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# Growing as a Disciple in Daily Life

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A high-angle, close-up photograph of architectural blueprints spread out on a dark surface. A silver fountain pen with a blue barrel lies diagonally across the left side of the frame. The blueprints show detailed floor plans with various rooms and structural lines. In the upper right corner, there is a small, solid yellow horizontal bar. The overall lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights and deep shadows.

**Acts 2:42**

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## Pillar 2 - Fellowship

Acts 2:42 - They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to **fellowship**...

# Fellowship Defined

**Koinonia** – “Partnership,” “sharing,” or “close relationship”

- “In Acts 2:42 *koinōnía* denotes, not the Christian society nor its community of goods, but the family fellowship established and expressed in the church’s life.” (TDNTA)
- “Love demands nearness.” – Alex Strauch

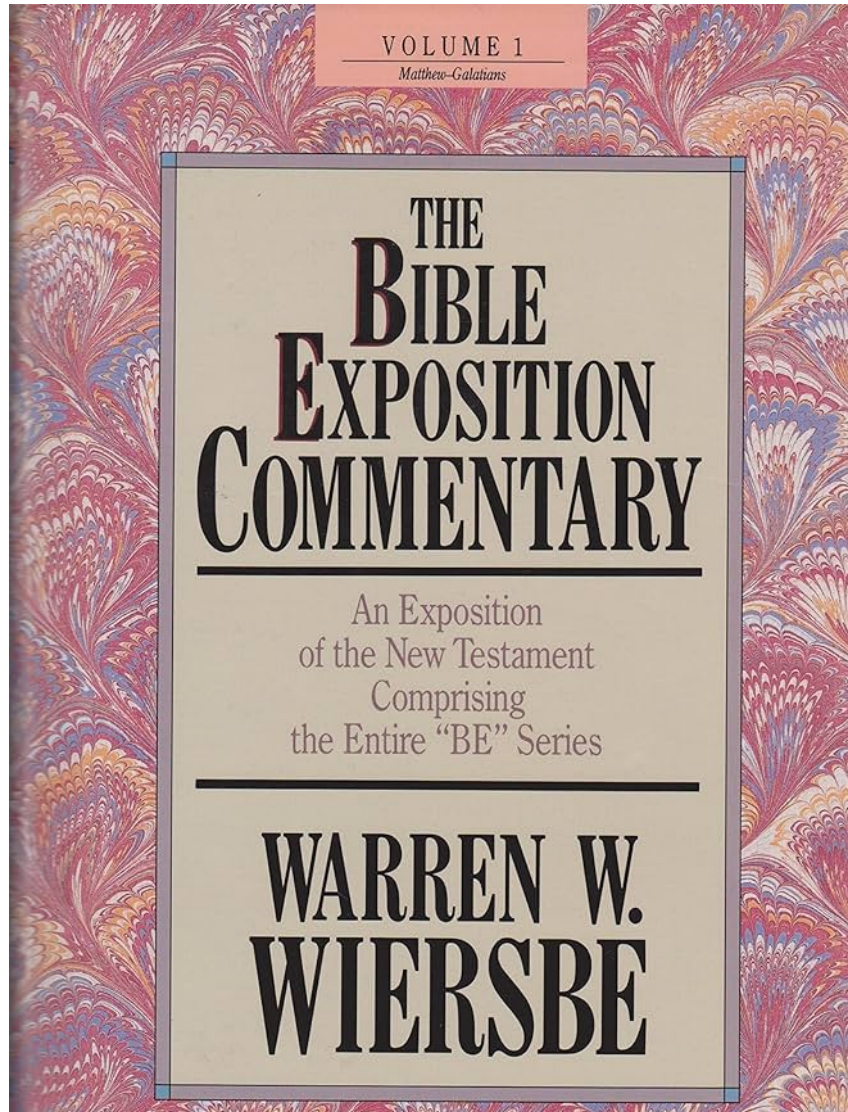
# Fellowship Defined

Acts 2:42 - They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the **breaking of bread** and to **prayer**.

- V. 44 – All those who had believed were together and had all things in common
- V. 46 – In various homes

# Fellowship Defined

- **Acts 2:42** - They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' **teaching** and to **fellowship**, to the breaking of **bread** and to **prayer**.
  - They Learned Doctrine
  - They Shared Life
  - They Shared Meals
  - They Shared Prayers



“The Christians you meet in the Book of Acts were not content to meet once a week for “services as usual.” They met daily (Acts 2:46), cared daily (Acts 6:1), won souls daily (Acts 2:47), searched the Scriptures daily (Acts 17:11), and increased in number daily (Acts 16:5).” - Wiersbe

# Fellowship Defined

The commitment of **followers of Jesus** to live life in intentional **partnership** with others with the goal of **mutual conformity** to the likeness of Christ.

