

HOW TO BE IN FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD

Ephesians 4:22-24

18 October 2024

“That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death.” (Philippians 3:10)

“As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?” (Psalm 42:1-2)

THE DIFFICULTIES IN FELLOWSHIPING WITH GOD

1. Fellowship is difficult because of the nature of God (1 John 1:5, in him is no darkness at all).

- We avoid the things God loves.
- We esteem lightly the virtues that God highly values.
- We pursue the sin that God hates and pretend that we have fellowship with Him (1 Jn 1:6).
- We deny that we sin. We call it *“a mistake”* or *“a weakness”* (1 Jn 1:8, Eccl. 7:20).
 - We are not *“good people”* who sin sometimes (Mat. 19:17, Rom 3:10).
 - We are bad people who MAY do good, by God’s grace and enabling (1 Tim 1:12).

2. Fellowship is difficult because of the nature of man.

- An inward transformation is necessary. Your nature will not allow you to know spiritual things until you are changed (John 3:12, 3:3-7). ***“Ye must be born again.”***
- You cannot have fellowship with God without a spiritual nature that cannot sin (1 Jn 3:9).

3. The fleshly nature in the believer draws us away from God. (Romans 7:18-19)

- The old nature remains in the believer.
 - The old nature has NO fellowship with God.
 - The old nature has goals, plans, and desires which are opposed to God.
- Believers have an opportunity to change into God’s image (2 Cor. 3:18).
 - With a new nature, your goals, plans, and desires can line up with God.

4. The process of sanctification. (Ephesians 4:22-24)

- **Put off your old manner of life** (vs 22).
 - The old nature is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts.
 - The old nature has desires that we think will satisfy us, but they won’t; they are deceitful lusts which can never satisfy.
- **Continually renew your mind** (learn that what God says is true).
 - God has given us His truth (John 17:17). We know where the truth is. We just need to accept it, seek to understand it, and live by it. Renew your mind with it (Rom 12:2).
- **Be willing to be changed in the spirit of your mind.** (Prov 1:20-29)
 - Learn to think the way God thinks and see things from His perspective.
- **Practicing righteousness** (Put on the new man, Ephesians 4:24).
 - Practice responding in the right way; to pressures, disappointments, frustrations, and challenges. *“How does God want me to respond?”* **Heb. 10:22**