not; for she was afraid.

And he said, nay; but thou didst laugh.

And the men rose up from thence, and looked toward Sodom: and Abraham went with them to bring them on the way.

And the LORD said, shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do;

Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?

For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD to do justice

and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.

And the LORD said, Because the cry of Sodom and Go-mor'-rah is great, and because their sin is very grievous; I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know.

And the men turned their faces from thence, and went toward Sodom: but Abraham stood yet before the LORD.

And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked?

Peradventure there be fifty righteous within the city: wilt thou also destroy and not spare the place for the fifty righteous that are therein?

That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: shall not the judge of all the earth do right?

And the LORD said, If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes.

And Abraham answered and said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the LORD, which am but dust and ashes:

Peradventure there shall lack five of the fifty righteous: wilt thou destroy all the city for lack of five? And he said, If I find there forty and five, I will not destroy it.

And he spake unto him yet again, and said, Peradventure there shall be forty found there. And he said, I will not do it for forty's sake.

And he said unto him, Oh let not the LORD be angry, and I will speak: Peradventure there shall thirty be found there.

And he said, I will not do it, if I find thirty there.

And he said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the LORD: Peradventure there shall be twenty found there. And he said, I will not destroy it fr twenty's sake.

And he said, Oh let not the LORD be angry, and I will speak but this once: Peradventure ten shall be found there. And he said, I will not destroy it for ten's sake.

And the Lord went his way, as soon as he had left communing with Abraham: and Abraham returned unto his place.

Genesis 18

In the above scripture we see God visiting Abraham who was an obedient man unlike Adam and Eve (Genesis 12:1-5) and we see too the long conversation between God and Abraham (some kind of a fellowship).

If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies,

Fulfill ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

Philippians 2:1-2

Christian fellowship is a fellowship of the Spirit and done out of God's love.

Fellowship is dual faceted in that a Christian can fellowship with God in prayer and so on and at the same time can fellowship with another or other Christians and at the same time God being in their midst (Matthew 18:18-20).

Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.

For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

Matthew 18:18-20

Fellowship is a sign of unity of which God approves as he too is a unity (Psalm 133, Genesis 1:26, John 10:30). Let me add here also that in praise and worship it can be equated as

well to fellowshipping with the Lord in the Christian life.

And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them.
But their eyes were holden that they should not know him.
And he said unto them, what manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad?
And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days?
And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people:
And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him.

But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, Today is the third day since these things were done.

Yea, and certain women also of our company made us astonished, which were early at the sepulcher;

And when they found not his body, they came, saying, that they had also seen a vision of angels, which said that he was alive.

And certain of them which were with us went to see the sepulcher, and found it even so as the women had said: but him they saw not.

Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:

Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?

And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further.

But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them.

And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them.

And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight.

And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?

Luke 24:15-32

Those disciples had a wonderful conversation/fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ after he had been resurrected by God from the grave.

God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Corinthians 1:9

Quite an elaborate scripture on our fellowship with the Lord!

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

James 4:7-8

So, by drawing near to God is also a way of fellowship with him.

THAT which was from the beginning, which we 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.

1 John 1:1-3

We are meant to fellowship with our Lord Jesus Christ.

Chapter Two
Places for Fellowships

The places for Christian fellowships are mainly two as follows:

- Church service or fellowship
- Home or house fellowship

In each of these two we are going to look at the scriptures touching on each of them.

Church service or fellowship

BUT a certain man named An-a-ni'-as, with Sapph-i'-ra his wife, sold a possession,
And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet.
But Peter said, An-a-ni'-as why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and keep back part of the price of the land?
While it remained, was it not thine own? And after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? Why hast thou conceived this thing in thine

heart? Thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.

And An-a-ni'-as hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things.

And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out and buried him.

And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in.

And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, yea, for so much.

Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out.

Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, And found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband.

And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things.

And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch.

And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them.

And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.)

Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and coaches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them.

There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one.

Then the high priest rose up, and all they that were with him, (which is the sect of the Sad'-du-cees) and were filled with indignation.

And laid their hands on the apostles, and put them in the common prison.

But the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said,

Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life.

And when they heard that, they entered into the temple early in the morning, and taught. But the high priest came, and they that were with him, and called the council together, and all the senate of the children of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought.

But when the officers came, and found them not in the prison, they returned, and told saying, the prison truly found we shut with all safety, and the keepers standing without before the doors: but when we had opened, we found no man within.

Now when the high priest and the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these things, they doubted of them whereunto this would grow.

Then came one and told them, saying, Behold, the men whom ye put in prison are standing in the temple, and teaching the people.

Acts 5:1-25

Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour.

And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple;

Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms.

And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us.

And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them.

Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.

And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

And he leaping up stood and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking and leaping, and praising God.

And all the people saw him walking and praising God:

And they knew that it was he which sat for alms at the Beautiful gate of the temple: and they were filled with wonder and amazement at that which had happened unto him.

And as the lame man which was healed held Peter and John, all the people ran together unto them in the porch that is called Solomon's, greatly wondering.

Acts 3:1-11

In both these two scriptures we do see Christians in the early church assembling together for fellowship at the temple. Likewise, today we do have church buildings which are the modern/current temples where Christians meet to fellowship together. Church services held on Sundays do serve as some fellowship of sort although you don't expect all the congregants to be born – again Christians and

that is why in some churches after the Sunday church service believers do remain behind and have their own fellowship or sometimes go home say for lunch and come back in the afternoon or evening for a purely Christian gathering / fellowship.

