

## SPG SERIES – Study 3 Sacred Fellowship in His Presence

This is our hope, this is our quest: **unquenchable passion** that leads me to yearn for His Presence. God will continue to kindle our passion as we continue to move towards Him and seek to have pure hearts, seek to know Him more fully, seek to be filled with His Spirit. We know that as our passion grows for Him, we become more like Him and thus live in more of His freedom, actively involved in the

Kingdom life. Our cares and hopes are about our Lord and His will, nothing else matters, because we know that in this hope, He will lead us on a daily basis. Our hearts desire is to please Him only. This is where our Lord wants us and He will help us, **if** we demonstrate that this is what we want in our lives.

Let's look at how we kindle & cultivate passion by observing God at work in us and fellowshiping with Him. Consider what 1 John is teaching about unquenchable passion: it revolves around daily fellowshiping with the Father and the Son. Can you imagine what a unique experience this is? John is talking about fellowship with the Father and the Son, our joy being full & complete as we:

“We proclaim to you what we ourselves have actually seen and heard so that you may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that you may fully share our joy.”

1 John 1:3,4 New Living Translation (NLT)

This is our invitation from God to be in His presence. In 1 John, He tells us what is required. This is talking about being in His presence and while there, we can be freed of worry, stress, and anxiety; put on love, joy and peace. We are to experience joy with the Father and the Son. If we have truly been in the presence of God, we are changed. He is inviting us to have this fellowship and to stay there throughout each day. Let's look at what this requires. In our last study, our assignment was to create margin in our life so that we can be available for God and fellowshiping with Him. Our society has eroded the whole idea of a sacred fellowship. Sacred means “doing something holy”. Society has invaded the concept of keeping our spiritual lives “holy”! Each of our children is in activities 3-4x's per week. Our Sundays are bombarded by our children's activities! We must work, it is our responsibility & requires long hours. We have other duties demanding our time that are “musts”; at least we perceive them that way. We make the less important things in life become the most important. Because of activities, school work, club meetings, working out ... fellowshiping with the Father and the Son becomes a disposable commodity...all other things are scheduled as “must do's. How can we expect to have an unquenchable passion for the Spirit of God to bless us with more passion, more power, more blessing, if **our spiritual life isn't sacred!!** We say we want to be one with our Lord, one in our marriage, one as a family for the Kingdom of God. But, there is too little in our life that is sacred in the development and nurturing of our spiritual lives and the lives of those around us. What we are really saying is that *success on this earthly basis is more important than having unquenchable passion for God!* We are allowing obstacles and roadblocks to having the spiritual life God intends. **We are too busy with the things of the world** to have a sacred fellowship with our Lord. We allow less important things to be scheduled, taking the place of God. It is impossible for us to love the Lord with all of our heart if we do not permit margin to have

this fellowship. You must commit now, if you want to have this life...there is nothing more important in your life than having **sacred fellowship that will inspire hope and passion!** With this, you must long for what God promises will take place in your life: that you will overflow with the Fruit of the Spirit, overflow with God's power, overflow with thankfulness, have a joy & cheerfulness that bubbles within most of the time, peace beyond our understanding. **Our choice of what we love and hold sacred is the issue!**

Let's look deeper into 1 John where He tells us:

“...for every child of God defeats this evil world and we achieve this victory through our faith. Who can win this battle against the world? Only those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God.”  
1 John 5:4,5 (NLT)

The Lord is telling us that we can defeat this world. We can have victory over our sin and the love of the world that distracts us. But, *we must literally believe everything Jesus is and said!*

He finishes the letter with:

“We know that the Son of God has come and He has given us understanding so that we can know the true God. And now we live in fellowship with the true God because we live in fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ. He is the only true God, and He is eternal life. Dear children, keep away from anything that might take God's place in your hearts.”  
1 John 5:21 NLT

Yes, we can have victory over this world and our wrong desires by continually being transformed personally and assisting others in the journey, by not allowing anything to take God's place in our hearts. This only requires right choices on your part!

“Do not love this world nor the things it offers you,  
for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you.  
For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see,  
and a pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world.”  
1 John 2:15, 16 NLT

We choose what we love! We choose what to feed our passions! We must make better choices. Our choices come from what our hearts yearn for. Remember, it said “keep away from anything that might take God's place in your heart”! What are the wrong choices you are making that take God's place in your heart? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

John is also saying that sin will frustrate this fellowship.

