

# EMBERS FROM MY FIRE

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## THE JOY OF FELLOWSHIP

Does fellowship with people at church make you happy? Does fellowship with God make you happy?

The Apostle John says in his first letter to the Church that his goal in writing was to “make our joy complete.” (1 John 1:4) He says the means for finding this “complete joy” is through having fellowship with God, and with the community of followers of Jesus Christ. (1 John 1:6-7)

The word fellowship is defined as “companionship; friendly association; a mutual sharing; a group of people with the same interests.” (Webster Concise 2ed) Translated from the Greek, the word fellowship is *kononia*: meaning -- a deep closeness and connection; a spiritual unity.

The common connection for Christians is our shared faith in Jesus Christ. This shared life in Christ is described as living in the light. Light suggests truth and moral purity. Most of us would never choose to live in darkness if we had the choice. It is easier and more effective to live in light than in darkness. John says, “God is light.” (1 John 1:5) God wants us to choose to live in Him.

A joyful life is one that is lived continually in the light of God’s presence, God’s truth, and God’s moral purity. A life of truth and moral integrity is a life that is positive, effective, and meaningful. Those who live in darkness are confused and cause harm to themselves and others as they stumble about trying to grasp at some unidentified happiness. We all are attracted to the darkness at times but it is crucial to recognize that darkness really stands for everything that is the opposite of what is most cherished in life. God is light!

The Church is called to be a community of light. We share the light of the presence of the Holy Spirit living inside of us. We share the joy of salvation through Jesus Christ. We share the freedom of a God-directed morality. We share the truth of a worldview that is revealed by God in His eternal Word.

There is nothing in this world that gives greater joy than being in God’s flock and following Jesus the Good Shepherd. No matter what denomination or church a person belongs to, we still share a common central goal: to follow Jesus Christ in the way of light.

That is why I invented the word “followship” in the title of this article. Our shared fellowship is in following Christ. Following Jesus is the real joy we all are desperately searching to find. It is the complete joy.

I am thankful to the Lord for having fellowship with all of us through Jesus Christ. and I am thankful for all of you having fellowship with me. I pray that the interior Light of God’s Spirit will give each of us an unshakeable joy.

Happy Thanksgiving!

*Pastor Ken*