Home or house fellowship

When they therefore were come together, they asked him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?
And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.
But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Sa-mar'-i-a and unto the uttermost part of the earth.
And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a Sabbath day's journey.

And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Al'-phe-us, and Simon Zelo'-tes, and Judas the brother of James.

These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about a hundred and twenty)

Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus.

For he was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry.

Now this man purchased a field with the reward of iniquity; and falling head-long, he burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out.

And it was known unto all the dwellers of Jerusalem; insomuch as that field is called in their proper tongue, A-cel'-da-ma, that is to say, the field of blood.

For it is written in the book of Psalms, let his habitation be desolate, and let no man dwell therein: and his Bishopric let another take.

Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,

Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection.

And they appointed two, Joseph called Bar'-sabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matth-i'-as.

And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, show whether of these two thou hast chosen,

That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.

And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matth-i'-as; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

Acts 1:6-26

And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them.

And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord,

thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is:

Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things?

The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ.

For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together,

For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.

And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,

By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.

And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together;

and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost; and they spake the word of God with boldness.

Acts 4:23-31

NOW about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church.

And he killed James the brother of John with the sword.

And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.)

And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people.

Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.

And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison.

And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands.

And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me.

And he went out, and followed him, and wist not that it was true which was done by the angel; but thought he saw a vision.

When they were past the first and the second ward, they came unto the iron gate that leadeth unto the city; which opened to them of his own accord: and they went out, and passed on through one street; and forthwith the angel departed from him.

And when Peter was come to himself, he said, Now I know of a surety, that the Lord hath sent his angel and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews.

And when he had considered the thing, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying.

Acts 12:1-12

Luke, the beloved physician, and De'-mas greet you.

Salute the brethren which are in La-od-i-ce'-a, and Nym'-phas, and the church which is in his house.

Colossians 4:14-15

From the above scriptures we can see that the early church did have many of their fellowships in residential places, that is, in homes and houses of individual Christians as it is also happing even today in the Church of Christ in our dispensation. The fellowship in churches just compliment the home/house fellowships.

Chapter Three
Order and conduct in fellowships

In this segment I am going to dwell on the order of events and the conduct of believers in a fellowship. In it you are going to see what to expect and what is expected from you.

How is it then, brethren? When ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.

If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret.

But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.

Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge.

If anything be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace.

For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted.

And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.

For God is not the author of confusion, but peace, as in all churches of the saints.

Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law.

And if they will learn anything, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.

What? Came the word of God out from you? Or come it unto you only?

If any man think himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.

But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant.

Wherefore, brethren covet to prophesy and forbid not to speak with tongues.

Let all things be done decently and in order.

1 Corinthians 14:26-40

The key words in a fellowship is decency and order and not confusion. Why is that so? Because God who is the head of the Church is orderly and peaceable.

I EXHORT therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving thanks, be made for all men;

For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior;

Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, Who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity.

I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with braided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;

But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.

Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection.

But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.

For Adam was first formed, then Eve.

And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in transgression.

Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety.

1 Timothy 2

In the above scripture we do see how brothers and sisters in the Lord each need to conduct themselves in an assembly of believers and that as is the set up in a home, so too in an assembly God still expects assigned lines of authority as well to prevail as in the home, that is, as it is in the human family so it is in God's family.

Touching on dressing let it be known that pure relationship between brothers and sisters in the Lord come too from proper (modest) dressing more so of the sisters. If you think I am out of order then go read the Lord's command in the book of Matthew (Matthew 5:27-28).

If there is one place where the enemy has used our sisters in the Lord so much in many churches it is in immodest dressing and unnecessary make ups. No wonder in verse 9 apostle Paul advises soberness in how the sisters need to prepare themselves how to appear before an assembly of believers!

Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the

same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chlo'-e, that there are contentions among you.

Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of A-pol'-los; and I of Ce'-phas; and I of Christ.

Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?

I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Cris'-pus and Gai'-us;

Lest any should say that I had baptized in mine own name.

And I baptized also the house hold of Steph'-a-nas: besides, I know not whether I baptized any other.

For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Now something else that God hates is divisions in the body of Christ, as Christ is not divided. Avoid any form of groupings/divisions. Let me remind you of Korah, Dathan, Abiram and their company who God judged (Numbers 16:1-40).

Let me remind you also that Jesus said a house divided cannot stand (Matthew 12:22-26) and therefore to be in a fellowship with divisions is to be in a weak fellowship against the enemy. The early church was more united and God used her mightily and the enemy was always a loser.

Lastly, let me also remind you where there is the blessing of God according to the psalmist (Psalm 133) there you are, it is in unity and not in division.

Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry. I speak as to wise men; judge ye what I say.

The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ?

For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread.

Behold Israel after the flesh: are not they which eat of the sacrifices partakers of the altar?

What say I then? That the idol is anything, or that which is offered in sacrifice to idols is anything?

But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils.

Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's Table, and of the table of devils.

Do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he?

All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things edify not.

1 Corinthians 10:14-23

The above scripture touch on idolatry and on the Holy Communion and talk also on the Gentiles. Now the Holy Communion is yet another form of fellowship and therefore need not be taken casually as it will not be helpful at all and is equally dangerous! Christians need to partake of the communion of the blood and body of Christ in isolation (excluding the heathen) from it as to do so would be like partaking both at the Lord's Table and the devil's table, which is quite unimaginable thing to do as the body of Christ. Now that reminds me of separation as explained elsewhere in the second epistle of Apostle Paul to the same church, which I will come to in due course.