# Fellowship p Restored

## Fellowship **Created** – Genesis 1-2

- God & Man
- Man & Man

“God has created human life to have fellowship with him but also to be a social entity, building relationships with other human beings.” (NAC)

# Fellowship Restored

## Fellowship **Broken** – Genesis 3:6-7

- God & Man
  - Gen 3:8
  - Gen 3:23-24
- Man & Man
  - Gen 3:12, 16
  - Gen 4:8


# Fellowship p Restored

## Fellowship **Restored** - 1 John 1:3

- What we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have **fellowship with us**; and indeed our **fellowship is with the Father**, and with His Son Jesus Christ.

Restored Fellowship with God

Restores Fellowship with Others



“Social activities can’t be equated or confused with fellowship. They are distinctly different. Nothing compares to the fellowship we enjoy when we worship together, study and apply Scripture together, encourage and correct each other, and communicate to one another our current experiences with God...Social activities can create a context for fellowship, but they are a place to begin—not a place to remain.” – *Why Small Groups?*

# Fellowship Restored

- “Where are you struggling right now?”
- “How is God working in your life right now?”
- “How did that event affect you?”
- “What do you think you can learn from this?”
- “How can I be praying for you?”

# Fellowship Understood

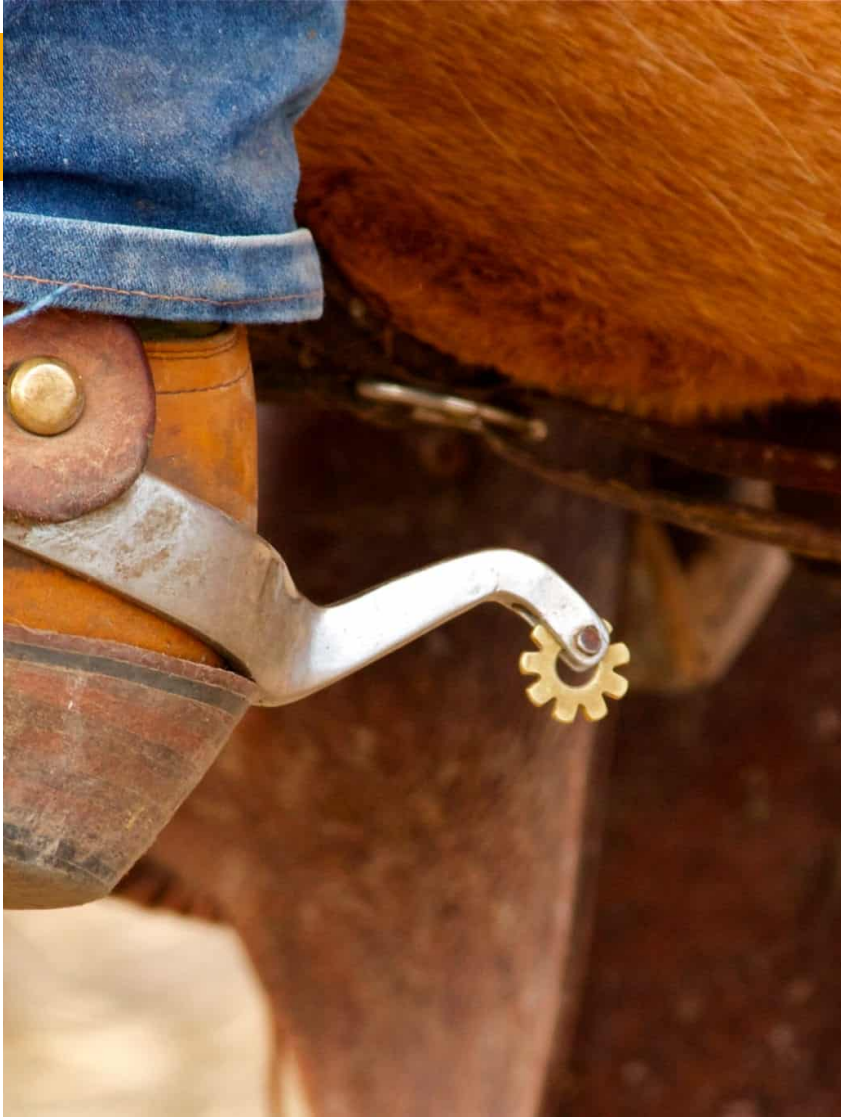
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- Focus of Fellowship



