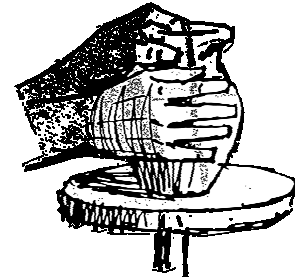


# His Workmanship Westside

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works.”  
—Ephesians 2:10



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Isaiah 64:8

## Fellowship of the Body, Part 6, Results of Fellowship, from material by Cooper P. Abrams III

Over the last 5 weeks we have seen that the basis of fellowship is salvation—that we first must have fellowship with God, i.e., be reconciled to Him, before we have true fellowship with other Christians; the nature of fellowship is unity, togetherness, which is designed by God; the danger to fellowship, what interrupts it, is sin; and the responsibility of fellowship to other believers, what maintains fellowship, is to minister—to serve one another—we discussed eight responsibilities towards our brethren from the New Testament “one-anothers”: to love one another; to forbear and forgive one another; to bear one another’s burdens by holding up and restoring them; to exhort, encourage, and comfort one another with good words, hospitality, and prayer; to teach and edify (build up) one another; to admonish and rebuke sin in one another; to confess our sins to one another; and to care for and serve one another. Today we address what happens when we are in fellowship, that is, the result of fellowship.

**5. The Results and Benefits of Fellowship.** The word *fellowship* was never used to describe man’s relationship to God before the coming of the

Holy Spirit to dwell in the church. It is used exclusively after the Day of Pentecost; it is a relationship of the church of God. And *fellowship* is primarily an action word! *Koinonia* is used nineteen times in the New Testament; in addition to being translated as *fellowship*, it is also translated by the words *contribution*, *sharing*, and *participation*. A close study of the usage of this word shows that action is always included in its meaning. Fellowship, you see, is not just being together, it is doing together! This is a point almost universally ignored by churches today. Fellowship is a unique relationship with Christ. We have a relationship of being “in Christ.” We also have a relationship of being “a part of Christ’s body.” But fellowship is not only “being in” or “being part,” but it is also “doing with” Christ. It is our partnership with Christ in fulfilling God’s will. Moreover, fellowship is not doing just anything together. It is doing only God’s will together. Quite obviously, our fellowship, our unity, with others is only as good as our fellowship with Christ. And we can only participate with Him in doing God’s will, for that is all He ever does! For this reason we must quit thinking of fellowship as

having pot luck dinners or watching football or playing basketball with other believers. Fellowship involves actively doing God’s will: working together to evangelize or to edify or to contribute to the needs of the saints. Thus, fellowship is a relationship of unity among believers that expresses itself in outer co-participation with Christ and with one another in accomplishing God’s will on earth. **Fellowship with God results in spiritual blessings.** John said that if we walk in the light, we have fellowship with God the Father, through His Son Jesus Christ, 1 Jn 1:3-7. He wrote this epistle to instruct us in these promises of God and benefits of salvation. One benefit is knowing we are saved and will be with God in heaven.

**A. Assurance of eternal life.** All true believers know God, 1 Jn 2:3. When we are baptized, we come to a knowledge of and a relationship with God. Christ does not save those who do not know Him personally. He wants a personal relationship with us and the peace that fellowship brings to the believer’s life. He said, “*And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ Whom*”  
*continued on p. 2*

## “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.” —2 Corinthians 13:14

*You have sent,*” Jn 17:3. The persuasions/arguments of John were intended to bring a personal confidence and assurance to believers. He wanted them to know that they had eternal life, 1 Jn 5:13. A person who is trying to earn his salvation cannot have any assurance of being saved because he never knows if he has done enough or even done the right thing. He can never have true peace in his life. This person thinks his salvation is based on his own works instead of the works of Jesus Christ; thus, he has no basis on which to know if he is saved or not, because his own actions waver. He clearly cannot have a close relationship with God, because he is always struggling to make himself good enough for God to recognize. There is no salvation apart from knowing the real Jesus Christ, Ax 4:12, and there is no assurance apart from faith in God's truth. Some have no assurance because they do not have faith. They live a life of uncertainty; they are never at peace with the Lord. Others may think they are Christians, but never did His will—they turn out to be pretenders or imposters, 1 Jn 2:19; Mt 7:21-23. Some people have been misled or misinformed as to Who Christ is and what salvation is. *“For there are many insubordinate, both idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole households, teaching things which they ought not, for the sake of dishonest gain,”* Tit 1:10-11. People who follow liars believe what they have been told. Many false churches and cults teach lies. Paul preached *“repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ,”* Ax 20:18-21. Peter urged us to make our calling and election sure—not to lack confidence, but to be assured because we have added virtue, knowledge, self-

control, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love to the faith that came with salvation—to make sure those qualities are in our lives so we can have the security of knowing we are saved. Notice that the list in 2 Pet 1:5-7 begins with faith and first adds to our faith some personal characteristics that are developed within our hearts: virtue (moral strength, energy, boldness, courage, steadfastness, firmness, purity); knowledge (deeper wisdom and increasing understanding of the truth and will of God by learning and applying it—though this insight is gained by study with others, it must be internalized individually); and self-control (temperance, moderation without excess; practice in letting God's

***“I have written these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.”***  
—1 John 5:13

Spirit control our lives, especially changing reactions to considered responses). Then we begin to apply our internalized traits to relationships/fellowship with others by patience (cheerful submission to God's will in relationships without complaining; forbearance and long-suffering); and we continue to practice all the previous traits in godliness, which is becoming *“partakers of the divine nature,”* v. 4, and growing in deeper communion/fellowship with Him, until we get to brotherly kindness, which is true, complete, and affectionate fellowship in Christ with our brothers, who are children of the same Father, servants of the same Master, members of the same family, travelers to the same country, heirs of the same inheritance; and finally the completion,

the end to which all the other traits are building: love. All these assurances test our relationship and therefore our fellowship with the Lord. We should pursue full assurance. Assurance is not only desirable, it is necessary. The power of our lives in Christ depends upon our convictions and assurance. But even more important, the brightness and cheerfulness of our lives in Christ depend upon our assurance. The uncertain person is depressed and can put no joy into his work. No one should rest anywhere short of the *“full assurance of faith,”* Heb 10:22, the *“full assurance of hope,”* Heb 6:11, and the *“full assurance of understanding,”* Col 2:2. Evidences of our salvation include the following:

**(1). Joy and peace** *“Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit,”* Rm 13:14. Christ's great prayer before His death in John 17 can be divided into three parts: glorify, vs. 1-16; sanctify, vs. 17-19; and unify, vs. 20-26. He shared His own joy at having fulfilled His Father's will and completed His own work on earth: *“I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given me... I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world... I have given to them the words which You have given Me... I pray for them... and I am glorified in them... I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept... But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them Your word.”* Jn 17:4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13-14. From the beginning God desired His people to serve Him with joy, Deut 28:4. *“You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore,”* Ps 16:11, quoted in Ax 2:28. Fellowship occurred naturally as a  
continued on p. 3



Psalm 133:1

**Let your faith be seen in 2014**  
“I rejoice to see your good order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.” —Colossians 2:5

**Results of Fellowship**, from p. 2 result of establishing the church. Nobody had to come to the apostles and new Christians on the day of Pentecost to say, “You need to practice fellowship.” They had received the Holy Spirit and formed unity. The new church’s inclination was to exercise unity outwardly: “Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved,” Ax 2:46-47. All Christians have received the word with joy, cf. Mt 13:20, 44, Ax 2:41; 1 Thes 1:6; 1 Jn 1:4; and disciples develop joy by the word of God, Jn 15:11, and the Spirit of God, Gal 5:22-23; Ax 13:52; 15:3.