IF there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies,

Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

Philippians 2:1-4

In the above scripture we are reminded as Christians of unity and humility the virtues of which can cause one to love and care for fellow believers.

Strife and vainglory need to be shunned as a fellowship is a peaceful gathering where no unnecessary disagreements are required as it is an assembly for the good of all and not just for some believers.

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 thing write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not say the truth.

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

1 John 1:3-7

The above scripture stresses the need for holiness and righteousness in the Christian fellowship for it to get God's approval, being a true fellowship. If that is not observed then God's presence is lacking and it is a futile exercise and add no value in life. It is only in walking in the light that one can fellowship with God hence the need to repent of any known sin in life so as to be cleaned by the blood of Jesus Christ prior to making an

attempt to fellowship with him. Darkness is equated to unrighteous/sin.

Separation

What we are just going to see in the few scriptures warrant separation in Christian fellowships.

AND when the people complained, it displeased the LORD: and the LORD heard it; and his anger was kindled; and the fire of the LORD burnt among them, and consumed them that were in the uttermost parts of the camp.

And the people cried unto Moses; and when Moses prayed unto the LORD, the fire was quenched.

And he called the name of the place Tab'-e-rah: because the fire of the LORD burnt among them.

And the mixed multitude that was among them fell a lusting: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, who shall give us flesh to eat?

We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlics:
But now our soul is dried away: there is nothing at all, beside this man'-na, before our eyes.
And the man'-na was a coriander seed, and the colour thereof as the colour of bdellium.
And the people went about, and gathered it, and ground it in mills, or beat it in a mortar, and baked it in pans, and made cakes of it: and the taste of it was as the taste of fresh oil.
And when the dew fell upon the camp in the night, the man'-na fell upon it.
Then Moses heard the people weep throughout their families, every man in the door of his tent: and the anger of the LORD was kindled greatly; Moses also was displeased.
And Moses said unto the LORD, Wherefore hast thou afflicted thy servant? And wherefore have I not found favor in thy sight, that thou layest the burden of all this people upon me?
Have I conceived all this people? Have I begotten them, that thou shouldest say unto me,

Carry them in thy bosom, as a nursing father beareth the sucking child, unto the land which thou swarest unto their fathers?

Whence should I have flesh to give unto all this people? For they weep unto me, saying, Give us flesh, that we may eat.

I am not able to bear all this people alone, because it is too heavy for me.

And if thou deal thus with me, kill me, I pray thee, out of hand, if I have found favor in thy sight; and let me not see my wretchedness.

And the LORD said unto Moses, Gather unto me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom thou knowest to be the elders of the people, and officers over them; and bring them unto the tabernacle of the congregation, that they may stand there with thee.

And I will come down and talk with thee there: and I will take of the spirit which is upon thee, and they shall bear the burden of the people with thee, that thou bear it not thyself alone.

And say thou unto the people,

Sanctify yourselves against tomorrow, and ye shall eat flesh: for ye have wept in the ears of the LORD, saying, who shall give us flesh to eat? For it was well with us in Egypt: therefore the LORD will give you flesh, and ye shall eat.
Ye shall not eat one day, not two days, nor five days, neither ten days, nor twenty days;
But even a whole month, until it come out at your nostrils, and it be loathsome unto you: because that ye have despised the LORD which is among you, and have wept before him, saying, why came we forth out of Egypt?

Numbers 11:1-20

In the above scripture we can see the children of Israel how they behaved displeasing God. They were not alone as God's people as they were mixed with other people who negatively affected their behavior as a result of what is called crowd psychology. These other people lusted and that somehow led the children of Israel to lust as well and not to be satisfied/contented with manna (food of the angels (Psalm 78:23-25) which God provided to

them when they cried for food in the wilderness. The children of Israel showed ingratitude and lack of faith in God who is their provider, as they had despised the food God had provided them with and instead lusted for meat. They behaved foolishly as spoilt children weeping at the door of their tents. Their behavior also affected Moses the servant of God who also began to complain to God and God because of the children of Israel's behavior said in his anger he will not provide meat (flesh) for one day but for a whole month that they eat until it come out of their nostrils and it becomes loathsome to them. It looks like he was providing and disciplining at the same time. Let us now look at another similar example though, but with a different dimension.

NOW the LORD had said, unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee:

And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Har'-an.

And Abram took Sar'-ai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Har'-an; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came.

Genesis 12:1-5

AND Abram went up out of Egypt, he, and his wife, and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the south.

And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold.

And he went on his journeys from the south even to Beth-el, unto the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Beth-el and Ha'-i;

Unto the place of the altar, which he had made there at the first: and there Abram called on the name of the LORD.

And Lot also, which went with Abram, had flocks, and herds, and tents.

And the land was not able to bear them, that they might dwell together: for their substance was great, so that they could not dwell together.

And there was a strife between the herdmen of Abram's cattle and the herdmen of Lot's cattle: and the Ca'-na-an-ite and the Per'-iz-zite dwelled then in the land.

And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren.

Is not the whole land before thee? Separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if thou will take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if

thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left.

And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Go-mor'-rah, even as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zo'-ar.

Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other.

Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom.

But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly.

And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward:

For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it., and to thy seed for ever.

And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered.

Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee.

Then Abram removed his tent, and came and dwelt in the plain of Mam'-re, which is in He'-bron, and built there an altar unto the LORD.