# Focus #1 – Others

**Heb 10:25** - Not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.



# Focus #1 – Others

- **Heb. 10:24** – “And let us **consider** how to stimulate one **another** to love and good deeds,
  - **Consider** – “Observe well, learn, think about carefully”
  - **One Another** – The Proper Focus

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Carry one another's burdens (Gal 6:2)

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Forgive one another (Eph 4:32)

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Teach, admonish each other (Col 3:16)

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Encourage one another (1 Th 5:11)

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Build up one another (1 Th 5:11)

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Spur one another on (Heb 10:24)

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Offer hospitality (1 Pet 4:9)

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Minister gifts (1 Pet 4:10)

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Confess your sins (Jas 5:16)

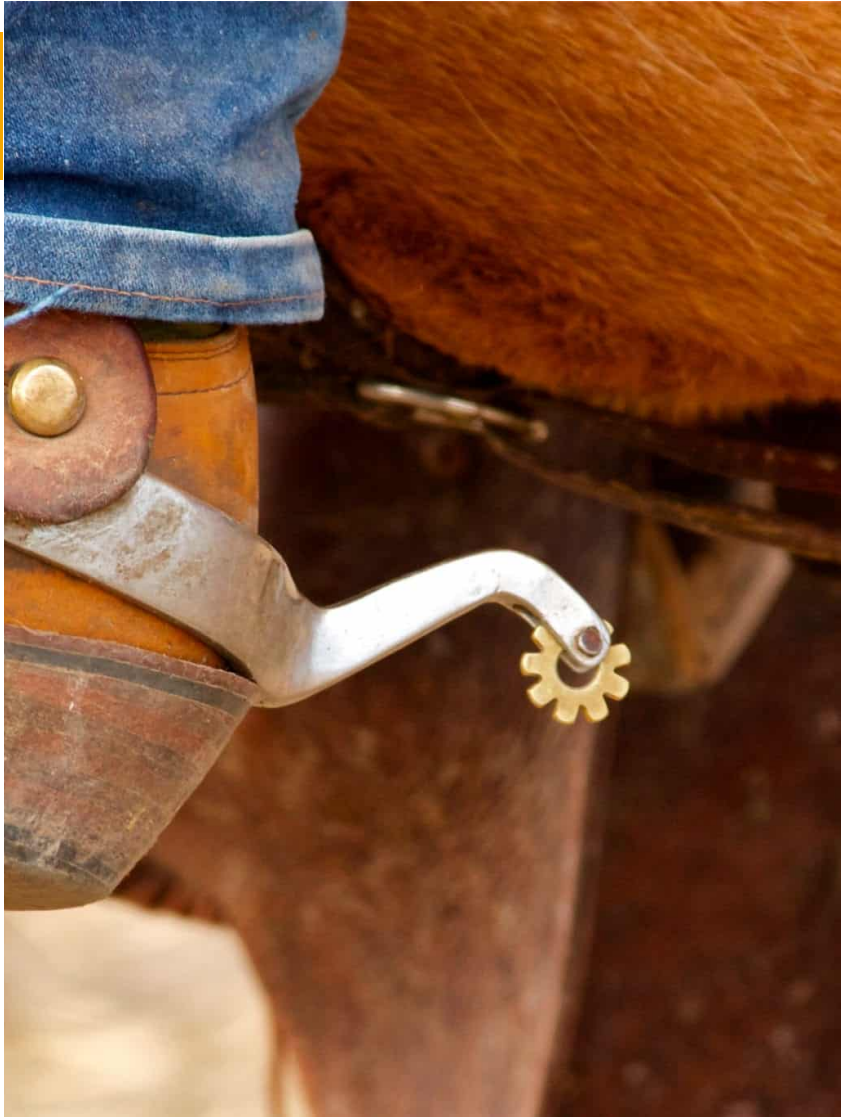
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Pray for (Jas 5:16)

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Fellowship (1 Jn 1:7)

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## Focus #2 – Sanctification

- **Heb. 10:24** – “And let us consider how to **stimulate** one another to **love and good deeds**...”
  - **Stimulate** – “Rousing to activity,” “provoking,” “Stimulating a change”

# Christian Fellowship

“We should not think of our fellowship with other Christians as a spiritual luxury, an optional addition to the exercises of private devotions. Fellowship is one of the great words of the New testament: it denotes something that is vital to a Christian’s spiritual health, and central to the Church’s true life...the church will flourish and Christians will be strong only when there is fellowship.” J.I. Packer, *God’s Words*, 193

