

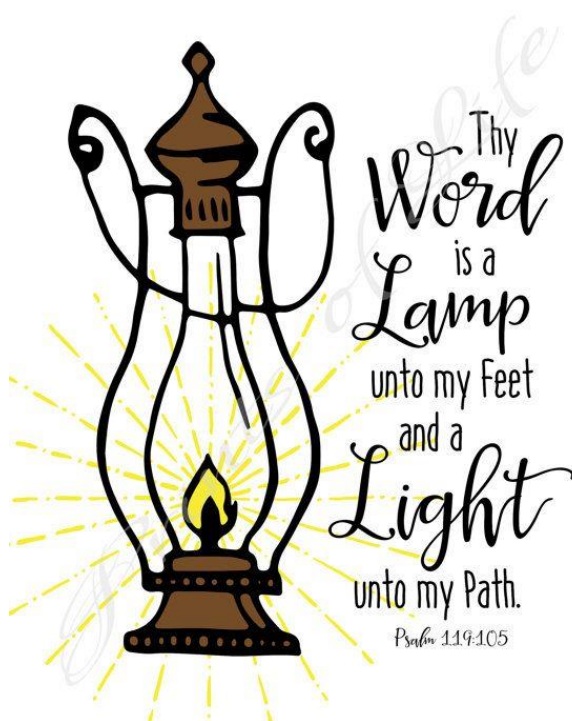
Fellowship in Christ

13 Week Bible Class, Room 105

Beginning Wednesday June 1, 2022 7p – 7:45p

Please RSVP: gh.ercc@gmail.com

“Equip Christians to trust God’s word as the only source of spiritual maturity and fellowship (koinonia*) in Christ.”



Definition of *koinonia

1: the Christian fellowship or body of believers

2: intimate spiritual communion and participative sharing in a common religious commitment and spiritual community

the *koinonia* of the disciples with each other and with their Lord

Fellowship in Christ

1 Corinthians 1:9

⁹ **God is faithful**, by whom you were called **into the fellowship** of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 John 1:2-4

² ...the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us— ³ that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may **have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.** ⁴ And these things we write to you **that ^{1a} your joy may be full.**

Fellowship in Christ

- 1) **June 1:** Pathway to Fellowship (week 1) Glenn Hall
 - a) Vision
 - b) Mission
 - c) Ministry
- 2) **June 8 & 15:** Biblical Authority (week 2 and 3) Walt Smith
 - a) In the Beginning God
 - b) Old Testament
 - c) New Testament
- 3) **June 22 & 29:** Why We Need a Savior (week 4 and 5) Rick Black
 - a) Fall from God's Grace
 - b) We are Lost
 - c) Our "Sacrifices" are not sufficient
- 4) **July 6 & 13:** Amazing Grace (week 6 and 7) Dwight Walker
 - a) "God so Loved...."
 - b) The Perfect Sacrifice
 - c) Grace Available to All
- 5) **July 20 & 27:** Biblical Obedience (week 8 and 9) Mike Singleton
 - a) "All authority given to Me"
 - b) Become a disciple
 - c) "Men and Brethren what shall we do?"
- 6) **August 3:** Transformed Minds (week 10) Glenn Hall
 - a) Living Sacrifice
 - b) Reject the Ways of the World
 - c) Embrace the Joy of Ministry
- 7) **August 10 & 17:** Biblical Worship (week 11 & 12)
 - a) Assemble with the Saints- Aug 10 Ray Hughes
 - b) Remember the Savior's Sacrifice- Aug 10 Ray Hughes
 - c) Sing and Make Melody - Aug 17 Ken Ford
- 8) **August 24:** Heaven My Home (week 13) Brad Holland
 - a) Earthly Life
 - b) Resurrection
 - c) Eternity

June 1: Pathway to Fellowship (week 1) Glenn Hall

With God's Word lighting the way, we step onto the "pathway to fellowship" with our brothers and sisters and Christ Himself. The joy of the journey requires commitment to three primary disciplines: Vision, Mission, and Ministry.

Vision (the future imagined) allows us to think beyond our present circumstances and try to imagine what could be or should be many days, months, or years ahead. The willingness to engage in this type of thinking allows God to work in our lives according to His will.

Mission (a plan to succeed) consists of the tools, assets, education, determination, spiritual maturity, and preparation to stay on the pathway.

Ministry (the courage to act) engages us in the reality of koinonia fellowship with Jesus and our brothers and sisters.

To help understand how this works we will look at three real-life examples:

Joshua (Conquest of Canaan)

Sherry Watlington (ER Preschool)

Ashley Webb (ICU nurse)

Next, we will look at scriptural example of vision, mission, and ministry in marriage.

And finally, our attention turns to vision, mission, and ministry in our spiritual walk.

Let's begin.

Joshua (the promise land)

a) **Vision (the future imagined)** Numbers 14

When Israel approached the "promised land" shortly after fleeing Egypt, Moses sent 12 spies to determine how they would conquer it. Ten said it was not possible. Joshua and Caleb were impressed with the land and informed Moses to take it. Unfortunately, the report of the 10 convinced Moses to remain in the desert and for his disbelief God caused them to wander for 40 years.

Joshua had a vision for what was possible. Forty years later they reached the east side of the Jordan River where Joshua developed the mission to occupy the “the promised land.”

b) **Mission (a plan to succeed)** Joshua 1

¹⁰ Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying, ¹¹ “Pass through the camp and command the people, saying, ‘Prepare provisions for yourselves, for within three days you will cross over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land which the LORD your God is giving you to possess.’ ”

It is interesting to note that the Reubenites, the Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh decided to stay in the “Transjordan” east of the river. Joshua convinced them to go with the other ten to conquer the land and then they could return home. After five years of war they were released to go back to their families.

c) **Ministry (the courage to act)**

Forty years of wandering and weeks of planning yet the land was still the “promised land” since none had been taken.