Genesis 13

From the two scriptures we see that at first Abram was called by God but instead of coming out with his wife, his substance and his servants he was coming out with Lot his brother's son as well and which didn't go well later with him. But as I said earlier this example had a different dimension in that Abram solved the disagreement that arose. Abram and Lot ended parting ways. At first Abram applied inclusivity, (extended family - his brother's son Lot) which was not so much part of him but as we saw, it turned sore. We also note that it is only when Abram had parted with Lot that God

did come again to Abram and renewed his promise to him. Now that in itself do speak in volumes. Therefore, let us exclude the heathen in our fellowships as they are not like - minded people amongst us and therefore there is nothing common between us to share as a fellowship of believers. The non-believers need to be separated in Christian fellowship where the subject matters centre on Christian life and therefore cannot contribute anything for the well being of believers. Moreover, they can create an environment not conducive for believers for instance when the believers rebuke each other in love.

Christian fellowships are for teaching, exhorting, comforting each other and so on and not a place for preaching as such.

It is a place for developing Christian character and nurturing and is not as an open crusade or a church service where there is preaching to win souls, rather in the fellowship are souls already won/converted and need only to move on in the Lord. Let us look at the following:

BLESSED is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

Psalm 1:1

I sat not in the assembly of mockers, nor rejoiced; I sat alone because of thy hand: for thou hast filled me with indignation.

Jeremiah 15:17

It is a blessing before God to be separated from the ungodly. We can see that the prophet Jeremiah was telling God why he was going through persecution yet he sat not in the assembly of sinners!? It follows therefore that believers need to separate themselves from the none believers when it comes to associating / fellowshipping.

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness?

And what accord hath Christ with Be'-li-al? Or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Wherefore come out among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

2 Corinthians 6:14-18

Now all that I have been saying cannot be clearer than what that scripture says so don't ask any question on the same.

Chapter Four

Frequency of fellowships

In this segment we are going to briefly see the number of times Christians did have fellowships.

AND when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.

Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language.

And they were all amazed and marveled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galileans?

And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?

Par'-thi-ans, and Medes, and E'-lam-ites, and the dwellers in Mes-o-po-ta'-mia, and in Judea, and Cap-pa-do'-ci-a, in Pon-tus, and Asia,

Phryg'-i-a, and Pam-phyl'-i-a, in Egypt, and in the parts of Lib'-y-a about Cy-re'-ne, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes,

Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.

And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, what meaneth this?

Others mocking said, these men are full of new wine.

But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken unto my words:

For these are not drunken as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day.

But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Jo'-el;

And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my spirit upon all flesh: And your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

And on my servants and on my hand maidens I will pour out in those days my spirit; and they shall prophesy: and I will show wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood and fire, and vapor of smoke:

The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come:

And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:

Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should beholden of it.

For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face; for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved.

Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope:

Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine holy one to see corruption.

Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance.

Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulcher is with us unto this day.

Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne;

He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.

This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.

Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, the Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, until I make thy foes thy footstool.

Therefore let all the house of Israel, know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye crucified, both Lord and Christ.

Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of

the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

For the promise is unto you and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, save yourselves from this untoward generation.

Then they that gladly receive his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.

And all that believed were together, and had all things common;

And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.
And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,
Praising God, and having favor with all people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

Acts 2

Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.
But exhort one another daily, while it is called Today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.
For we are partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end;
While it is said, Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.

Hebrews 3:12-15

From the above accounts it is quite clear that as with the early church; they used to fellowship on a daily basis. But the Church of Christ today don't do the same and most of them have only one or two mid week fellowship meetings.

Chapter Five

Importance and benefits in fellowships

Fellowships are important and as we look at the scripture it is a command from the Lord (Hebrews 10:19-25) and in them we remind ourselves of the word of God and what he has done to us (Hebrews 2:1-4), as it is in them that we come together and share the word of God, witnessing to each other, praising and worshipping the Lord as well as praying to him making our requests known (Philippians 4:4-8, 1 Timothy 2:1-2).

In addition to the above in fellowships we encourage each other and rebuke each other as necessary in love.

By fellowshipping together, we show our unity and God is ready to bless us (Psalm 133). Fellowships are for our spiritual enrichment and growth as serve as sharpening fields for us to sharpen ourselves.

If one does not fellowship with others one becomes rusty in one's walk with the Lord and out of place in the faith (Proverbs 27:17).

Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,

By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;

And having a high priest over the house of God;

Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Hebrews 10:19-25

THEREFORE we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.

For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward;

How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?

Hebrews 2:1-4

To neglect fellowships may be equated to neglecting salvation as salvation need to be nurtured and fellowships serve as nurturing centres; where one has opportunities to build oneself in the Spirit.

Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say rejoice.

Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.

Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Philippians 4:4-8

I EXHORT therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving thanks be made for all men;

For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

1 Timothy 2:2

BEHOLD, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments;

As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.

Psalm 133

It pleases God the Father if Christians dwell together in fellowships as he is ready to bless them. The life of Christians need be in fellowshipping together as brothers and sisters in the Lord.

Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.

Proverbs 27:17

As I said earlier, fellowships are sharpening fields for us Christians. In our friendly

associations you sharpen me as I also sharpen you and what comes out is victory over our enemy. Therefore let us all strive at sharpening each other as we assemble be it in a church building or in our homes and houses, so that none of us is lagging behind as our destination is one and that is, to be raptured at the appearing of the Lord and to be with him for ever and ever in heaven.

