

NCC Roots Class-Experiencing God Session #11 November 11, 2020

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Session/Week #11...Kingdom People

- Before we get into the first day's session. Think about the Scripture reference for this week's study.

1 John 1:7 (NIV)

⁷ But if we walk **in the light**, as he is **in the light**, we have **fellowship with one another**, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, **purifies us from all sin**.

Day #1...On Mission to the World

- To be related/connected to Christ is to be on mission with Him. You cannot be in relationship with Jesus and not be on a mission. Why, because the following Scripture describes Jesus giving the Holy Spirit and the mission to His disciples after His resurrection. We have been given the same Holy Spirit mission.

John 20:21-22 (NIV)

²¹ Again Jesus said, "**Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.**"

²² **And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.**

- When Jesus returned to heaven, God fashioned **a new body of Christ** through the Holy Spirit...this body is called the Church...the Body of Christ. The Body of Christ is **on a mission to preach the gospel to the whole world**.

Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)

¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "**All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.**

¹⁹ **Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,**

²⁰ **and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."**

- The key point in this mission is this...***And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.***
- We are the new body (the church), but our power lies within us.
- Who is the power of the church...the very presence of Jesus...the Holy Spirit.
- That goes back to our earlier weeks...does God still speak to His people today?

John 8:47 (NIV)

⁴⁷ **He who belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God."**

- Let's look at an example of the work of the Holy Spirit in the first century church...after Jesus has gone to be with the Father and the Holy Spirit has come upon the believers.

Acts 8:26-29 (NIV)

²⁶ Now **an angel of the Lord** said to Philip, "Go south to the road--the desert road--that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza."

²⁷ So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship,
²⁸ and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the book of Isaiah the prophet.
²⁹ **The Spirit** told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it."

- God's mission that day was to send the gospel message of Christ to Africa, specifically Ethiopia. God had called Philip to join this international mission.
- The Holy Spirit leads Philip to explain Jesus as Messiah and the man was baptized and he receives the Holy Spirit...putting him on mission with God too.
- Look at what happens to Philip when he completes his mission that day.

Acts 8:36-40 (NIV)

³⁶ As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?" ³⁸ And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ **When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.** ⁴⁰ Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

- Let me give everyone a word of encouragement and warning at this point. Don't be overwhelmed by the idea that God is going to call you to China or Africa tomorrow so that you can have a nervous breakdown in a foreign country trying to serve God...that's the encouragement. God always prepares and equips everyone for the mission so that you cannot fail if you remain in Him.
- Now the warning...do not every assume that God will not call you to do anything-anywhere-anytime. We belong to Him and the greatest adventure of our lives awaits us on the other side of "Yes-Lord". Do not deny Him when He calls you, whether that calling is local or around the world.
- The calling is HIS MISSION...HIS PURPOSE...HE is GOD and it is our honor and privilege to serve Him.

Day #2...Koinonia or Fellowship

- My best description of this word is "oneness". This is why Jesus describes the church, His body as His bride. This goes back to Genesis.

Genesis 2:23-24 (NIV)

²³ The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man."

²⁴ For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and **they will become one flesh.**

- Jesus takes it even further in the Gospels.

Mark 10:6-9 (NIV)

⁶ "But at the beginning of creation God 'made them male and female.'

⁷ 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife,

⁸ **and the two will become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one.**

⁹ Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."

- Koinonia, fellowship, oneness! This is the purpose of God. Oneness with God and oneness with each other inside the Body of Christ, the church...leads to purification from sin.
- This is a significant challenge for anyone and everyone living in the flesh (all of us). This next statement is huge.
- Koinonia (oneness) with God comes only from a real, personal encounter with the living Christ and surrender to Him as the absolute Lord (Master) of your life.
- There is no other way for us to find oneness with God (the Father) than this.
- And this seems to be in total disagreement with our very nature, our sinful nature.
- Notice how many times the word “fellowship” is used in the following Scripture:

1 John 1:1-7 (NIV)

¹ That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched--**this we proclaim concerning the Word of life.**

² The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you **the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us.**

³ We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have **fellowship** with us. And our **fellowship** is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

⁴ We write this to make our joy complete.

⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

⁶ If we claim to have **fellowship** with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth.

⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have **fellowship** with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

- Notice that John describes his personal encounter and relationship with Christ (he experienced God).
- This encounter led to oneness...this released the power of God to complete the mission of the church.
- All of this oneness begins with our personal relationship with Jesus...everything flows from that.
- That's why God tells us to love God first become one with Him/Light....this enables us to love our neighbor...you cannot reverse the order.

Matthew 22:37-40 (NIV)

³⁷ Jesus replied: "**Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'**

³⁸ **This is the first and greatest commandment.**

³⁹ **And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'**

⁴⁰ **All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."**

- Practical application...if you have hatred in your heart toward your neighbor...it is actually revealing the lack of oneness with God...they are connected.

1 John 2:9-11 (NIV)

⁹ Anyone who claims to be **in the light** but hates his brother is still **in the darkness.**

¹⁰ Whoever loves his brother lives **in the light**, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble.

