"God is faithful, and by him you were called to fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord." 1 Corinthians 1:9

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### Holy Fellowship with Our Lord God

The profoundly rich Hebrew languages gives us such deep insights into the multifaceted expressions of fellowship. *Why is this important to us as Christians?* 

Because the different words and meanings of fellowship provide us a deeper understanding of the gifts and opportunities that God has laid before us, to bring us back into union with Him, as Adam was in the Garden before the fall.

The relationship between God and Adam embodied the spiritual richness of true fellowship. It was this fellowship that Jesus came to restore, as He modeled it for all of humanity to emulate. Let's look at some of the Hebrew words for fellowship, that express different dimensions of relationship to God the Father.<sup>1</sup>

- ✦ Sod Council, counsel
  - ✦ Job 15:8 "Do you hear <u>the secret counsel of God</u>, and do you limit [the possession of] wisdom to yourself?

 $\bullet$  Chabar — to unite, be joined

Job 29:4-5 "As I was in the prime of my days, when the friendship and counsel of God were over my tent, <u>when the Almighty was still with me</u>."

 $\bullet$  Tesumeth — a pledge, security (violating a trust or pledge)

Leviticus 6:2, 4, 5 "When anyone sins and acts unfaithfully against the Lord by deceiving his neighbor in regard to <u>a deposit or a security</u> entrusted to him, or through robbery, or if he has extorted from his neighbor....he shall restore what

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Hat tip to Biblehub.com

he took or anything about which he has sworn falsely; he shall not only restore it in full, but shall add to it one-fifth more."

✦ Mathoq — to become or be sweet or pleasant

- Psalm 55:14 "We who had <u>sweet fellowship (intimacy)</u> together, who walked to the house of God in company."
- $\bullet$  Shelem a sacrifice for alliance or friendship, a peace offering
  - Ezekiel 43:27 "…The priests shall offer your burnt offerings on the altar, and your peace offerings; and I will accept you,' says the Lord God."
- $\bullet$  Arab to give a pledge
  - Genesis 43:9 "<u>I will be security (a guarantee</u>) for him; you may hold me [personally] responsible for him."
  - Isaiah 38:14 "O Lord, I am oppressed, take my side and <u>be my security</u>."
- ✤ Yatsar to form, to fashion
  - Genesis 2:7 "Then the Lord God <u>formed [that is, created</u> the body of] man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being."
  - Psalm 33:15 (13-15) "The Lord looks [down] from heaven; He sees all the sons of man; from His dwelling place He looks closely upon all the inhabitants of the earth— <u>He who fashions the hearts</u> of them all, who considers and understands all that they do."
  - Specifically God the Creator formed/fashioned, planned
- $\bullet$  Halak to go, come, walk
  - Genesis 3:8 "And they heard the sound of <u>the Lord God walking in the garden</u> in the cool [afternoon breeze] of the day."
  - Genesis 5:22 & 24 "Enoch <u>walked [in habitual fellowship]</u> with God; And [in <u>reverent fear and obedience] Enoch walked with God</u>."
  - Conveys a supernatural kind of movement

So from these dimensions of fellowship with God, we can fashion a New Year's pledge of deeper fellowship and union with God the Father and His Son Jesus Yeshua.

### **Going Before Our Heavenly Father and Christ Jesus**

### Sod – Council, counsel

- Job 15:8 describes the sod of fellowship: "Do you hear <u>the secret counsel of God</u>, and do you limit [the possession of] wisdom to yourself?
- Heavenly Father, I long to be in a deeper relationship with You. I don't fully know what that even looks like, but I want more spiritual depth, to know You more deeply, and therefore to know myself more deeply spiritually.

### Chabar – to unite, be joined

- ✦ Job 29:4-5 speaks of the chabar of fellowship: "As I was in the prime of my days, when the friendship and counsel of God were over my tent, <u>when the Almighty was</u> <u>still with me</u>."
- Heavenly Father, please remove whatever stands in the way of being truly united, joined with You. I understand that being united with You enables me to walk as the spirit You created me to be, to live from my indwelling spirit, to have your Spirit as my operating system, to live as your Divine Will.

### *Tesumeth* – a pledge, security (or violating a trust or pledge)

- Leviticus 6:2, 4 & 5 contains the tesumeth of fellowship: "When anyone sins and acts unfaithfully against the Lord by deceiving his neighbor in regard to <u>a deposit or</u> <u>a security</u> entrusted to him, or through robbery, or if he has extorted from his neighbor....he shall restore what he took or anything about which he has sworn falsely; he shall not only restore it in full, but shall add to it one-fifth more."
- Heavenly Father, at this time when we have the tradition of New Year's pledges, I pledge You my heart. I pledge You my life. I pledge to live your Divine Will.