Chapter Six

The place of praise and worship

Praise and worship are important components in Christian fellowships as well as in church services for various reasons one of the main reason is that they tune up souls of the congregants and prepare the place a conducive environment for God's Spirit to operate in. But it should be proceeded by genuine repentance by the participants so as to get the Lord's acceptance. In this chapter we are going to see some scriptures that underscore the importance of praise and worship.

Again, Jesse made seven of his sons to pass before Samuel. And Samuel said unto Jesse, The LORD hath not chosen these. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all thy children?
And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and behold, he keepeth the sheep. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither.

And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he.

Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ra'-mah.

But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him.

And Saul's servants said unto him, Behold now, an evil spirit from God troubleth thee.

Let our lord now command thy servants, which are before thee, to seek out a man, who is a cunning player on a harp: and it shall come to pass, when the evil spirit from God is upon thee, that he shall play with his hand, and thou shalt be well.

And Saul said unto his servants, Provide me now a man that can play well, and bring him to me.

Then answered one of the servants, and said, Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Beth-le-hemite, that is cunning in playing, and a mighty valiant man, and a man of war, and prudent in matters, and a comely person, and the LORD is with him.

Wherefore Saul sent messengers unto Jesse, and said, send me David thy son, which is with the sheep.

And Jesse took an ass laden with bread, and a bottle of wine, and a kid, and sent them by David his son unto Saul.

And David came to Saul, and stood before him: and he loved him greatly; and he became his armor bearer.

And Saul sent to Jesse, saying, Let David, I pray thee, stand before me; for he hath found favor in my sight.

And it came to pass, when the evil spirit from God was upon Saul, that David took a harp, and played with his hand: so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him.

1 Samuel 16:10-23

In the above scripture we find that when David played a harp with his hand, the evil spirit which was upon Saul, departed from him leaving him refreshed and well. It was so because David had God's anointing in him and in playing with a harp, he definitely was not playing secular music but heavenly music in praise and worship of the Lord God of Israel which the evil spirit could not withstand and had to leave.

Get to know that godly music of praise and worship stirs up the Holy Spirit to move into action. I have witnessed in Christian fellowships and church services people being delivered in the midst of praise and worship to God the Almighty. No wonder praise and worship teams I have heard severally the pastor telling them to pray and fast in the middle of the week and more so on the days when Sunday is approaching. It is so, so as to remove things of the flesh to allow the free flow of God's anointing when they will be serving. In prayer

and fasting soul-searching and repentance is a pre-requisite of course as praise and worship in the flesh cannot produce the desired result – a fruitful impact on the souls present in a Christian fellowship or a church service (John 4:23-24).

Something else that I noticed many times in Repentance and Holiness meetings on praise and worship is that many in the multitude and multitudes of people normally are fasting and praying and the worship normally are nonstop for the three days of the meetings save only when there is a technical hitch, some announcements or preaching or teaching is taking place and because the worship is in spirit and in truth and the people are expecting God to intervene in their situations God does miracles of healing even before God's servant come to the meeting ground as the atmosphere have been prepared in repentance with true worship extravagance (maximum worship).

Going back to the scripture we had noticed that Saul's servant in describing David he not only

said he was cunning at playing but also was a man of war. Now in the scriptures we find David won so many battles and there is hardly a record that he was defeated in any battle- most probably he went to battle only after playing with his harp and the presence of God was heavy on him.

Praise and worship are important and is a command from God Himself and if obeyed God is pleased and reward by acting/intervening in situations people are in. You can read the following teachings on praise and worship as a commandment of God:- Psalms 9:9-11; 33:1-2; 67:3; 96:1-6; 105:1-2, 135:1-3, 149:1, 150:1, Isaiah 42:10-12 and Hebrews 13:15.

Now let us go to other scriptures and see the importance of praise and worship in the assembly of the people of God who are called by His name.

And all Judah stood before the LORD, with their little ones, their wives, and their children.

Then upon Ja-ha'-zi-el the son of Zech-a-ri'-ah, the son of Be-nai'-ah, the son of Jei'-el, the son of Mat-ta-ni'-ah, a Levite of the sons of A'-saph, came the Spirit of the LORD in the midst of the congregation;

And he said, Hearken ye Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Je-hosh'-a-phat, Thus saith the LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's.

Tomorrow go ye down against them: behold, they come up by the cliff of Ziz; and ye shall find them at the end of the brook, before the wilderness of Je-ru'-el.

Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the LORD with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them: for the LORD will be with you.

And Je-hosh'-a-phat bowed his head with his face to the ground: and all Judah and the

inhabitants of Jerusalem fell before the LORD, worshiping the LORD.

And the Levites, of the children of the Ko'-hath-ites, and of the children of Kor'-hites, stood up to praise the LORD God of Israel with a loud voice on high.

And they rose up early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Te-ko'-a: and as they went forth, Je-hosh'-a-phat, stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe in his prophets, so shall ye prosper.

And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the LORD, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the LORD; for his mercy endureth for ever.

And when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Se'-ir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten.

For the children of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of mount Se'-ir, utterly to slay and destroy them: and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Se'-ir, every man helped to destroy another.

And when Judah came toward the watch tower in the wilderness, they looked at the multitude, and behold, they were dead bodies fallen to the earth, and none escaped.

And when Je-hosh'-a-phat and his people came to take away the spoil of them, they found among them in abundance both riches with the dead bodies and precious jewels, which they stripped off for themselves, more than they could carry away: and they were three days in gathering of the spoil, it was so much.

