

# Nehemiah 3

Sunday 8/10/2003

In the book of Nehemiah chapter 3, we have been talking about building the church because that is what we are doing. I decided to teach this book because it is such a practical book, even though it is found in the Old Testament. It is such a practical book that really shows the process by which you build a church, because a church is not a building. It is not bricks. It is not mortar. It is people. Our responsibility is to reach people.

We get the idea that a church today is just a place that you go, that it is a building. We see back in the Middle Ages, they built great cathedrals. Those great cathedrals are noted as great churches. But all those great cathedrals are dead now. There is nobody going to those churches in Europe. The church is not a building; the church is people.

When you look at the Old Testament, you see a literal application of this because, as I have said already many, many times, the thing that I want to drive home is that the nation of Israel, Jerusalem in particular here, is in great disarray. They have been taken over by Gentiles and Gentile philosophy of life, which is an unsaved, unregenerate philosophy that destroyed the program of God and left the city of God in great disarray and a great mess. When Nehemiah goes down to look at it, as you read here in the beginning of the chapter, he sees it all in the mess that it is in, and he goes and grabs some people and says, "Look, in the midst of all this carnage, in the midst of all this destruction, let us do a work for God and try to do it right."

By taking those steps, he begins to rebuild the wall, and on this wall are nine gates. These nine gates are the way that you go into the city. I told you last week we talked about the Dung Gate. That is the gate that comes out. There are eight gates that you go in; there is one gate that brings the trash out. We talked about how Bible doctrine is the key for any church. It has to be the basis by which the church is built on. It has to be the basis by which your life is built on. When that thing is put in its place in the right fashion, you are going to become a strong Christian, and the church is going to become a strong church. That is all there is to it.

Today, we are going to talk about the next gate down here in verse 15, and that is what the verse says down here, "the gate of the fountain," the Fountain Gate.

## I. The Fountain Gate: Worship and Fellowship

The Fountain Gate represents our worship and our fellowship with God, and that is probably one of the most key aspects of this church and your own personal life, because the word worship is a Christian word, but we have lost the concept of it today. We think that worship means prayer. We think it means singing. We think that when you go to a church service and you have a nice warm feeling because somebody sang a nice song or you feel like God has touched you or whatever, we think that is worship. I have even been to churches that talked about having a worship service. I have even heard a guy get up and say, "Worship God this morning with your tithes and your offering." We have come to the aspect where we have really lost the concept of that. When you get back to studying the Gate of Fountain, you really see and understand what worship and fellowship are. What we are going to do today is what we always do. We are going to go to the

Bible and we are going to define the Fountain Gate. We are going to define from the Bible what worship is and what fellowship is so you understand. This church has to have an avenue of worship. Having an avenue of worship does not do you any good if you do not understand what worship is.

## II. The Erosion of Values: Secular Humanism's Impact

I am reading a book right now called Secular Humanism. It is a book that was written a number of years ago, and it is a book that I have really never read. I had it for years and never got around to it. I was getting my study all put back together and going through it, and I saw this little book that is called Secular Humanism. I thought to myself, "You know what, I am going to look at that." I just sat down for a minute, took a break from what I was doing, to look at it. Next thing I know, five hours later, I was still in the book. Then I decided, "You know what, I am going to make this a study and sometime I am going to teach this." So I started to get my little notebook and pad out and go to work on it. I started to outline this whole thing. It is one of the greatest little books I ever read.

What it does, it shows how there was a plan to destroy this country and in time destroy the churches of this country. When you read the book, back in 1933 and again in 1973, there were two documents that were written called the Humanist Manifesto. There was Humanist Manifesto 1 and Humanist Manifesto 2. What that was, it was a document written of the goals of humanists. It was signed by all the great humanists of the day. It was a piece of paper talking about what their goals were, how they were going to accomplish what they believed, and how they intended to accomplish these goals. Let me just say, they are ahead of schedule as we speak here in the year 2003.

One of the goals, and there were a number of them, but one of the goals that they had, and I bring it up because of where we are at in our text today and where we are at in our message today, one of the goals that they had was to change the system of values in our country. They wanted to change the system of values from a system that was built on trusting in God and change it to a system that is built on trusting in man. Humanism in its most basic form simply gets rid of God and puts man in the place of God. One of their major goals, one of the things that had to happen, was to change the value system in America, in our country, from one that was believing in God's standards to one that believes in man's standards. They have accomplished that.

