

PRACTICING THE FELLOWSHIP WITH OUR GROUPS

- In every group meeting, we need to practice to follow the Spirit's inner leading so that we learn to know one another, contact one another, and love one another
- We need to learn to deny our own habit by recognizing the impact it has on our practice of the group meeting, and through the exercise of our spirit, be ready to have fellowship with the members of our group
- We need to be limited by the oneness, drop our own views and opinions, and respect our fellow member's feelings

FELLOWSHIPING TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER THOROUGHLY IN CHRIST AND ACCORDING TO OUR PRESENT SITUATION IN CHRIST

In every group meeting the first thing we should practice is to fellowship. In your initial practice of the fellowship you should get acquainted with one another in every detail of your status, your spiritual condition, and your present situation in the Lord. If possible, fellowship concerning everything. When we are fellowshiping in the groups, we need to follow the inner Spirit. Furthermore, our fellowship must be living, organic, and spontaneous. We should know one another very thoroughly, in an up-to-date way.

We might have met in the same locality with certain saints for years without knowing their name or the name of their spouse. This is not real fellowship. We are merely "skating on the ice." We never got through the ice to the bottom of the water. This time in the group meetings the fellowship should be first ice-cutting and then ice-removing. Then all of us need to dive into the current to know one another thoroughly. If we do not know one another, we cannot love one another. We cannot love anything that we do not know. But the more we know one another in

the proper way, the more we will love one another. (*Fellowship Concerning the Urgent Need of the Vital Groups* Ch. 9)

ALLOWING CHRIST TO BE THE FELLOWSHIP AND THE LIMIT OF THE FELLOWSHIP FOR BUILDING INTIMACY AMONG THE MEMBERS

Fellowship is the flowing, the current, of the oneness...The intimate and thorough fellowship is in Christ. Christ is the element, and Christ is also the sphere, the limit, of that fellowship. That fellowship actually is Christ Himself, because Christ is the element of the fellowship, and He is the sphere of the fellowship.

The way to have an intimate and thorough fellowship is to exercise our spirit. Whenever we speak something in fellowship, we need to exercise our spirit...In the vital groups we need to fellowship concerning our status, our spiritual condition, and our present situation in and with the Lord.

We need to build up an intimacy with all the members of our group. To do this, one sister may call another during the day for a few minutes of contact and fellowship. If we love one another, we will always feel that we miss one another. If we would contact one another in this way, we will see the difference. We will be enlivened and stirred up to love the Lord. Our hearts will also be softened toward one another, and we will be able to receive something from one another. (*Fellowship Concerning the Urgent Need of the Vital Groups* Ch. 10)

OUR LACK BEING REMEDIED BY DENYING OUR HABIT AND HAVING A LIVING FELLOWSHIP

The remedy for our condition is to remember that we are a trouble to the church...Therefore, when we come to the meetings, we must come full of prayer. While we are driving on the way, we should pray, "Lord, save me from my habit. Lord, tonight I am going to the fellowship meeting; tell me what I should fellowship with my brothers." The Lord is living. He will not say any word to you to tell you what to do, but He will inspire you. When you get into the meeting, He may lead you to say, "Praise the Lord. I am so happy today, brothers." This is a good beginning to the fellowship. One of the brothers near you may ask, "Brother, may I know what you are happy about today?" You may reply, "I am just happy about the Lord. Today the Lord corrected me. I can tell you only this much. At another time I will tell you more. How about you? Are you happy with the Lord?" This is the way to have a living fellowship. (*Fellowship Concerning the Urgent Need of the Vital Groups* Ch. 9)

KEEPING THE ONENESS IN OUR FELLOWSHIP BY FOLLOWING THE SPIRIT'S DIRECTION AND RESPECTING OUR FELLOW MEMBERS' FEELINGS

Finally, to keep the oneness of the Spirit, we need to follow the Spirit's direction and respect our fellow members' feeling. Regardless of our view or opinion, we should always follow the Spirit. We must turn to the spirit to follow the direction of the Holy Spirit within us, and we must respect and take care of others' feeling. (*Fellowship Concerning the Urgent Need of the Vital Groups* Ch. 10)

FELLOWSHIP QUESTIONS:

1. Describe your status, your spiritual condition, and your present situation in the Lord with one another based on your practice of morning revival and touching the Word daily. What are some positive elements, and what are areas you need help in (e.g. the amount of time spent, the depth of your enjoyment, learning how to spend time with the Lord, pray reading, singing, praising, etc.)?
2. How do we experience having fellowship that is actually Christ flowing between us? How is this related to exercising our spirit and being limited by Christ as the element and sphere of our fellowship? Can we pray with our group about entering into this experience? What means would help us to practice this kind of fellowship each time we meet?
3. Are we able to recognize aspects of our participation in the group meetings that are our "default" or habit, and maintain a more formal or ritualistic practice of the group meetings? How does the time we spend with the Lord beforehand help us to deny our habit and be freshly inspired by the Lord with what to fellowship with our group?
4. What does it mean for us to respect and take care of one another's feelings by following the spirit and keeping the oneness?