Fellowship

by Wayne Goff

ellowship is defined as "partnership, i.e. (literally) participation, or (social) intercourse...:

— (to) communicate, communication, communion, contribution, distribution" [Strong's Greek Dictionary of the New Testament]. But in plain and simple terms, fellowship is what we have missed out on these last few weeks! And if this pandemic has taught us anything about spiritual matters, then it has taught us the preciousness of being with one another on a regular basis. Who among us has <u>not</u> missed the friendly smile and greeting, the warm handshake, the endearing hug, and the friendly conversations when we meet at the building? For the first time in my entire life, I have been robbed of these privileges for weeks! And so it has been for most, if not all, of you. My heart aches to be back together to sing, pray, commune, and worship with all of you, brethren!

Perhaps we will read a little more carefully the beautiful words of the first church in Jerusalem: "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers" (Acts 2:42). No kidding! Isn't that where we get our strength, our encouragement, and our edification?!

How close were the brethren in the first congregation? "So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved" (Acts 2:46-47). This wasn't a chore, it was a PRIVILEGE! They wanted to be together — loving, caring, and sharing! The simple things in life make life worthwhile.

No wonder David said, "I was glad when they said to me,'Let us go into the house of the LORD'" (Psalm 122:1).

"For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness" (Psalm 84:10).

"Do I have to go to church?!" No sir, you sure don't. But what a privilege it is for those of us who do. Read Psalm 63:1-3 and weep with me.

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