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Dear friends,

I am very excited about my topic of conversation with you this month because it epitomises the very reason J.B.M. was established in the first place: -

“FELLOWSHIP”!!!

*The Lord told me to “**prepare a place**”; a room; somewhere where the brotherhood of the brethren, and any other seeking soul, could come to, “**...be still, and know that I am God!**”*

It was to be a place where we can spend time together, honing our spiritual skills, be they many, or few.

*It was to be a place where we can “**...rightly divide the Word of Truth!**”*

*It was to be a place where **love**, is the beginning and the end, of everything we do and say.*

*It was to be a place where one could come and **know** that one would be **heard**, and **loved**, though **not always agreed with**.*

*It was to be a place where we could embrace one another, and God could embrace us all, in a spirit of **unity**.*

*It was to be a place of **fellowship!** Amen.*

*Now when I open my bible up at 1-John 1:3-4 [Amp], and read - “**What we have seen and [ourselves] heard, we are telling you, so that you too may realise and enjoy fellowship as partners and partakers with us. And [this] fellowship that we have [which is a distinguishing mark of Christians] is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ [the Messiah.] And we are now writing these things to you so that our joy [in seeing you included] may be full [and your joy may be complete].**”...that really excites my spirit. To know that I am on the right track, and to have God find times and*

opportunities to confirm to me, and with me, in my spirit, that I am listening and doing what He has instructed, is a wonderful place of fellowship! Just He and I!!! And then, He gently reminds me of the **vision** I started with, and how far **we** have come in this **journey of obedience, together. Wow!!! That's fellowship at its best!!!**

I continued on to read in verses 5, 6 and 7 and found things like: - **“...this is the message of promise...”** and **“God is Light, and there is no darkness in Him at all.... [So] if we say we are partakers together and enjoy fellowship with Him when we live and move and are walking about in darkness, we are [both] speaking falsely and do not live and practise the Truth [which the Gospel presents]. But if we [really] are living and walking in the Light, as He [Himself] is in the Light, we have [true, unbroken] fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses [removes] us from all sin and guilt [keeps us cleansed from sin in all its forms and manifestations].”**

This “fellowship” is to be the “distinguishing mark of the Christians,” and I felt like the Lord had made it very clear, by the time I reached chapter 3:10 and read:- **“By this it is made clear who take their nature from God and are his children and who take their nature from the devil and are his children: no one who does not practise righteousness [who does not conform to God’s will in purpose, thought, and action] is of God; neither is anyone who does not love his brother [his fellow believer in Christ].”** This is love in its purest form. **This is true fellowship enjoyed and celebrated within the body of Christ, the family of believers.** And simply reading these things and not doing them, is totally unacceptable. We must take this opportunity to be true **doers** of the word, not merely **hearers**. **Love is a doing word. It requires ACTION!! Amen!**

I just want to take a minute and personalise this for you. My family have had a year of trials and tribulations; one death after another; two mothers and a grandmother, and a very dear friend. Then we got word of another dear friend who had emergency surgery, in a city far removed from family and friends. I was 15 hours’ drive away, so I called a fellow believer, and lifelong friend, and asked would she mind visiting with this dear couple on my behalf. Her response was **instant, positive, and incredibly reassuring**, that God is truly still on the **Throne**, and in control of the Christian brother or sister, who, so wears with honour, **the badge of allegiance**. That **badge**, we are told in verse 3 of chapter 1, is that of **“fellowship”... the distinguishing mark of the Christian!** When I tried to make it clear that I didn’t want her to feel compelled or under obligation, again her **response was instant, positive and reassuring**. She said “Oh, Leil’, **we are supposed to be family**. I would call you, if I had a similar request.” I don’t think she realised how that warmed my heart, and I thanked my God for the real life lesson, I received in that instant.

We are *family*. We need to be *fellowshipping together*. We need to practise what we preach. We can't always be everything to everyone. That's not what God intended anyway. But He did intend for us to *fellowship* together, and to encourage one another, even when circumstances sometimes requires us to **go the extra mile**.

I pray you make room in your heart, and on your lapel, to wear with honour, the distinguishing mark of the Christian.... "FELLOWSHIP"!!!
God bless you as we journey together, along this road of caring and sharing.

Till next month,

From my house to yours,

Blessings of the abundant kind,

Leila Nord.