This book goes in, and then I got three or four other books that I found that all added the thing together. One of these days when we get to the point, we are going to have a great study on what is wrong with America and help you better understand what is going on. As I began to look at that, I began to realize, that is exactly what they have done. They have changed the dynamics of America. They have changed the standards in America, the values in America. That is why America is in the chaos that it is today.

Stop and think. You remember back in the 50s, even in the 40s, some of the old movies that you will watch on television, you realize that when they portrayed a husband and wife and they were in a bedroom together, they could not even have a single bed in there. They had to have twin

beds. They did not even want to give the illusion of two people being in the same bed together. They had two separate beds. You go back and you look at *Leave It to Beaver*, and *Wally Cleaver*, and all those things, and *Ozzie and Harriet* and all those things. Back then it was too risqué. It was too bad in a moral sense to even show a man and a woman married in a bedroom with one single bed, giving the idea that those two sleep in the same bed together. They had to separate that out and keep it above board that they slept in two separate beds just to take the imagination out of it. We have come a long way in life. Those things are gone. The value system has changed. It has been changed. It has been changed very subtly, but it has been changed.

We look now and we see in our society, and this is the answer to a lot of things. We look in our society and the world talks about life. The world, they put life as the highest priority. They look at all the people being killed in Africa and all these places. There are peacekeepers down there and the people in destitute and life and all those things. The same government, the same society that will go out and do that will murder unborn babies in the womb and not think anything about it. Our value system has changed.

It was a time when the word homosexual was a word that was never used in public. It was a closet word. Nobody wanted to know. You go back in the 1800s and show me Gay Pride Week. Go to the 1900s. There was not any. But you see, it has changed. Now it is not only that they want it to be an accepted lifestyle, it pretty much is an accepted lifestyle because our value system has changed. We have starving people out in our country in this city who do not have any place to stay, who do not have anything to eat. It is true around this country and we are spending \$50,000, \$100,000 because some sperm whale got trapped in an ice flow someplace and cannot get back to his family. What is wrong with that? Kill him, cut him up, eat him, make oil out of his blubber, whatever. It is unbelievable. I step back sometimes and I say to myself, "What is wrong with this country?" We live in a country now where if a crime takes place, the criminal has all the rights and you as a victim do not have any. They have done their job.

In the last 70 years, Satan through his unregenerate man, and the Bible says there are many devices in a man's heart, but the counsel of the Lord that shall stand, but unsaved man through the value system of an unregenerate mind, that unregenerate heart has worked, the devil has used him, and the process has not only destroyed America by changing the definitions and changing the value system. You cannot change the value of things without changing the definition. We today in America, we have forgotten what once were the true values and we have come now in our own lives where we do not understand the values of things. We do not understand what is going on in America and all the definitions have changed. What was valuable like the family, what was held up and valuable like marriage is now destroyed. That is why this country is in such a mess.

### III. The Church's Decline and Lost Definitions

It would be one thing if it just stayed in the unsaved world, but unfortunately, whatever happens in America in the secular world in time creeps into Christianity. It is just the way that it is. Of course, the secular humanist party's plan is to destroy organized religion, to set up the values of humanism over the values of the Word of God. I might say they have done it just as well in

Christianity as they have in the secular world. I bring to your attention again, we talked about it Thursday night, what is wrong with a country that has to elect a gay bishop within their church? Where do you get that from? I am not fighting anybody, but I am just saying, show me in the Word of God where that is okay. That is the extreme, but we see it not only in those kind of churches, we see it in all the churches.

I must say this, if you know your Bible, you know that the Bible says in Revelation chapter 3, where it deals with the Laodicean church, you understand very clearly that the mark of the Laodicean church is the church that had its value systems changed. It says back there, and we do not have to turn back to it, you can look it up on your own, but it says back there that that church speaking for itself says, "We have increased with goods, we have all these things, we do not need anything." God says back to them, "You need to look at the true riches, and you need to get gold tried in the fire," because the church today has the wrong value system and having the wrong value system, I promise you, they have the wrong definition of things. I will show you what I mean.

