

Fellowship 2 of 8

Sweet Communion

#0264

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—July 10, 1970

My Lord and I, we hold such sweet communion.
While others fear, He keeps me from alarm.
We walk and talk along life's busy pathway.
Secure am I from all that would do harm.

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My Lord and I, we hold such sweet communion.
He is to me much more than earthly joy.
He is my strength and wonderful companion.
I consecrate my all to His employ.

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My Lord and I, we hold such sweet communion.
I know He plans my life each passing day.
I may not see, but He is close beside me.
He drives the clouds and darkness all away.

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It is a wonderful thing to know that God actually desires fellowship with us. Now, we were studying this last week, and we're going to study it some more tonight. We won't get through tonight, either. In fact, dear friends, a million years from now, there'll be more ahead than there is behind.

That walk that Enoch took with God for three-hundred years here in this world was just the introduction. Enoch liked it so well, and (Don't miss the next point!) God liked it so well, that God said, "Enoch, this thing is never going to stop. We're going right on together."

"...Enoch walked with God..." Genesis 5:24.

The good news is that God loves you just as much as He does Enoch. And He's planning for you just as wonderful things as He has planned for Enoch. But remember, this is the thing I'm sure that thrilled scores of us last Friday night, the big

point is not what this means to us. It is what it means to Him.

I think most of us have known for a long time that God pities us, feels sorry for poor lost sinners, and will do anything He can to save them. I hope we've known that for a long time. But oh, the wonder of this: that God needs me; that God wants me with Him, not just for what He can do for me, but for what I can do for Him. Oh, I don't mean doing missionary work. That's good. That isn't what I mean at all. I mean just to sit down with Him in companionship, in fellowship, in communion. God actually hungers for this.

When we read in Isaiah 58 that we're to deal our bread to the hungry, let's not just think of poor waifs that have not had a good meal for a long time. Let's think of the hungry heart of God that longs for love from those that He has created for the express purpose of having fellowship with Him.

You know, when Jesus was sitting by the well that noonday hour at Sychar and the disciples had gone into the city to buy food, the Creator of all the springs of water was thirsty. But the woman spoke the truth when she said, "Sir, Thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep." And sitting by the fountain of your heart, the One who made you and who made love, longs for the water in the depths of your soul, the love that you alone can deliver, the fellowship that you alone can choose to share with Him. It is for this that He pleads.

You remember we were looking last Friday night at a picture in Revelation:

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock..."
Revelation 3:20.

You've seen the picture many times, haven't you? Jesus standing at the door and knocking. What does He want? He wants to come in. What for?

"...if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come
in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me"
Revelation 3:20.

He wants to sit down in fellowship with us. And my dear friends, if we'll let Him sit down with us, here, He's soon going to call us to sit down with Him up there, for the next verse says:

"To him that overcomes will I grant to sit with me in my
throne..." Revelation 3:21.

And as we noted last week, it is not merely that He wants us to be kings. He wants us to be with Him. He wants you to be with Him. Oh, this is wonderful, friends, and it's for you. It's for you as if there were not another soul in this world. For it is written here in the little book *Steps to Christ*:

"The relations between God and each soul are as distinct

and full as though there were not another soul upon the earth to share His watchcare, not another soul for whom He gave His beloved Son” *Steps to Christ*, page 100.

You little folks, that is how much Jesus thinks of you, and all the rest of us here tonight. It is as true for each one, this says, as if that one were the only one.

“Ah,” someone says, “How can that be?”

I can’t tell you how it can be, friends. A lot of things in this universe, I cannot tell you how it can be. But I know it’s so. Thank God it’s so! And as we sang a few moments ago:

For I am His, and He is mine,
Forever and forever.

Now, for a few minutes, I’d like to study with you some of the ways in which God has sought to make this real to us. There are many ways.

But did you know (And don’t miss this!) that this is the great reason that God gave us the different human relationships—the relationship between parents and children, the relationship between husband and wife, the relationship between brothers and sisters, and other relatives and dear friends. All of these are for the express purpose, not an incidental purpose, but for the deliberate purpose, the great purpose, the mainline purpose, the chief purpose of all those relationships is to help you and me understand how God feels toward us and values our love and fellowship. This is the great purpose of every true human relationship.