**(2). Power and victory over the world**  
Fellowship with the Godhead is a fact, a work of God. It is what God did; He made us partners with Himself. Our fellowship with God is an established partnership and a joyous communion. We can experience a warm, loving fellowship with other believers, and we know what it is to miss the joy of that fellowship. Beginning at Pentecost, the Christians came together and established themselves in a fellowship. They shared everything. They shared their time, their possessions, their love. It was a giving and receiving partnership. “And the multitude of those that believed were of one heart and of one soul, neither did any of them consider that any his possessions was his own, but they had all things common,” Ax 4:32. The results: “with great power the apostles gave witness

## Discipleship Here At Home

of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all,” 4:33. Confidence in God’s power to keep our relationship gives us boldness and power to share the gospel. John pointed to a confident faith as the secret of a victorious, obedient life, 1 Jn 5:4. Obedient faith is the secret of continuing victory and, for that reason, obedience to God’s commands need not be grievous, Walvoord. Indeed, Jesus said His commands are not burdensome: “For My yoke is easy and My burden is light,” Mt 11:30. Turning our lives over to His care (taking His yoke upon ourselves) is easy when we trust and love Him. Yet many who say they are Christians look upon living for the Lord, being faithful in service and attendance, studying, praying, and giving as a real burden. It interferes with the other things they do. These “other things” are clearly more important to them because they put them first. Yet victory over sin and unfaithfulness is possible because Christ has already overcome and because the principle of victory resides in every person born of God. Each such person has technically overcome the world, 1 Jn 4:4. A believer’s faith in Christ, by which he was regenerated, constitutes a victory over a world which is blinded to the gospel by Satan, 2 Cor 4:3-4. Who, then, overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God and trusts Him with his life. John affirmed that a disciple is a world-conqueror by means of his faith, 1 Jn 5:4, and Paul concurred: “As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,” Col 2:6; see also 1 Jn 2:13-14.

Fellowship will bring freedom from and power over habitual sin. In 1 Jn 5:18-21, the expression “we know,” indicates unquestionable, settled, and indisputable understanding, something that has been so confirmed by evidence, observation, and experience that it has become a

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**Building clean-up, 4/12, 8:30-12:30 am**  
**See Jonathan Hadders to help.**

**PRAY FOR healing, protection, help, and comfort here and away**

**Liz Kosik**—on bed rest for a few weeks due to improper epidural during delivery of baby **Frank Ed Fink**—prostate cancer; current treatment for brain tumors

**Tyler Huelsman**’s teacher, Mr. Hitchens—father is dying of cancer;

**David Hull**, a friend of **Randy Reames**—stroke; leukemia relapse; pray open to gospel

**Randy**’s mother, **Una**, in her 80s—cancerous colon tumor removed recently

**Megan Aki**’s friend **Christine Martella**—recovering from liver tumor surgery

**Sandra Perry**’s sister, **Sharon Rupinen**—upper GI tests; surgery expected

**Judy Sartin**’s aunt **Vallie Ek**, age 87—uterine cancer, heart, kidney failure; hospice; pray she returns to Lord in her last days; also **Judy**’s cousin’s wife, **Lynne James**, breast cancer

**Josh McDonald**, a friend of **Kory Tope**, and daughter **Casey**—unwanted divorce

**Mark Campbell**—unstable health and housing situation due to addiction; **Forrest Corray**, Jordan’s brother—addiction

### CHRONIC CONDITIONS

**Logan Corray**; **Rocco Sangellino Jr**; **Addison Tope**; **Pat Wilkes**—asthma

**Bill Dennis**—heart issues

**Autumn Hadders**—epilepsy; celiac disease

**Danielle Huelsman**—vertigo, CV syndrome

**Kirk Johnson**—worsening MS; needs help

**Menards**—aging; **Lloyd**, diabetes, weak;

**Virginia**, macular degeneration; high BP

**Sandra Perry**—neuropathy from diabetes

**Cheryl Reames**—diverticulitis; fibromyalgia

**Nell Free**—pacemaker, heart; back pain

**Judy Sartin**—spinal stenosis; severe arthritis

**Judy Sartin**’s grandson **Tristen**—autism

**Lynda Szymanski**—COPD, lung weakness

**Traveling Kim Howell** in OH 4/9-13 visit-ing family. **Sarah McMurray** in CA 4/9-11 for work. **Berney Charo** in El Paso for a week’s visit with his mother. **Larry Campbell** in south FL for work until 4/11. **Pat Campbell** in AR until 4/13 visiting her dad.