When I look at Nehemiah chapter 2 and 3 down here, and I have told you this before, you have a picture of the church today. That is what God does. God will take a story in the Old Testament. If you know the New Testament principles, you can go back to the Old Testament and read that story, and you can just see all of those things are down through there. For instance, I will give you an example. If you go back to Exodus chapter 12, you have a picture of the nation of Israel being brought out by the blood. It is in Exodus chapter 12, it is the redemption of the nation of Israel. We even sing the song in our hymnals, "When I see the blood, when I see the blood, when I see the blood, I will pass, I will pass over you." Back in Exodus chapter 12, there is an example where the Jew is told to put the blood on the door. When he is told to put the blood on the door, when judgment comes, God spares anybody that has the blood on the door. In an Old Testament scenario, that actually happened. They had to put the blood on the door, or the firstborn died.

That is a beautiful picture. In fact, it is such a beautiful picture, I call it the gospel, according to Exodus. Because it is a picture of Christ dying for you on the cross. They had to take the blood of a lamb without spot, just like Christ was. If you did not put the blood on the door, the firstborn died. Christ was the firstborn of God. He is the first begotten of the dead. When they took that blood, they had to put it on the top, the side, and the side. Whoever saw that, saw a cross. You have one thief over here, one thief over here, and the Lord of glory on the top. That is a picture. The whole Old Testament is laid out like that. But you would not understand the picture if you did not have the New Testament principle. In the whole Old Testament, we could go from Genesis and walk through. We will in time, as we study the Bible together, we will come through and you will see pictures. That is how you will learn the Bible.

In Nehemiah, you have another picture, just as clear as that. The picture is Nehemiah goes out and he sees Jerusalem, the city of God, the plan of God, in disarray, because men have come in in an unregenerate state and destroyed it, because God's people did not do what was right. I look at that and I see the church. Just as Jerusalem was the plan of God in the Old Testament, the church is the plan of God in the New Testament. Just as Jerusalem was the focal point in the temple of all the worship, your body in this church is the focal point of all things that God is

going to do. Just like unregenerate man, Nebuchadnezzar, Sennacherib, and all the Gentile kings destroyed that plan, the humanists today in their unregenerate mind have in the same way destroyed the body of Christ to the place that in both cases, the plan of God is shut down. People are not getting saved the way they used to get saved. The plan of God is at a standstill. I talk about the fact that, "Oh, but we have great churches." Just because you have a bunch of people in the building does not mean you have a New Testament local church by the Bible definitions. We have lost the definitions. My job as pastor is to hold those definitions before you and to teach them to you.

#### IV. Nehemiah's Night Survey: A Picture of the Church Age

I want you to see this. I want you to see the mess that it is in. Look at Nehemiah chapter 2. Just come back one chapter and look at verse 13. This is Nehemiah talking here.

*Nehemiah 2:13-15*

*I went out by night by the gate of the valley, even before the dragon well, and to the dung port, and viewed the walls of Jerusalem, which were broken down, and the gates thereof were consumed with fire.*

*Then I went on to the gate of the fountain, and to the king's pool: but there was no place for the beast that was under me to pass.*

*Then went I up in the night by the brook, and viewed the wall, and turned back, and entered by the gate of the valley, and so returned.*

Somebody says, "Now, what is he talking about?" What a beautiful picture. First of all, you notice he says "night" three times. I mean, what is the big deal about it being at night? If he had said it the first time, I would have gotten it. I would have realized that it was nighttime when he was doing this. There is more to it than that. If you know your Bible, you know that the Bible says that night in the Bible is a picture of the church age. Jesus Christ, when He comes, the Bible says He comes as a thief in the night. In Mark chapter 6, as you come down through that passage, you will find that there are four watches. Those watches represent the church age starting at six o'clock in the evening, Jewish time, all the way up to six o'clock in the morning. In the fourth watch in the middle of the night, the Bible says, the Lord comes back. What you have here is a picture of the church age. He told you three times it was night, showing you that he is going down and he is looking at the destruction and what is taking place in this city. It is nighttime and it is picture inspirationally of looking at the destruction of the church, what has been destroyed in the 20th century by unregenerate man with his ideas coming in and destroying the values of the church.