Do you remember that text in Psalm 103?

“Like as a father pities his children, so the LORD pities them that fear Him” Psalm 103:13.

I like that beautiful echo in the prophecy of Isaiah:

“As one whom his mother comforts, so will I comfort you...” Isaiah 66:13.

(If you are taking notes, and I hope you are, the reference for that is Isaiah 66:13, and that text in Psalm 103:13.) You notice that these two verses compare God’s love to the father’s love, to the mother’s love. Now, those of us who have known the love of a good human father, a good human mother, can appreciate that.

Somebody is saying, “Yes, but that’s the trouble. I never had that.”

Never mind, I have something a little further for you. But it’ll be a few minutes until I get to it. But do not think that you’re left out. I’ll just tell you that right now. You are no less dear to the heart of God. And you need be no less near to the heart

of God just because you've missed out on some of these human relationships.

If you've never known a human father's love or a human mother's love, if you've never known the love of a true husband, a true wife, a true son, a true daughter, or some other relative or friend, be of good cheer. I have something for you. Just hold your mind and heart open. And when I get to it, it's going to be so tremendous that you'll say, "That is too much to be true." But it isn't. But in order to appreciate it, you need to study, first, along with the people who have had some human experiences that are satisfying. Just listen. Then we'll come to your part.

Now back to the children. Whether you are little folks, no matter how old you are, if you have known a father's love, a mother's love, what is it that God is seeking to teach you in that—not merely as an illustration, an object lesson, a parallel? God is seeking to teach you that every bit of love in the father's heart, in the mother's heart toward the child, is the expression of His love.

And now watch! Do not miss this! What is it that the father and mother seek? What is it that they desire? Do the father and mother, as they keep paying the bills, the first year, and second year, and third year, and fourth year, and the fifth year, so on and on and on, sit down and coldly calculate, "Now let's see. This is running up. Now it has gotten several thousand, and it looks like it's going to be several more thousand. But never mind. This is a good investment because pretty soon, this child is going to begin to bring in income into the family firm, instead of making necessary so much expenditure?"

Is that the way it works? Well, if they do, most of them are greatly disappointed, aren't they? No, there's one thing that a true father, a mother seeks. It is love, understanding fellowship. And it's a wonderful thing when a child knows and feels and senses that this is what is wanted.

I hear talk today about the generation gap. There's nothing new about that. Lucifer invented that, 6,000 years ago. But I want to tell you something, friends. The only thing that ever made any kind of a gap anywhere in the universe was sin. That's all.

Thank God, the good news of the Gospel is that Jesus was manifested to take away our sins. So it is written:

“...Behold the Lamb of God, which takes away the sin of the world” John 1:29.

God is in the business of taking away all the things that make gaps that make barriers that make walls to hinder understanding and the flow of fellowship.

You know, when Abraham was called by God to take his son Isaac up to Mount Moriah and offer him, we find Isaac cooperating all the way through. And when the news broke upon that young man's soul—and remember he was right in the strength of manhood. Abraham was older—Isaac could have resisted. Isaac

could have said, "Why, Father, not a bit of it. I'm not going to go through with that." But we're told that Isaac's submission and cooperation on that occasion was the result of long years of training.

Isaac had fellowship with his father. And when they came down from that mount where God had intervened and provided a substitute for the life of the son, as we see that aged father and the young man coming down the mountain arm in arm, how our hearts go out in admiration for what God had accomplished in the life of that father and the life of that son blended in fellowship.

What I'm saying tonight, my dear friends, is that in all that, God desires us to see the fellowship that He desires with us. For it is written:

"...unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God..."

What's next?

"...the everlasting Father..." Isaiah 9:6.

Jesus is our everlasting Father. With His Father He shares with us the life of Heaven, and shares with us the concern of His Father for every one of us.

And so, you parents who love your children, remember God loves you a million times more. Wouldn't you be sorry if your child thought that you were stern and unforgiving and hard to get along with? If you feel disappointed if your child feels that way toward you, how do you suppose God feels if you look at Him that way?