2 Chronicles 20:13-25

To begin with, Asaph was one of the chief musicians of David and his sons were serving as Levitical singers in the house of the Lord. Jahaziel most probably must have been a singer or worshipper as well.

The message from God was that they need not to fight in that battle but just to set themselves. All of them the king and all the inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem bowed to the Lord to show reverence and that they are in agreement with him and salute him. Now they did not stop there but went ahead and sung in praising their God with aloud voice on high and the singers had in the process prepared the way for God to move and it is only at that juncture that the Lord set ambushments against their enemies and as recorded all of them died after slaying each other. Now that is how God is great! Surely God's presence dwells in the midst of the praises of the saints.

And all that believed were together, and had all things common;
And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.
And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to

house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,

Praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

Acts 2:44-47

Please note that in their fellowships they praised God and God added new converts daily.

And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying:

The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of most high God, which show unto us the way of salvation.

And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.

And when her masters saw that the hope of their gains was gone, they caught Paul and Silas

and drew them into the market place unto the rulers,

And brought them to the magistrates, saying, These men, being Jews, do exceedingly trouble our city,

And teach customs, which are not lawful for us to receive neither to observe, being Romans.

And the multitude rose up together against them: and the magistrates rent off their clothes, and commanded to beat them.

And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely:

Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks.

And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one’s bands were loosed.

Acts 16:16-26

In the above scripture we do see that Paul and Silas decided to fellowship at midnight by praying and singing praises to God. Now in that kind of atmosphere God intervened on their behalf in bringing their deliverance.

Something else which I need to add in this chapter is that in praising and worshipping the Lord in the house of God and in home fellowships God gave us the liberty to use musical instruments in singing praises to him, apart from using our own mouths and most of these instruments/organs some are recorded in the scriptures and now I do enumerate them as follows hereunder.

Musical instruments in the Old Testament are

1. Harp, organ (Genesis 4:21)
2. Psaltery, Tabret, pipe (1 Samuel 10:1-5)
3. Timbrels, Cornets, cymbals (2 Samuel 6:1-5)

4. Trumpets (2 Chronicles 5:11-12)

Musical instruments in the New Testament are

1. Harp (Revelation 5:5-10; 14:1-3; 15:1-4)

Others

Piano, Guitar, Tambourine, Cymbals, Violin, Accordion, Flute, Saxophone, Harmonica and assorted drums.

Chapter Seven

The place of the Holy Communion

The Holy Communion is in true sense a form of Christian fellowship where Christians do assemble together for a common good in remembrance of their risen King as well as looking forward to his coming back to take them home into heaven to be with him forever.
For that matter therefore, I need to take you back to the Old Testament dispensation where it started and which the Lord Jesus Christ instituted to his Church in the New Testament dispensation.

And when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his trained servants, born in his own house, three hundred and eighteen, and pursued them unto Dan.
And he divided himself against them, he and his servants, by night, and smote them, and pursued them unto Ho'-bah which is on the left hand of Damascus.

And he brought back all the goods, and also brought again his brother Lot, and his goods, and the women also, and the people.

And the king of Sodom went out to meet him after his return from the slaughter of Ched-or-la-o'mer, and of the kings that were with him, at the valley of Sha'-veh, which is the king's dale.

And Mel-chiz'-ed-ek king of Sa'-lem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God.

And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth:

And blessed be the Most High God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.

And the king of Sodom said unto Abram, Give me the persons, and take the goods to thyself.

And Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have lift up mine hand unto the Lord, the Most High God, the possessor of heaven and earth.

That I will not take from a thread even to a shoelatchet, and that I will not take anything that is thine, lest thou shouldest say, I have made Abram rich:

Save only that which the young men have eaten, and the portion of the men which went with me, Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; let them take their portion.

Genesis 14:14-24

In the above scripture after Abram had shown his faith in God by obeying God's voice, the Lord God (Jesus Christ pre incarnate) begun to make efforts to fellowship again with man by bringing to him bread and wine (which is essence was a symbol of what he Jesus would do to reconcile man back to God to rekindle fellowship life between them).

The meeting was not accidental but by design and Abram was satisfied with God's blessing and would hear nothing of the king of Sodom and only wanted God to have all the credit and glory and not man as he had met the King of kings and the possessor of heaven and earth and

was now his portion (quite amazing). Mind you eating and drinking between two or more together is symbolic of a fellowship hence the bread and wine above in the scripture.

AND the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying,
This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you.
Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for a house:
And if the house be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbor next unto his house take it according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb.
Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats:

And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening.

And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it.

And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it.

Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast with fire; his head with his legs, and with the purtenance thereof.

And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaineth of it until morning ye shall burn with fire.

And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD'S pass over.

For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the first-born in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against

all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD.

And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.

And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance forever.

Seven days shall ye eat unleavened bread; even the first day ye shall put away leaven out of your houses: for whosoever eateth leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that soul shall be cut off from Israel.

And in the first day there shall be a holy convocation, and in the seventh day there shall be a holy convocation to you; no manner of work shall be done in them, save that which every man must eat, that only may be done of you.

And ye shall observe the feast of unleavened bread; for in this selfsame day have I brought your armies out of the land of Egypt: therefore shall ye observe this day in your generations by an ordinance forever.

In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at even, ye shall eat unleavened bread, until the one and twentieth day of the month at even.