He goes out the Valley Gate. We already talked about that. That is the place of despair. That is what we talked about where the church needs to have compassion for people who come in who are having all kinds of problems. It is very instructive that when he comes out to view it, he comes out through the Valley Gate because that is where the city of Jerusalem was. It was in despair. It was a mess. It was all torn up. He tells you there that the walls are broken down. The

gates have been burned. So he has to come out that gate of despair, the Valley Gate. He goes down past the Dung Gate and he tries to go back in the Fountain Gate by the King's Pool.

In the Old Testament, the Fountain Gate went into the King's Pool. It represents the place of fellowship in a spiritual sense. The fountain represents the flowing, bubbling water of the Word of God that just energizes. That pool was the pool where the king, where everybody came and they met. It is a place of fellowship. We talk about today. Everybody likes to have a pool party. You have a pool in your backyard, you invite all your friends over, you sit around the pool and you have a great time of what? Fellowship. Well, that is not biblical fellowship, but biblical fellowship, when you see it, is going to be having a pool party with God.

But he cannot get in the Fountain Gate. It is all blocked. The camel cannot get down and get under. It is in such disarray. He cannot get in through the Fountain Gate. So he has got to go back up and go back in the gate of despair, the Valley Gate. It shows me that the church has no concept of fellowship. It has no concept of worship today. Not only is it a mess, but it has no understanding and definition of fellowship and worship. The church cannot get in. We have lost the doctrinal truth of what it means to have a real worship with God and real fellowship with God.

If you asked the average Christian what worship was, and you said to them, "Tell me what worship is," you would get as many different answers as the people you ask. I dare say that there are not too many people that would open up a Bible, take you to the verse that defines it and says, "This is what the Bible says worship is. Therefore, this is worship." You would hear things like this: "Well, I believe when you pray, you worship." "I believe singing is worship." Somebody would say, "Well, I believe that we have a worship service. And when we meet together for church, we are here to worship." Somebody else would say, as I said earlier, "Well, I worship God when I give my tithe, give my offerings." I have seen churches say, "Hey, look, come on tonight. We are going to have a worship service." What that does, it gives you the concept that you cannot worship outside getting together. Or worship is something that you have to do.

## V. Defining Worship: Spirit and Truth

What we are going to do today on this gate is we are going to define worship and then we are going to define fellowship. Take your Bible and turn to John chapter 4. I am not interested in giving you my opinion on what worship is because my opinion, if it goes against the Word of God, would be wrong. I am interested in giving you God's opinion. I have told you time and time again. The only thing I am interested in life is showing you what God's opinion is on every subject that you are going to have to deal with. You are going to have to be man enough or woman enough to deal with it on that basis. That is my job.

In John chapter 4, we have the great chapter of the woman at the well. What a great chapter. What a great story. In this story, you know the story or you should know the story. I will recap it for you. Jesus goes down there, sees a woman by the well, and He says He is thirsty because He wants to get this woman into a conversation about her soul and talk to her about living water.

They converse back and forth. Jesus tells her about the water He has and she does not quite understand it. In verse 21, He says this:

*John 4:21-24*

*Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.*

*Ye worship ye know not what: for salvation is of the Jews.*

*But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.*

*God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.*

Here comes the definitive verse in the Bible on what worship is. "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." Must, not if you want to or not, must, not if it is okay with you today or not, if you do not get better. You must worship Him in spirit and in truth.

Let us talk about that spirit. You have to be saved. When you got saved, you got God's Holy Spirit inside you and it becomes one with your spirit. But you still have a human spirit. A human spirit will lead you right or lead you wrong. You struggle with the flesh all the time. That spirit is one with God's Spirit. But you can still make the wrong decisions. So there has to be something that answers that spirit to the right thing. It is truth. You say, "What is truth?" Pilate asked the same question in John chapter 17 verse 17 to Jesus. You know what His answer was. Jesus says, "Thy word is truth."