“...I am writing this to you so that you will not sin, but if anyone does sin,  
we have an advocate that pleads our case before the Father.”  
1 John 2:1 NLT

“Anyone who continues to live in Him will not sin.”  
1 John 3:6 NLT

“We know that God's children do not make a practice of sinning, for God's Son holds them securely,  
and the evil one can not touch them.” NLT  
1 John 5:18

Much of our sinning flows from our wrong desires and passions. We choose to justify them and allow them. We must become more serious about our choices and we must do it on a **daily basis!** Consider viewing our lifetime one day at a time, or in other words, to live each day as though it were a lifetime and it reflected what I love in life. We can have

victory over sin, if we choose. And when we make wrong choices, we can apply this verse:

“Confess your sins” (make covenant that you will not sin anymore). 1 John 1:9 NLT

We can drop to our knees and confess that sin right then. We will immediately be on track and walking in the Spirit! We can be in constant fellowship with the Lord if we take these things seriously:

- keeping ourselves pure so that no desire takes God’s place
- keeping our hearts pure by confessing and covenanting not to sin again

Do you yearn to have His presence full in you and through you every day? Can you imagine how powerful your life could be? Journal on what God is saying to you about this: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If you have real fellowship with Him, He can set you free from worry, stress, anxiety and fill you with love, joy and peace. We can have fellowship many times each day, we can live in freedom and a life of love daily. Do you thirst for His presence? How can you practice this each day? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

1 John is also about love.

If someone claims, “I know God,” but doesn’t obey God’s commands, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth. But those who obey God’s word truly show how completely they love Him. That is how we know we are living in Him. Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did.

1 John 2:4-6 NLT

We demonstrate our love for God to Him and ourselves by obeying His commands which means **we choose to have no other love take God’s place**. We must also choose to love our brother.

Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God.

Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God.

But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

1 John 4:7, 8 NLT

We should not just obey, but love one another with a love that comes from God. Can you imagine how much more love you will have for your brothers, if it comes from God? And if it comes from God, then you have applied that “you have not allowed any other loves taking God’s place in your heart”.

This is quite simple:

1. have unquenchable passion to be in fellowship, in His presence
2. keep vigilant everyday in not allowing yourself of the enemy to take God’s place
3. keep your heart pure by confessing and covenanting not to sin again.

We are to bring this fellowship with our Lord into every activity of every day.

To have this fellowship with the Father and the Son, is more precious than anything. He is giving us the strategic principles for it to take place. If you have a true fellowship, you can’t help but increase your passion for God. It will grow to be unquenchable!

How do we practically practice this message and apply it? We say we want to have fellowship. We say we want this passion. Then we **must make daily fellowship a**

**sacred process!** We confuse this fellowship with just having bible and prayer time with God. This is not complete in any way. Having fellowship means I am seeking to have Him present in all I do every day, I am seeking His involvement. If we are truly doing this, and it is strategic to my journey to the heart of God, then I will live this as Jesus did! But, we do not even recognize the things God is doing and has done in each day when we are viewing each day as a lifetime statement. Here is the way we can practice fellowshiping with the Father and the Son:

**Application: 3-3-1 Principle**

If each day is complete unto itself as our lifetime statement, we will observe what God wants, what He is doing and whether I have kept a pure heart and confessed my sin.

**Assignment:** Daily record in your journal: the 3-3-1 Principle

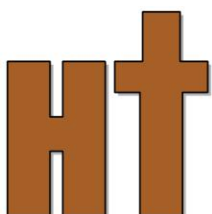
- 3 things that God was a part of, recognizing it as such. Write it in my journal so that I remember the goodness of God and build my faith in how He is working in my life.
- Record 3 confessed sins that I participated in that day.
- Record 1 special message God gave me.

Your purpose here is to recognize and remember the greatness of God within you! Here is a verse and chart that which can be used to reflect on each day: remember, we are victors!

For every child of God defeats this evil world and we achieve this victory through our faith.  
And who can win this battle against the world? Only those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God.  
1 John 5:4NLT

Oneness with God	Love like Jesus	Oneness with one another
Without selfish ambition	Without sinful cravings	Without dissension
Without jealousy	Without discord being sown	Without haughty eyes
Without negative thoughts about others	Without devising wicked schemes	Without manipulation
Without hate	Without factions	Without malice
Without deceit	Without hypocrisy	Without boasting
Without lying	Without envy	Without lusting
Without pride	Without anxiousness	Without disobedience
Without slander	Without gossip	Without false witness
Without worry	With God's power	Living in joy
Humility	Overflowing with thankfulness	Full of compassion
Desiring to give	Giving grace	Loving your enemies
Oneness in your marriage	Oneness in your family	Full of hope
Living in victory	Having a Kingdom focus only	Constant fellowship with the Father & the Son
Continued thankfulness	Yearning for God	Hearing from God

Will you make this choice and receive the victory that defeats the world in your life?  
Please journal your thoughts about what God is saying to you right now.




---



---



---

---

---

**Copyright © 2009 by Keith and Karen Peterson**