**Job concerns Linda Szymanski**

**Expecting Christina Adams**’s daughter **Kayla** will be induced 4/17.

### Results/Benefits of Fellowship, continued from p. 3

persuasive power on our lives. John wrote that “we know” three things: (1) Although the children of God can and do sin willfully (John had written that believers do sin and should confess and repent of sin so they can get back in fellowship with the Lord, 1 Jn 1:7-9), the statement in 5:18 refers to the fact that our sins are forgiven: “We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him.” God’s seed (His word working by the Spirit) remains in him, 1 Jn 3:9; 2:29. We are strengthened against the destructive power of Satan. We are prepared and principled by God’s word against the mortal wounds or stings of the wicked one; he does not touch our souls to infuse his venom. (2) “We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.” v. 19. We are on God’s side in our spiritual battle, and He is on ours. We are freed from the dominion of the world and its sin, cf. Rm 6:4-18. The fact is that those who do not have new life in Christ sin because they do not have the Son in their lives. (3) We are enlightened in the knowledge of the true eternal God. “And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him Who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life,” v. 20. God has come into our world, we have believed Him, and we know Him by all the evidence that has already been asserted; He has revealed unto us the true God, Jn 1:18, and He has helped us discern the glories of the true God. We are assured that He is the true God and that He has given eternal life to us. “We are in Him Who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ.” What a fellowship, what a joy is ours!

**(3). The witness of God** The object of our faith must always be the One who came (in the flesh at His birth and at His death) by water and blood—Jesus Christ. In 1 Jn 5:6-13 John refuted a false notion held by Cerinthus, who taught that the Divine Christ descended on the man Jesus at His baptism and left Him before His crucifixion. Thus he denied that one Person, Jesus Christ, came in the flesh as testified by the Spirit, the water, and the blood, 1 Jn 5:8. John tied this to the new birth of the Christian, which is by Christ’s blood, by water baptism, and by the Holy Spirit. Thus, our new birth by baptism is testimony that we are in fellowship with Christ. No one has a reason for not accepting God’s testimony to the person of Christ. If man’s testimony can be accepted when adequately attested, Deut 19:15, God’s greater testimony should also be accepted. Before specifying the content of God’s testimony, 1 Jn 5:11-12, John paused parenthetically to remark that accepting God’s testimony internalizes the fact of fellowship with Christ for the Christian. Each believer has believed God’s truth in his heart. By contrast, anyone who disbelieves God has made Him out to be a liar, 1 Jn 1:10; 5:10. There is no middle ground. Believe God and accept Him, or do not believe and thereby reject Him. Obey the Lord in faith, or do not obey the Lord and reveal you have no true faith. True faith acts; no action shows no faith. Having said this, John returned to the content of the testimony, which is that God has directly affirmed that eternal life is precisely what He has given us in His Son. If we have Christ, we have eternal life. If we do not have Christ, we do not have eternal life; cf. Rm 8:9-17. These are evidences that assure us of eternal life and of our fellowship with God. **Fellowship with God results in spiritual blessings.** Next week: further results and benefits of fellowship.



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#### Pastors

Larry Campbell (303) 246-8810  
DeWayne Howell (303) 973-7283

#### Preacher

Jim Reingrover (303) 973-5102

### Assembly Schedule

#### Sunday

Bible classes	9:00 am
Morning assembly	10:00 am
Afternoon assembly	1:30 pm

#### Wednesday

Bible classes	7:30 pm
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#### Sunday morning

- **Adult Bible study, INSIDE OUT—**  
*Lesson 1—“Encouraging a Spirit of Service.”*
- **Sermon:** “The Need for Encouragement,”  
Jim Reingrover

#### Sunday afternoon

- **Sermon:** “The Kingdom of God: Past, Present, Future,” Jim Reingrover

#### **Gospel Meeting April 18-20 with Scott Kercheville: THE GLORIOUS PURSUIT**

Fri, 4/18, 7:30 pm: “Pursue Victory over Our Desires”  
Sat, 4/19, 9:45 am class at Howells’ house:  
“Pursue Faith that Conquers”  
Sat, 4/19, 5 pm: “Pursue Superior Peace in Conflict”  
Sun, 4/20, 9 am: “Pursue Soul-Filled Worship”  
Sun, 4/20, 10 am: “Pursue the Greatest Treasure”  
Sun, 4/20, 1:30 pm: “Pursue Models of Joy in Affliction”