

# Faith Walk! - Sermon Discussion

**Date** : 14 Jan 2024

**Sermon Title** : The Heart of Fellowship

**Speaker** : Rev Reuben Ng

**Text** : Hebrews 10:24-25

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## INTRODUCTION

This is the first of a new sermon series called the Heart of Faith.

The cornerstone is a very essential element of any building because it goes in first to provide foundation for all the other stones, bricks or building materials. It is something that everything relies on for support and foundation. Beyond that, with the placement of the cornerstone all the other stones find their alignment according to that; all the other stones are correctly placed only if they are aligned with the cornerstone.

Psalm 118:22 - *“The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.”* tells us that the builders who should know which stone is the cornerstone, has rejected the stone which turned out to be the chief/most important cornerstone. Jesus Himself quoted this verse in Matthew, Mark and Luke - three gospels out of four, in reference to Himself as the stone that the builders had rejected. People who should know who He is and welcome Him, are not doing it but have rejected Him “the cornerstone”. As Christians, Christ is our foundation/cornerstone. Everything that He is and all that He has done is the foundation and the support of all that we believe in and all that we are doing in His name. It is all about Christ, our foundation and support. But it is beyond that because the foundation also provides alignment and so Christ is also our alignment because in all that we do as disciples, we are finding our alignment in Christ.

Jesus, this chief alignment and cornerstone calls us to be His disciples as mentioned in last week’s sermon. (Matthew 4:19-20) Jesus calls us to be intentional disciple makers but we have to first be intentional disciples of Christ. We need to place Him as our foundation and align ourselves as intentional disciples of Christ so that we can be intentional disciple makers. The disciples He called in Matthew 4 left their nets and followed Him and we at Faith Methodist Church want to follow Him too. In following Him as disciples, we want to focus on these 5 things which sum up all there is to being a disciple of Christ:

**F.A.I.T.H** - Fellowship, Adoration, Involvement, Transformation and Harvest  
Today’s sermon will focus on Fellowship.

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*For we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7*

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## **What is Fellowship?**

We usually associate fellowship with food and drinks. Fellowship seems like a trivial thing but it is much more than that. Fellowship is also about people coming together, reading the Bible together, discussing scriptures and answering questions, coming together and praying for a church and praying for one another. Yet, fellowship goes beyond all these. It is not about the things or the act; it is what goes on beyond the things such as food and drinks, or the act of discussing the Bible and praying together.

In the beginning of the church in Acts, after Jesus had ascended to be at the right hand of God interceding for us, the Holy Spirit and apostles (who did life together with Jesus) were left here to guide us. And this is what the disciples did then:

*“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” (Acts 2:42)*

- Devoted - continuing, persevering, intentional, purposeful, deliberate.
- The early church really made a decision to continue and to persevere on in these things –
  - (i) the apostles’ teaching and the Word of God. Beyond knowing God’s Word, we need to live them out.
  - (ii) Fellowship (Gk. *Koinonia*) - to engage and to participate in each other's lives; almost like partnership.

It means while we fellowship over coffee we are engaging and participating in each other's lives. We show support and encouragement, and at the same time open ourselves up to receiving support and encouragement. We challenge and help each other better align with our cornerstone that is Christ. At the same time, we open ourselves to being challenged and corrected to be aligned to Christ. It is not just about the coffee but with that we can go deeper and do life together. It is not just about the food but with the food we come together, sit down and talk over a meal that is going to last longer than a cup of coffee, when we can engage further and deeper. That is why we have Fellowship Drinks and Meals in our church.

## **3 reasons for focussing on Fellowship**

Our God is loving, gracious and sent His Son down to die for everyone – this is our message to the world. We need to engage with one another to bring this message across.

1. When we engage and participate in the lives of people of different races, background, upbringing, education level, way of dressing, look, everything different, we bear witness to and reinforce the message the church always talks about – that God really welcomes everyone because His Son, Jesus Christ, died for everyone.
2. There is strength in being together. Jesus never called any Christian or disciple to be a ‘lone ranger’ Christian. Even when He called the disciples it was not just one, it was twelve and they did life together; fellowshiping together, engaging

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and participating in each other's lives. There was a community where they sharpened and corrected each other, challenged, loved, supported and encouraged each other all together and there was strength in that.