Seven days shall there be no leaven found in your houses: for whosoever eateth that which is leavened, even that soul shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he be a stranger, or born in the land.

Ye shall eat nothing leavened; in all your habitations shall ye eat unleavened bread.

Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel, and said unto them, Draw out and take you a lamb according to your families, and kill the lamb.

And ye shall take a bunch of hyssop, and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel pass over and the two side posts with the

blood that is in the basin; and none of you shall go out at the door of his house until the morning.

For the LORD will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when he seeth the blood upon the lintel, and on the two side posts, the LORD will pass over the door, and will not suffer the destroyer to come in unto your houses to smite you.

And ye shall observe this thing for an ordinance to thee and to thy sons forever.

And it shall come to pass, when your children shall say unto you,

What mean ye by this service?

That ye shall say, It is the sacrifice of the LORD'S pass over, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt, when he smote the Egyptians, and delivered our houses.

And the people bowed the head and worshiped.

And the children of Israel went away, and did as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron, so did they.

And it came to pass, that at midnight the LORD smote all the first-born in the land of Egypt, from the first-born of Pharaoh that sat on his throne unto the first-born of the captive that was in the dungeon; and all the first born of cattle.

And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he, and all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt; for there was not a house where there was not one dead.

And he called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, Rise up, and get you forth from among my people, both ye and the children of Israel; and go, serve the LORD, as ye have said. Also take your flocks and your herds, as ye have said, and be gone; and bless me also.

And the Egyptians were urgent upon the people, that they might send them out of the land in haste; for they said, we be all dead men.

And the people took their dough before it was leavened, their kneading troughs being bound up in their clothes upon their shoulders.

And the children of Israel did according to the word of Moses; and they borrowed of the Egyptians Jewels of silver, and Jewels of gold, and raiment:

And the LORD gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they lent unto them such things as they required. And they spoiled the Egyptians.

And the children of Israel journeyed from Ram'-e-ses to Suc'-coth, about six hundred thousand on foot that were men, beside children.

And a mixed multitude went up also with them; and flocks and herds, even very much cattle.

And they baked unleavened cakes of the dough which they brought forth out of Egypt, for it was not leavened; because they were thrust out of Egypt, and could not tarry, neither had they prepared for themselves any victual.

Now the sojourning of the children of Israel, who dwelt in Egypt, was four hundred and thirty years.

And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years, even the self same day it came to pass, that all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt.

It is a night to be much observed unto the LORD for bringing them out from the land of Egypt: this is that night of the LORD to be observed of all the children of Israel in their generations.

And the LORD said unto Moses and Aaron, This is the ordinance of the pass over: There shall no stranger eat thereof:

But every man's servant that is bought for money, when thou hast circumcised him, then shall he eat thereof.

A foreigner and hired servant shall not eat thereof.

In one house shall it be eaten; thou shalt not carry forth aught of the flesh abroad out of the house; neither shall ye break a bone thereof.

All the congregation of Israel shall keep it.

And when a stranger shall sojourn with thee, and will keep the pass over to the LORD, let all

his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as one that is born in the land: for no uncircumcised person shall eat thereof.

One law shall be to him that is home born, and unto the stranger that sojourneth among you.

Thus did all the children of Israel; as the LORD commanded Moses and Aaron, so did they.

And it came to pass the selfsame day, that the LORD did bring the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt by their armies.

Exodus 12

AND the LORD spake unto Moses, saying.

Sanctify unto me all the first born, whatsoever openeth the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and beast: it is mine.

And Moses said unto the people, Remember this day, in which ye came out from Egypt, out of the house of bondage; for by strength of hand the LORD brought you out from this place: there shall no leavened bread be eaten.

This day came ye out in the month Abib.

And it shall be when the LORD shall bring thee in to the land of Ca'-na-an-ites and the Hit'-tites, and Am'-o-rites, and the Hi'-vites, and the Jeb-u-sites, which he sware unto thy fathers to give thee, a land flowing with milk and honey, that thou shalt keep this service in this month.

Seven days thou shalt eat unleaved bread, and in the seventh day shall be a feast to the LORD.

Unleavened bread shall be eaten seven days; and there shall no leavened bread be seen with thee, neither shall there be leaven seen with thee in all thy quarters.

And thou shalt show thy son in that day, saying, This is done because of that which the LORD did unto me when I came forth out of Egypt.

And it shall be for a sign unto thee upon thine hand, and for a memorial between thine eyes, that the LORD's law be in thy mouth: for with a strong hand hath the LORD brought thee out of Egypt.

Thou shalt therefore keep this ordinance in his season from year to year.

Exodus 13:1-10

From the above scriptures we do find some important factors touching on the pass over feast which is now known to the Church of Christ as the Lord's Supper or the Holy Communion.

- Haste and which was required from the children of Israel as they partook of the pass over feast. To a Christian it has to do with the daily life which need to be lived as if the Lord was coming that day. So if there is any sin at all, it should not be left not repented of to another day or to try dilly dalling about it as the rapture is going to take place suddenly without any warning of the time and therefore it will leave no room for anyone to do anything then (1 Corinthians 15:50-52, 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17, Matthew 24:36-44, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3).

- Blood which the children of Israel were expected to apply on the two side posts and

on the upper part of the door to serve as a token which when the Lord was judging the Egyptians, if he saw he passed over them. To a Christian one need to see to it that he or she applies the blood on his or her life for cleansing of any sin and for protection as well. Moreover, blood of the Lamb of God is what counts most in one's life before God the Father as it is too precious to him coming from none other than his own begotten Son Jesus Christ. This time round it won't be animal skin to cover a Christian (Genesis 3:21) but God demands the blood of his dear Son on his or her life (Romans 3:23-25).