On the morning of the campaign, the priest picked up the ark and stepped into the Jordan. And so began the conquest with the courage to act.

Sherry Watlington (ER Pre School)

a) Vision (the future imagined)

Nine years ago Sherry presented a written vision to the elders of what a preschool at Eastridge could mean to the members and the community. It was clear and compelling. The idea of serving families in Rockwall had been talked about often but nothing had been defined and pursued. We now had a vision of what could be.

b) Mission (a plan to succeed)

One or more big obstacles presented themselves: no classrooms, no teachers and no way to fund it.

Interesting that the neighbor next door asked if we would like to buy her house. Answer: yes! Now what?

No problem. Move the ministers to the house and convert the office into classrooms. One problem solved.

Once word got out that there was a serious vision of a pre-school, qualified, Christian and excited teachers began to enlist.

Funding would be provided by the attending families at a rate they could afford yet enough to compensate the teachers. Sherry agreed to work without compensation until the enrollment made it possible.

c) Ministry (the courage to act)

When excited children and parents walked thru the door for the first day of Eastridge Pre-school, the vision became reality. In a very real sense, “fellowship” in Christ was beginning to mature.

Ashley Webb (ICU Nurse)

a) Vision (the future imagined)

Ashley, her mom Jennifer and big sister Lauren took every opportunity to join mission trips. Ashley and Lauren made annual VBS trips to Belize with the Eastridge Mission team. For Ashley it was the beginning of a vision of what would direct her life in a very special way.

While attending Dallas Christian she joined a mission trip Atiku, Ghana to work in a clinic. After returning from one of these trips she said, "I need more training if I want to be of real help.

b) Mission (a plan to succeed)

The highly rated School of Nursing at Harding University offered just the opportunity she was looking for. She graduated with a BSRN and accepted a job at UAB Hospital in Birmingham in women's oncology.

It is important to note like the other examples, vision and mission planning are mission critical first steps but of themselves are not ministry.

c) Ministry (courage to act)

When the very first patient on her very first tour had a name, ministry became real. True to form, she transferred to ICU and began her Nurse Practitioner studies to be "real help".

An Example of Marriage

a) VISION (the future imagined)

Father's advice to son before the wedding

"Love your wife and love your kids"

b) MISSION (a plan to succeed)

Wives and Husbands

Eph. 5

22 Wives, submit[e] to your husbands as to the Lord, 23 because the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of the body. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives are to submit to their husbands in everything. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing[f] her with the washing of water by the word. 27 He did this to present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and blameless. 28 In the same way, husbands are to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hates his own flesh but provides and cares for it, just as Christ does for the church, 30 since we are members of his body.[g] 31 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.[h] 32 This mystery is profound, but I am talking about Christ and the church. 33 To sum up, each one of you is to love his wife as himself, and the wife is to respect her husband.

c) MINISTRY (the courage to act)

Wives, Husbands, Children

I Cor. 13

4 Love is patient, love is kind. Love does not envy, is not boastful, is not arrogant, 5 is not rude, is not self-seeking, is not irritable, and does not keep a record of wrongs. 6 Love finds no joy in unrighteousness but rejoices in the truth. 7 It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

In the Kingdom... Fellowship in Christ

a) VISION (the future imagined)

Matt. 22-37-40

37 He said to him, “**Love the Lord your God** with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.[a] 38 This is the greatest and most important[b] command. 39 The second is like it: **Love your neighbor** as yourself.[c] 40 All the Law and the Prophets depend[d] on these two commands.”

b) MISSION (a plan to succeed)

Matt. 28:18-20

...Go, therefore, and make disciples of[a] all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 **teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you.** And remember,[b] I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

C) Ministry (the courage to act) Romans 12

Living Sacrifices to God

12 I beseech^[a] you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is your* ^[b]reasonable service. ²And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Serve God with Spiritual Gifts

³For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of *himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. ⁴For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, ⁵so we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. ⁶Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, *let us use them*: if prophecy, *let us prophesy* in proportion to our faith; ⁷or ministry, *let us use it* in *our* ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; ⁸he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

Behave Like a Christian

⁹*Let love be* without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. ¹⁰*Be* kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; ¹¹not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; ¹²rejoicing in hope, patient^[c] in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; ¹³distributing to the needs of the saints, given^[d] to hospitality.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.

¹⁷Repay no one evil for evil. Have^[e] regard for good things in the sight of all men. ¹⁸If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. ¹⁹Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but *rather* give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance *is* Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. ²⁰Therefore

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;
If he is thirsty, give him a drink;
For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head."

²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The Son of Man Will Judge the Nations

Matthew 25 – Ministry as “fellowship with Jesus”

³¹ “When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the ^[c]holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides *his* sheep from the goats. ³³ And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. ³⁴ Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; ³⁶ I *was* naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’

³⁷ “Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed *You*, or thirsty and give *You* drink? ³⁸ When did we see You a stranger and take *You* in, or naked and clothe *You*? ³⁹ Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ ⁴⁰ **And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did *it* to one of the least of these My brethren, you did *it* to Me.’**

⁴¹ “Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: ⁴² for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.’

⁴⁴ “Then they also will answer ^[d]Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?’ ⁴⁵ **Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do *it* to one of the least of these, you did not do *it* to Me.’** ⁴⁶ And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”