3. Being in fellowship with each other helps us to grow into alignment with Christ. Christ calls us to 'love one another' and it is only when we are in community that we actually get to love one another and also realize how far we are from being like Christ and need the light of God to shine into our own life to be aligned.

*Proverbs 27:17 "As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance (the face) of his friend"* – When we are with one another engaging, participating, fellowshiping and doing life together, we are also being sharpened. Every time we sharpen each other, we are being made more effective to be who we have been made or called to be; aligned to and like Christ, the cornerstone.

We need fellowship because without fellowship, there are just so many other things that we cannot do.

## How to focus on Fellowship?

Under persecution and tremendous pressure to exit their faith as Christians, the writer to the church tells them to, "*And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."* (Hebrews 10:24-25)

- Provoke, love, good deeds – Oftentimes, the moment we go through difficult situations, persecution or temptation, the very first thought is ourselves, what we want to do and feel comfortable doing, never about others anymore, not about loving and good deeds. Perhaps in those moments, consider how we can provoke, spur one another to love and do good. Because Jesus loved and did good in good times and bad, we also want to love and do good in good times or bad times, We want to align ourselves with this cornerstone and do the same.
- Not neglecting to meet together – The very first thing many people want to do when they go through a tough time is to withdraw – not going to church, taking a break from Life Group etc. But that is where we come together to worship, that is what a Life Group is for – that is why we are called together.
- Habit, encouraging, Day - One might think it is harmless to just withdraw but it can become a habit and this kind of habit we do not want. Keep encouraging one another even as you see the Day (day of the Lord's return) approaching. Let us remain faithful until the Day comes and one of the ways to be faithful is to keep on coming to fellowship and to encourage each other. Do not stop engaging, participating, supporting, challenging, encouraging, correcting one another. That is what we are called to do as disciples.

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## **CONCLUSION**

Fellowship is more than just food and drinks, worshipping and studying the Word together. It is doing life together in community so we can be aligned and sharpened to be like Christ as we engage, participate in, support and challenge one another. That is why we need to meet together in Life Groups so we may provoke one another to love and good deeds all the more as we see the Day approaching.

### **A. Review Sermon Application**

***Purpose: Reflect on how you have been embodying God's truth.***

- 1a. How successful have you been in fulfilling what you/your group had committed to do for the last FaithWalk?
- 1b. What were some challenges you faced and what would you like to celebrate?

2. Appoint someone to read Hebrews 10:24-25 slowly.

- a. Reflect on your life as a member of the Christian community. How have you aligned to what the author exhorted in Hebrews 10:24-25? How can it be more intentional?

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## **B. Relate Sermon Content**

***Purpose: Relate with the Truth and Resolve for Transformation.***

- 3a. Compare your understanding of 'Fellowship' before and after the sermon. Share if there is any difference in how fellowship is experienced in your Life Group from what fellowship should be in a community of faith.
  - 3b. What are some advantages of worshipping God in fellowship with other believers despite disputes that may arise due to differences?
  - 3c. Why are we never called to be 'lone ranger' Christians?
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- 4a. In what ways can fellowship in your Life Group, ministries where you serve and our church be improved?
  - 4b. Are you in the habit of withdrawing from fellowship with other believers when going through a difficult or challenging time in your life?
  - 4c. How can your group members encourage or help you to achieve 4a and overcome 4b in the following week(s) until your next meeting?

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## C. Testimonies, Prayers and Action

*Purpose: Give glory to God, seek Him and embody His Word.*

5. Share your personal testimony on how fellowshiping with fellow believers has impacted your relationship with Christ.

OR

Give thanks to God for the people He placed in your life that draws you closer to Him.

6. As a group, seek the Holy Spirit's leading to "*consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching" in our daily lives as we strive to be bearer of God's image, so that together and collectively as Faith Methodist Church, we may reflect, represent and reveal God to the world.*

Optional items:

Suggested worship songs:

1. Lion and the Lamb – Leeland <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C9ujBoud26k>
2. Let Your Glory Fall – Don Moen <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m4IA6ILdhEq>
3. On That Day – CityAlight <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=McX9SdQS4ml>

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