- Ordinance which according to God the pass over feast was and is an everlasting one and that is why Jesus had to take it too, with his disciples and will take it again in the kingdom of his Father (Matthew 26:29)
- Observance which was required from the children of Israel touching on the pass over feast throughout their generations. To a

Christian surely one need to remember the time around when he or she received God's free salvation as it is a day of reckoning when one was translated from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light (Colossians 1:12-13), one became a new creature (2 Corinthians 5:17) and a child of God (1 John 3:1-2) with a new destiny in life (Philippians 3:20-21). Now as I said earlier the Holy Communion (The Lord's Supper) is a fellowship by believers in Christ Jesus. Let us look at the following scriptures first.

I have not sat with vain persons, neither will I go in with dissemblers.
I have hated the congregation of evil doers; and will not sit with the wicked.
I will wash mine hands in innocency: so will I compass thine altar, O LORD:
That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all thy wondrous works.

LORD, I have loved the habitation of thy house, and the place where thine honor dwelleth.

Gather not my soul with sinners, nor my life with bloody men:

In whose hands is mischief and their right hand is full of bribes.

But as for me, I will walk in mine integrity: redeem me, and be merciful unto me.

My foot standeth in an even place: in the congregations will I bless the LORD.

Psalm 26:4-12

The Psalmist had the above to say and which one can deduce quickly that he was not a party to any evil fellowship.

Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life.

Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men.

Proverbs 4:13-14

It is all to do with avoiding evil associations but sticking to God's instructions which in essence

is wisdom. All where people assemble there has to be some talk or activity and one need to be careful and to weigh the situation if it is pleasing to the Lord or not and to act appropriately as a Christian.
Let me now draw your attention to the kind of fellowship which is the subject of this chapter as it pertains to the Church of Christ.

Now the first day of the feast of unleavened bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying unto him, Where wilt thou that we prepare for thee to eat the pass over?
And he said, Go into the city to such a man, and say unto him, The Master saith, My time is at hand; I will keep the pass over at thy house with my disciples.
And the disciples did as Jesus had appointed them; and they made ready the pass over.
Now when the even was come, he sat down with the twelve.
And as they did eat, he said, Verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me.

And they were exceeding sorrowful, and began every one of them to say unto him, Lord, is it I?

And he answered and said, He that dippeth his hand with me in the dish, the same shall betray me.

The Son of man goeth as it is written of him: but woe unto that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! it had been good for that man if he had not been born.

Then Judas, which betrayed him, answered and said, Master, is it I? He said unto him, Thou hast said,

And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples and said, Take eat; this is my body.

And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it, For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth, of the fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

And when they had sung a hymn, they went out into the Mount of Olives.

Matthew 26:17-30

You see, it was a fellowship sharing together bread and wine and singing a hymn.

Just as there were conditions as well as instructions to the children of Israel on how to go about in taking the feast and who qualifies to take, the same applied to the early church to date.

IT is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife.

And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you.

For I verily, as absent in, body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that hath so done this deed,

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,

To deliver such a one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the Spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?

Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened.

For even Christ our pass over is sanctified for us:

Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators:

Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world.

But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or drunkard, or an extortioner; with such a one, no, not to eat.

For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? Do not ye judge them that are within?

But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.

1 Corinthians 5

An unfortunate event occurred in the church at Corinth and Apostle Paul, came to know of it and wrote that epistle to them. They had not taken fornication as something serious and not a laughing matter amongst them. He advised them to excommunicate wicked saint so that he does not mix with them in fellowship in their assembly: The old life style must be done away in order to maintain purity in the assembly of the saints so that there is no defilement in them. The moral standard and discipline were lacking

then. The church at Corinth really had many issues. Let us look at this one too.

Now in this that I declare unto you I praise you not, that ye come together not for the better, but for the worse.
For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you: and I partly believe it.
For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you.
When ye come together therefore into one place, this is not to eat the Lord's Supper.
For in eating every one taketh before other his own supper: and one is hungry, and another drunken.
What? Have ye not houses to eat and drink in? Or despise ye the church of God, and shame them that have not? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you in this? I praise you not.
For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, that the Lord Jesus the

same night in which he was betrayed took bread:

And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.

After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, this cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till he come.

Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord.

But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.

For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.

For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.

But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.

Wherefore, my brethren, when ye come together to eat, tarry one for another.

And if any man hunger, let him eat at home; that ye come not together unto damnation. And the rest will I set in order when I come.

1 Corinthians 11:17-34

Looks like there was no order in that church and self discipline of which Apostle Paul tried to bring.

Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus

Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, save yourselves from this untoward generation.

Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders were done by the apostles.

And all that believed were together, and had all things common;

And sold their possessions and goods; and parted them to all men, as every man had need.

And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking of bread from house to

house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,

Praising God, and having favor with all people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

Acts 2:36-47

Whenever there is purity in the church and Christians are in one accord and in the love of Christ, there will be signs and wonders and there will be new believers being added by the Lord. Repentance, holiness and righteousness need to be the hallmark in the Church of Christ for God to have a free way and to do mighty works.

Notes to the reader

I take this very opportunity to thank you for reading this book with a hope that it was of much use to you. If you do have any comments do write to us by the address given.

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