¹¹ But whoever hates his brother is **in the darkness** and walks around **in the darkness**; he does not know where he is going, because **the darkness has blinded him.**

1 John 3:10 (NIV)

¹⁰ This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who **does not love his brother**.

1 John 4:7-8 (NIV)

⁷ Dear friends, let us **love one another**, for **love comes from God**. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ **Whoever does not love does not know God**, because God is love.

1 John 4:19-21 (NIV)

¹⁹ We love because he first loved us.

²⁰ If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen.

²¹ And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.

- And by the way, that brother can be in China or Africa...never forget that!

Day #3...Koinonia in the Kingdom

- The first century church believed that everything they had actually belonged to each other (believers). This was also a physical oneness.

Acts 4:34-35 (NIV)

³⁴ There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales

³⁵ and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need.

- This is oneness and this type of oneness can only come from God.
- These people realized their desperate need for each other (community)...they literally stood against the world with this new message of Christ.
- The modern American church doesn't realize how much we need each other. This is represented by fact that the average American church attendee joins the assembly less than 50% of the time. And that was before Covid-19.

Hebrews 10:23-25 (NIV)

²³ Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.

²⁵ Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Day #4 & 5...Essentials of Koinonia

- Koinonia (fellowship/oneness) with God is the basic element of salvation and eternal life...this is not optional equipment for Christians.

John 17:3 (NIV)

³ Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

John 17:10-11 (NIV) Jesus' prayer to the Father

¹⁰ All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them.

¹¹ I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name--the name you gave me--**so that they may be one as we are one.**

John 17:20-23 (NIV)

²⁰ "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message,
²¹ **that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.**

²² I have given them the glory that you gave me, that **they may be one as we are one:**

²³ **I in them and you in me.** May they be brought to **complete unity** to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

- This cannot be accomplished without the saving power of God, the presence of the Holy Spirit in us.
- **Blackaby lists 4 essentials of Koinonia.**

#1) We must love God with our total being

- This is where idolatry comes into play...something comes into our lives and steals our heart away from God.

1 John 2:15-17 (NIV)

¹⁵ Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For everything in the world--the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does--**comes not from the Father but from the world.**

¹⁷ The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

- This was the warning of Jesus to the church at Ephesus in Revelation.

Revelation 2:4-5 (NIV)

⁴ Yet I hold this against you: **You have forsaken your first love.**

⁵ Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.

#2) We must submit to God's sovereign rule.

- The word "Lord" means "Master"...it's not just a concept, it is our reality.
- God's holiness demands absolute obedience.
- Fellowship with God is broken when we refuse to obey Him, just like fellowship is broken when we allow another to take our heart away from Him.
- The battle in this case is "self" vs "God"...who will be master?

Matthew 16:24-25 (NIV)

²⁴ Then Jesus said to his disciples, "**If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.**

²⁵ For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it.

#3) We must experience God in a real and personal way

- Your koinonia with God is based on your personal experience with Him. No substitute will do. You cannot rely on the personal experience of your spouse, your parents, your pastor or your fellow church members. Your koinonia (oneness) must be real and personal to you.

- When and if you ever start living off of someone else's oneness with God...you are in serious trouble.
- You cannot survive as a spectator...you must be one who personally experiencing and hears from God.
- This oneness must also be current and not based on past encounters with God.
- We all need fresh fire for our flames to burn bright in this dark world.
- Those who had personally experienced God were willing to die for their faith...spectators will never live this type of life.

2 Timothy 1:8-12 (NLT2)

⁸ So never be ashamed to tell others about our Lord. And don't be ashamed of me, either, even though I'm in prison for him. With the strength God gives you, be ready to suffer with me for the sake of the Good News.

⁹ For God saved us and called us to live a holy life. He did this, not because we deserved it, but because that was his plan from before the beginning of time—to show us his grace through Christ Jesus.

¹⁰ And now he has made all of this plain to us by the appearing of Christ Jesus, our Savior. He broke the power of death and illuminated the way to life and immortality through the Good News.

¹¹ And God chose me to be a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of this Good News.

¹² That is why I am suffering here in prison. But I am not ashamed of it, **for I know the one in whom I trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until the day of his return.**

#4) We must completely trust in God

Psalm 20:7-9 (NIV)

⁷ Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.

⁸ They are brought to their knees and fall, but we rise up and stand firm.

⁹ O LORD, save the king! Answer us when we call!

- We have put our lives forever in the hands of God. We break our fellowship with God when and if we ever put our trust in anything or anyone other than Him.
- Don't put your trust in your money or your plans...they will compromise your oneness with God.

Isaiah 31:1 (NIV)

¹ Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help, who rely on horses, who trust in the multitude of their chariots and in the great strength of their horsemen, but do not look to the Holy One of Israel, or seek help from the LORD.

- This is the essence of our crisis of belief moments...who will we trust with our lives?
- Abraham is the father of our faith and He experienced God and the fellowship of God.
- This is the summary of Abraham's life and his salvation into eternal life.
- It is also ours!

Romans 4:3 (NIV)

³ What does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."