But let's come closer. Wouldn't you feel sorry if one of your children had a feeling that you loved them and that you were easy to get along with, but that you were taking care of them merely because you pitied them and felt sorry for them? Wouldn't you, parents, feel sorry in a situation like that? Oh, yes.

You know, God uses various figures: the figure of birth. But He uses the figure of adoption. Turn over to Romans 8. There is probably someone here tonight that is adopted. Well, here's something for you. I remember when my little girl used to read this verse. And her face would glow as she would read this word, "adoption":

"For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ..."
Romans 8:15–17.

Children are what? Heirs. What's an heir? An heir is one who shares in the estate of the father. You know, when we were going through the legal preliminaries involved in the adoption of our daughter, we discovered that an adopted child has, in a sense, more legal rights than a child that's born. Parents may disown a child who has been born to them, but parents cannot legally disown a child they have adopted and given their name.

And so, my dear friends, God seeks in all these figures and illustrations to convey some new facet of truth to us. Ah, my dear friends, God is seeking to get through to you and me with the message that He wants us. He wants to give us His name and bring us into His home, to adopt us as members of the royal family, to be forever and forever with Him—not as waifs that have been gathered into some orphan's home. But as adopted sons and daughters, sharing the full rights and privileges of all that the Father has.

Now, when we think of the relationship between parents and children, we usually think of little children. And what darlings they are. But every parent rejoices as the child gains, not only in stature but in understanding. What for? Ah, my friends, whether we spell it out or not, the real reason is this, we long for the closer fellowship that unfolding intelligence makes possible.

This is what God is longing for. He longs that as we grow in grace, we shall more and more understand why He has made us and why He has brought us into His family. He longs that we shall share that fellowship with Him.

Now, let's think of the relationship between husband and wife. Turn over to Ephesians 5, and I want you to see something wonderful here:

"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it" Ephesians 5:25.

"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church" Ephesians 5:31–32.

It's a great mystery how a man and a woman can be joined in this close fellowship like which there is no other in any human relationship. But Paul is telling us here that this great mystery of the union of the husband and wife is to help us to appreciate and understand the great mystery of the union of Christ and His people.

That's what it is for. And as some of you have studied with me in my class for husbands and wives, this, dear married couples, is the great reason for the marriage relation. It is that both husband and wife may come to know in and through that experience, how much God loves them, personally.

As the husband loves his wife with divinely given love, deep in his heart, there can come the thought, "Oh, my God, do you love me the way I love this dear wife?"

Do you love me this much?"

Back comes the answer from the heart of God, "Yes, and a thousand times more."

"Oh, Lord, if you even love me as much as I love my wife, I can't disappoint You. And You must want me to be there with you."

"Oh yes, I want you there with Me."

Do you see what I mean, dear friends?

And so with the wife, as she loves her husband, and as she appreciates the love of her husband for her, she gains a clearer insight into the mystery of divine love, which can be satisfied only with the closest union of heart and mind.

All through the Bible, in the Old Testament and the New Testament, God uses this figure of marriage as he uses the figure of the relationship of parents and children in order that He may teach us of His love.

Look at Jeremiah 2. Listen as the heart of God cries out in longing for the people of Israel as they go into backsliding. Hear Him as He calls:

"Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying, Go and cry in the ears of Jerusalem, saying, Thus saith the LORD; I remember thee, the kindness of thy youth, the love of thine espousals, when thou went after me in the wilderness..." Jeremiah 2:1-2.

Yes, God was looking back to the days of courtship and the early days of marriage, when as a nation, Israel was joined with Him. And He seeks to awaken in the heart of His backsliding people, a longing to return. Oh, my dear friends, if we could only sense how much God loves us, nothing in this world could come between Him and us.

Look at Jeremiah 3:14:

"Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD... for..."

What?

"...I am married unto you..." Jeremiah 3:14.

See what I mean, friends? This union of marriage represents the union between the soul and Christ.

Turn over to Matthew 12. Here are other relationships mentioned. You remember Christ, when on earth with His disciples, had a close-knit relationship like

a family. They were together constantly from day to day, eating together, working together, preaching, and healing.