# Fellowship Understood

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- Focus of Fellowship
- Obstacles to Fellowship

# Obstacles - Self-Sufficiency

“If we desire to be perceived as competent and in control, we will not ask for prayer. If we know that humans, by nature, are spiritually needy, and God’s plan is that we turn both to him and to other people for help, we will ask for prayer.” - Ed Welch (*Side by Side*, 60)



# Obstacles - Self-Sufficiency

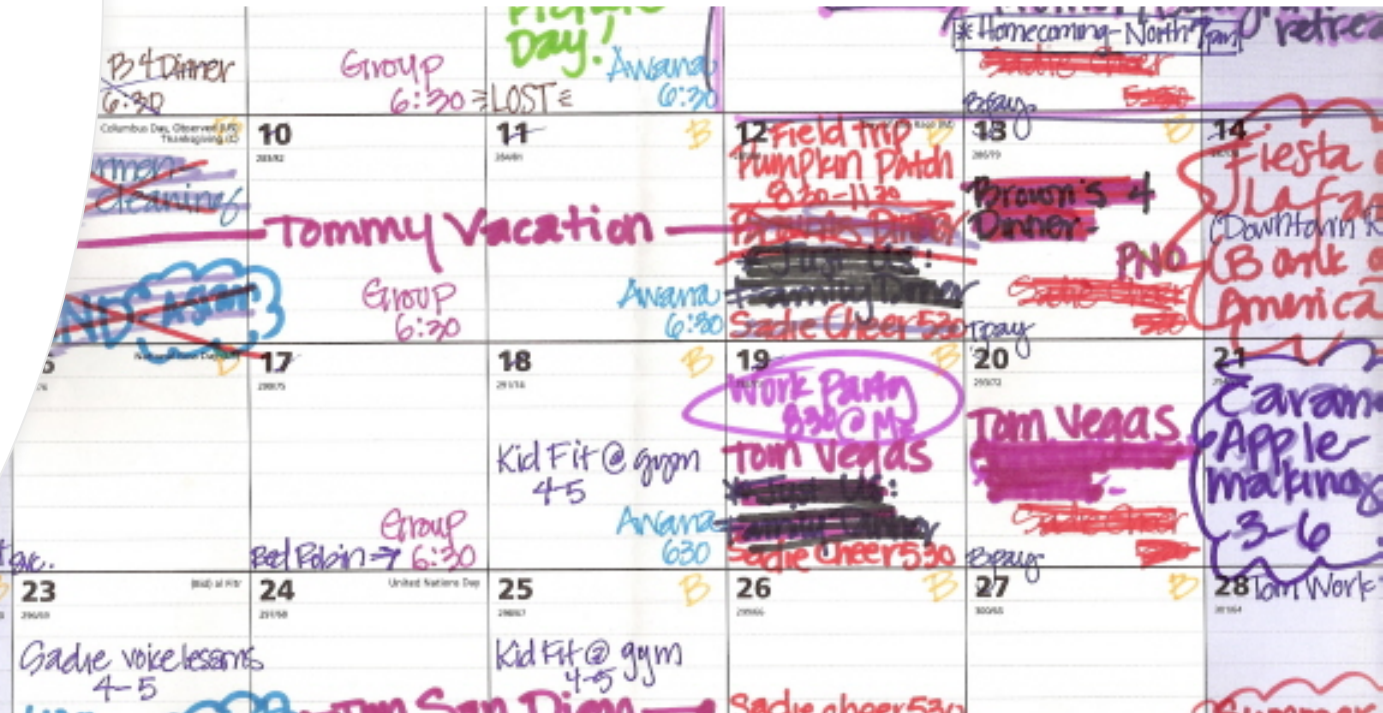
James 5:16 - Therefore, **confess your sins** to one another, and **pray** for one another so that you may be **healed**.

# Obstacles - Self-Sufficiency

“Every one of us is a saint in isolation! It’s in community that our real weakness, flaws, and sins are exposed. That’s why community is essential—not optional—for transformation. We can’t become the people God wants us to become outside of community.” – *The Gospel-Centered Community*

# Obstacles - Business

- Relationships Take Time
  - We have Precious Little to Give
- What Are Priorities?
- You will always make time for what is most important.



# Getting Started

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“Perhaps you, like many Christians, want to know what you can do for the Lord or how to use your spiritual gift(s). Your home is the ideal place in which to start serving. You can invite people into your home for prayer. You can reach out to new people at church or in your neighborhood. You can help believers get to know one another better...”

Strauch, *The Hospitality Commands*, 18-19