#### Mathoq - to become or be sweet or pleasant

Psalm 55:14 contains the mathoq of fellowship: "We who had <u>sweet fellowship</u> (intimacy) together, who walked to the house of God in company."

Dear Heavenly Father, please reveal to me what is this "sweet fellowship", this kind of tender intimacy with You. I release to You anything in me that would stand in the way of that "sweet fellowship"; any rancor, bitterness, resentments, offenses, jealousy, anything that causes mistrust and wariness.

#### Shelem - a sacrifice for alliance or friendship, a peace offering

- Ezekiel 43:27 speaks of the shelem of fellowship: "The priests shall offer your burnt offerings on the altar, and <u>your peace offerings</u>; and I will accept you,' says the Lord God."
- ✦ Heavenly Father, my peace offerings to You include gestures of love, to fulfill your Law of Love, to love You and others. My peace offerings include forgiving others for ways they have hurt, betrayed or mistreated me. My peace offerings include acts of kindness and generosity towards others, expressions of compassion and empathy, taking time from my own world and schedule to minister to others. My peace offerings are Shalom offerings to heal relationships and repair breaches.

#### Arab – to give a pledge

- Genesis 43:9 contains the arab of fellowship: "<u>I will be security (a guarantee</u>) for him; you may hold me [personally] responsible for him."
- Isaiah 38:14 says: "O Lord, I am oppressed, take my side and <u>be my security</u>."
- Heavenly Father, I renew my vows of love to You. I commit to being more mindful on a daily basis as to how I am loving You, by how I show up in this world, by how I communicate and interact with others, by how I release petty offenses and annoyances, by how I repent for my wrong turns and ways.

### *Yatsar* – to form, to fashion; specifically how God the Creator formed/fashioned

- Genesis 2:7 describes the yatsar of fellowship: "Then the Lord God formed [that is, created the body of] man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being."
- Psalm 33:13-15 says: "The Lord looks [down] from heaven; He sees all the sons of man; from His dwelling place He looks closely upon all the inhabitants of the earth — <u>He who fashions the hearts</u> of them all, who considers and understands all that they do."

Dear Heavenly Father, this aspect of fellowship reminds me that You literally created me. If You fashioned my heart, that means it can and it should resemble yours. Please remove from me anything in my heart that is not part of your original design for my heart. I give over any inherited and learned traits of the heart that are not of You. I lay them at the feet of Christ Jesus. Please gently and lovingly remove from my heart, circumcise my heart, of anything that prevents me from loving and giving mercy, kindness, forgiveness as You do.

### Halak - to go, come, walk; conveys a supernatural kind of movement

- Genesis 3:8 describes the halak of fellowship: "And they heard the sound of <u>the</u> <u>Lord God walking in the garden</u> in the cool [afternoon breeze] of the day."
- Genesis 5:22 & 24 says: "Enoch <u>walked [in habitual fellowship]</u> with God; and [in <u>reverent fear and obedience] Enoch walked with God</u>."
- Dear Heavenly Father, surely Enoch is the ultimate model of right and holy fellowship with You. Please help me to walk with You as Enoch has. Purify my mind, heart and soul, my ego and character, of everything that stands in the way of walking with You as Enoch did.

### Formula for Fellowship

- ✦ Lord God, 1 John 1:6-10 provides an incredible guideline for being in fellowship as You created us to be: "If we say, 'We have fellowship with him,' while we continue to walk in darkness, we lie and do not act in truth. But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, then we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of his Son Jesus cleanses us from all sin. "Walk in the Light" means not having any part of me in the shadows, being aware of my flaws and shortcomings and bringing them to light to release them to You.
- ◆ Walking in fellowship requires radical self-examination and self-honesty, as 1 John 1:8-10 describes: "If we say, 'We are without sin,' we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we acknowledge our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from every wrongdoing. If we say, 'We have not sinned,' we make him a liar, and his word is not in us."

- So Heavenly Father, I commit to continual self-examination, to releasing my own leaven, repenting of my own sins; making prayer penance and peace offerings as reparations of love.
- ♦ I commit to humility, obedience and heeding your call for how You want me to serve, where, when and with whom; without hesitation, excuses or delays. I commit to living in your Divine Will as my operating system. In this way, walking and living in true fellowship with You and Christ Jesus.

#### **Sealing Prayer:**

In the witness of the Hosts of Heaven, I commit to: Living a life worthy of the calling to which I have been called [that is, living a life that exhibits godly character, moral courage, personal integrity, and mature behaviora life that expresses gratitude to God for my salvation], with all humility [forsaking self-righteousness], and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in unselfish love. I commit to Making every effort to keep the oneness of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body of believers and one Spirit. just as I was called to one hope when called to salvation, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all who is sovereign over all and working through all and living in all. Ephesians 4:1-6 AMP