So you have got to have two elements in your life to have worship. First, you have got to have the Spirit of God inside you. Then you have got to have the truth of God inside you to keep the spirit inside you between the white lines. I know my spirit. I know we all have emotions. We all have feelings. They are all a part of our spirit. Those can run us astray. We can see something and we want to believe it is spiritual. We want to believe it is God. We want to do this. We want to do that. We are actually already. It has nothing to do with the Word of God or nothing to do with God. So we expend tremendous amounts of energy of our spirit. God knew that. God knew that. So that is why He said, "Look, if you are going to worship Me, you must worship Me in spirit and truth." You have got to have both. You cannot have one without the other. If you are trying to worship God in your spirit and you are ignoring what the plain teaching of the Word of God says, you are not worshipping. You are doing your own thing. God fixed it when He said that. He fixed it for time and eternity that a man or a woman cannot just get up and do whatever they were doing in the name of God if it is not found in these scriptures and laid clearly out in these scriptures that puts it right where it needs to be.

The Bible says that these two things should dwell in you. First of all, the Spirit of God. "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price." If you are saved this morning, the Holy Spirit of God lives right inside you. The Holy Spirit of God takes up a residency in your

body. He seals your soul and He is one with your spirit and your soul. But my friend, you are still you and then you have an old sin nature. There are times that you can get confused because you have emotions. Emotions get caught up with things. You can get caught up with the wrong emotions and the wrong feelings. That is why God had to give you something else that would keep you straight. That is the truth.

He said in 1 Corinthians chapter 2 verse 16, talking about the Word of God, He says, "we have the mind of Christ." Then He says over in the book of Philippians chapter 2, He says, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." He says in Colossians 3, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom." The Word of God is to be inside you. That is why we teach the Bible. That is why we are so sticklers on the doctrines of the Bible. That is why we are so particular about everything the Bible says. Because I am telling you, true biblical worship is based on your being saved and having the Spirit of God and having the Word of God that tells you what you are feeling, whether it is the right feeling or the wrong thing or a biblical feeling or just a nice warm fuzzy feeling. That is the key.

Worship has nothing to do with what you do. You say, "Well, I believe that you can worship God in singing." I did not say you could not. I just said singing was not worship. "Well, I believe you can worship God in tithing." I did not say you could not. I just said that that is not worship. Let me tell you something. Worship is not something that you do. Worship is something that you are. If you tithe and you sing and you do all the other stuff that you are a Christian supposed to do without understanding worship and realizing that the Spirit in you and the Word of God is the root of that worship, you are wasting your time. Worship comes from understanding that you worship God 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It is not a service. It is not something that you, "Well, I am going to worship God with my tithes and your offering." Or, "I am going to worship God if I come into church this morning." You can come to church this morning if you are already worshipping and worship God in all those things. But if you think just coming and doing those things is worship, you are wrong.

Worship is a state of attitude of heart. You worship God 24 hours a day, seven days a week, everything you do. It is not something you flip on like a light, flip off when you go home. That is what we like to do. That is what the mindset of the church is today. We will go to God and worship and then we are going to do whatever we want to do on the way home, whatever we want to do the rest of the week, and then we will come back to church and we will just worship God. Or we will just have a nice worship service. Everybody will feel fuzzy. Everybody will feel good. Everybody will feel happy. Then when you leave, tomorrow, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, you will wonder why you are down in the dumps. You wonder why you have the problems that you have. I will tell you why. You do not understand the definition of worship from the Bible. It is spirit and truth. You have to have the Spirit of God inside you and the Word of God that guides you. That is worship. It has nothing to do with what you do. It has to do with what you are. When you are the right thing, then everything you do is worship. Driving in your car, raising your kids, going to your job. It is all contained when you have the right attitude and the right definition.

We are in a church today that we do not understand that. Nobody reads the Bible anymore. Nobody believes the Bible anymore. Everybody says, "Oh, I got a Bible. I have taken the church." You know what? "I just do whatever I want to do in spite of what it says." I have never talked to a person that was screwed up on some doctrine in the Bible. In all my years, I have never talked to a person, male or female, in my life who was screwed up on some doctrine in the Bible or something in their life that ever could go to the Bible and really prove why they believe what they believe. It was always, "Well, my preacher said this," or "I read this," or "I heard that." Nobody takes the time to investigate what the Word of God says to find out if what you are doing is the right thing. That is the Laodicean church today. That is where we are at. That is why, for the most part, we are a praying church instead of being a church. We have all the right things in the right places. But the thing that is missing is the internal thing, the spiritual thing, that what you are, not what you do. Worship is a state of mind. It is an attitude of heart. Jesus said, "If you love Me with all your heart, with all your mind and all your strength," that is worship every day, 24 hours a day. You worship Him in everything, but you just do not drive down the street and worship Me because of the flowers, and worship Me because of the nice sunny day. You worship Me based on what the Word of God says that you know in a world that is corrupt, in a godly, in a legitimate, you have an absolute standard that tells you exactly what God thinks. "Oh, I am happy today. I am happy tomorrow." No matter what the day brings, because I have a book that tells me the truth in a world that has no truth.