One day Mary and the older brothers came. And as Jesus was preaching to the multitude, somebody said, "Your mother and your brethren are here and would like to speak to you." Jesus knew why they'd come, and He met them in due time, but just then He had a lesson that He wanted to give:

"But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? And who are my brethren? And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, 'Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother'" Matthew 12:48–50.

Do you see, friends? If you're willing to walk with God, He says you're His brother or His sister or even His mother. That is, He loves you like a son loves a mother. Ah, you dear white-haired saints, mothers in Israel, won't it be a wonderful thing in the kingdom of God to have Jesus welcome you, even as He welcomes the one who bore Him 2,000 years ago? And we all can be brothers and sisters of the Lord Jesus Christ. Is that what this says? That's exactly what this says, friends. Oh, what a fellowship!

Then there's the fellowship of friends. Turn over to the Gospel of John, those beautiful words that Christ spoke to His disciples that last night:

"Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knows not what his lord doeth: but I have called you...

What?

"...friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you" John 15:15.

Jesus is not only your friend, you're His friend. Did you know it? And however much you need Him, He needs you. He wants your friendship, your fellowship.

But now, somebody is saying, "Brother Frazee, I am still listening for my part."

I wonder if there could be somebody here tonight (there may be), who has never known a true father's love in this world; who has never known what it is to have the love of a truehearted mother; who has never known what it is to have the love of a husband or a wife that really loves; who has never known what it is to have the love of a brother or sister or some other relative, and who, on top of that, has never even known the love of a friend.

How could such a person understand anything that we're studying about in

this fellowship with God? I have good news for you, friend. *Ministry of Healing*, page 199. And once you get hold of this, friends, you can go out into the worse place in this world, where love seems extinct, and you tell anyone who will listen, that God has a way of getting through to that soul, whether any human being has ever been to them a representation of divine love. Listen:

“The Lord’s care is over all His creatures. He loves them all, and makes no difference, except that He has the most tender pity for those who are called to bear life’s heaviest burdens. God’s children must meet trials and difficulties. But they should accept their lot with a cheerful spirit, remembering” *Ministry of Healing*, page 199.

Now here it is. If somebody is going to get hold of this tonight, friends, it’s going to make a great difference in your life. Listen, remember, this is what we can do, if we accept our lot with a cheerful spirit:

“They should accept their lot with a cheerful spirit, remembering that for all that the world neglects to bestow, God Himself will make up to them in the best of favors” *Ibid.*

Oh friends, when I got hold of that, I thought, “This is tremendous.” Let me read it again. Did you listen? Did you hear what it said?

“Remembering that for all that the world neglects to bestow, God Himself will make up to them in the best of favors” *Ibid.*

Was your father mean and harsh? Was your mother permissive and weak? Have you been disappointed in marriage? Has the husband that you looked to, to represent Christ failed? Has the wife from whom you expected real love, shown selfishness? Have you never known a real brother’s love or a real sister’s affection? Have you never known the close fellowship of a dear friend? Listen, friends, God says He’ll make it up to you in some other way. I just read it. He’ll make it up to you.

And listen, friends, what does it mean to make up something? If somebody owes you \$10.00 and they don’t pay, and I say I’ll make it up to you, how much am I going to make up? If I give you fifty cents, would you say I had fulfilled my promise? Would you? How much am I going to give you, \$10.00, at least \$10.00.

But friends, the sentence is even more wonderful than that. There are two more wonderful things about it, besides the verb, “make up.” Listen. Who is it that’s going to do it in the case that every human being fails to deliver? Who is it that’s going to deliver? God Himself.

Oh, don’t you see, friends, all these human beings, they’re just agents, they’re just channels? That’s all. They’re just messenger boys. I want to tell you

something, friends. If there's a message that God wants to get through to you, and some telegraph boy fails to get the message through, God will find some other way to get it through to you. Don't you think He will? That's what he says.

But now there is something still more wonderful:

“For all that the world neglects to bestow, God Himself will make up to them in the best of favors” *Ibid...*

That's what it says. I didn't make it up. God Himself will make up to you in the best of favors. Say, friends, isn't that wonderful? Do you know what it seems to me that it's like? Suppose that it's time for dinner and we've been expecting to be entertained at a certain place, but lo and behold, we get there, and there's no provision for us. And suppose friends, the king or the president, hears of our plight and says, “Come. It's time for my dinner. I want you to come and eat with me.” Do you see what I mean? That's the thing.

As I tell you this, there comes back to my memory an experience that happened just a few years ago. There was an ambassador of a country that was refused service at a restaurant in the East, because of his race or color. And the president of the United States heard about it and invited him up to the White House to eat with him.

This is what we're getting hold of tonight. Listen. If some second lieutenant or sergeant down the list fails to deliver what the mighty General wants you to receive, He's going to see to it that you get it, friends.

And what is it He wants? Not to order you around. He wants you to know His love and His desire for fellowship with you. Friends, if we would ever get hold of this, we would quit complaining right now and never open our lips in feeling sorry for ourselves again. Am I right?

Listen, if some human being fails you—you married couples, if your husband or wife doesn't speak quite as kindly as you think they ought to. If they've been pretty good for a week, but tomorrow morning, they get up, kind of, you know—what are you going to do? Are you going to get down in the mouth, too? Listen. Claim this promise. For all that others fail to bestow, God Himself will make up to you in the best of favors. Why not ask God to do it and quit complaining. What do you say?

And if you look at somebody else that has a good father, a good mother, a good brother, a good sister, a good friend, and say, “Oh, if I could just have that, then I could be happy, too”—away with such thoughts, my friends.

Israel complained and murmured for nearly 40 years, and that is why it took them 40 years to get across the desert. It'll take us a long time, friends, to get to Canaan unless we quit that complaining. The way to get clear away from it is to enter in to the fellowship with God.

And so if earthly friends fail us, that's all right. If we're going to feel sorry for anybody about it, let's feel sorry for them, not for ourselves. God's going to make it up to us if we let Him.

Another gem to put with this:

"We are prone to look to our fellow men for sympathy and uplifting, instead of looking to Jesus. In His mercy and faithfulness, God often permits those in whom we place confidence to fail us, in order that we may learn the folly of trusting in man, and making flesh our arm. Let us trust fully, humbly, unselfishly in God" *Ibid.*, page 486.

Let's do it. What do you say, friends? Any of these gifts that God chooses to share with us, parents and children, husband and wife, brothers and sisters, other dear relatives and friends, let's thank Him for them, but friends, what a shame when the gift gets between us and the giver, and what a shame when if that gift is cut off entirely or to some extent, we fail to remember that God has some other way of getting through to us. He says it. I read it here:

"For all that the world neglects to bestow, God Himself will make up to them in the best of favors" *Ibid.*, page 199.

Well, do you know what I'd like? I'd like to hear that song again. Would any of you like to hear that song again? Will you folks sing it again?

My Lord and I, we hold such sweet communion.
While others fear, he keeps me from alarm.
We walk and talk along life's busy pathway.
Secure am I from things that would do harm.

Oh, let's just enter into it as the girls sing again. And friends, forget all about this man that's speaking. Forget about the dear ones that are singing. Forget about yourself. And think of the One that wants your communion, your fellowship; wants you to walk with Him—not just for what He can do for you, but because He wants to visit with you. He wants your love. He wants to talk with you. He wants to listen while you talk. He's interested in you. He needs you tonight, tomorrow, and forever.

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Thank the Lord. You know, last Friday night a number of us had the chance of witnessing how much this experience of fellowship means to us. Do you know what I'd like to do tonight, for a few minutes? I'd like to have the opportunity given to those who didn't speak last Friday night. I don't want anybody to speak tonight that spoke last Friday night. But you folks that didn't get to speak, either because you weren't here or because there wasn't time enough last Friday night, will you start coming up here right now?

You who just want to bear your witness for Jesus and tell the Lord how happy you are to know that you mean that much to him, that you are that valuable to Him and you want to tell it right out of your heart, just start walking right up to this platform now. For the next few minutes, we will just testify to the goodness of God.

[Testimony service follows]

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