## VI. Defining Fellowship: With the Father and Son

If you would ask the average Christian, "What is fellowship?" you would get the same answer. You would get as many answers as you get people you ask. They say, "Well, fellowship is after church. We all go down to whatever to eat and have a good time together, and we pull all the tables together, and we pray for all the eat, and it is just Christians, and we fellowship together." Well, okay, that is a form of fellowship, but that is not fellowshiping with God that I am going to talk about. Somebody says, "Well, when we come together, we fellowship as believers." Well, okay, that is fine, but let me tell you something. It is just like worship. You have to understand the root of fellowship. Fellowship is not something, again, it is not something that you do. Fellowship is a byproduct of your worship. You have the right worship, you have the right fellowship. You do not have the right worship, you do not have the right fellowship.

The Bible defines fellowship just like it defines worship. First John chapter 1. Do not take my word for it. Let us just go and see what the Bible says. First John chapter 1. He says in verse 1 of First John, not the Gospel, now the one little "I" in front of it, First John.

*1 John 1:1-3*

*That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;*

*(For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)*

*That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.*

Notice how closely this goes along with the Gospel of John, which says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him." It is John, the same John wrote both. He wrote the Gospel of John and he wrote First, Second, and Third John. But First John, he is talking about here, he says, "That which was from the beginning." That is Christ. "Which we have heard." He heard Him. "Which we have seen with our eyes." They saw Him. "Which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled." They touched Him. What was His name? "The Word of life." The Gospel of John says, "The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us." He says here, "We saw Him, we heard Him, we touched Him. The Word of life."

*1 John 1:4*

*And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.*

There it is. You know what the right worship produces? It produces the right fellowship. You know what the right fellowship produces? It produces something this world needs so desperately and Christians need it even worse. It produces joy. You know there is a great difference between joy and happiness. You know what happiness is? It comes from the word "happenings." You are happy by what happens. You have a good day, you are happy. You go out and you win some prize, you are happy. You go out and somebody kindly says how nice you look, you are happy. You go out and it is cloudy outside, you are down. You go to work and somebody says what happened to your head, it is going to get caught in a tornado, you are not happy. You go out and you look at this and somebody bangs up your car and you are not happy.

## VII. The Fruit of Right Fellowship: Joy

Joy does not know any of those things. Joy is based not on happenings. Joy is based on your fellowship with God, your worship with God that produces your joy, and when it is done right, your joy is full and there is nothing in this life that can deter that. I do not care who steals your truck. I do not care who burned down your house. I do not care what happens. I do not care what transpires in your life. It may be there and you may weep and you may cry and you may grieve but deep down inside you will have joy. We are going to have that. That is why people kill themselves. You will find happy people who commit suicide in time because what has happened today, look at the movie stars. They have everything. Look at their average. They have everything. Why do they keep going for more? Because it does not satisfy. Happiness is not real. Nobody ever committed suicide that had joy. The joy comes from God. Here he says that it is your fellowship that makes these things right, "that your joy may be full."

## VIII. Walking in Light: The Foundation of Fellowship

But we still have not defined it yet. We are just getting close.

*1 John 1:5-7*

*This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.*

*If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:*

*But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*

This then is the message which we have heard of Him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. That is another thing that is different about God. There is no darkness in God. God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth. But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

Walking in the light of God every day, just as God is light, is based on the truth of God's Word. It is what you do with the Bible that you hear. It is what you think about the Bible that hits your heart about the truth of Jesus. It is an incredible thing when you understand that the fellowship of God is in your worship. Your worship is based on your attitude toward God, who is God, and all of that is a power and a protection that gives you love. What do you know of Jesus? What do you think of Him? The Bible is the ultimate, absolute book.