

# Fellowship

**1 John 1:1-10** Fellowship is a Christian buzz word, but what does it mean? I heard one definition: "Fellowship is fellows in the same ship on the sea of life." This is not a bad definition, because we usually fellowship with people who are going on the same journey we are. There is nothing sweeter than Christian fellowship. If we miss fellowship with those in the body of Christ, we are risking falling away from the faith. As we learned in Hebrews, we are not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together. So often when people leave a Christian fellowship or church, they do not attach themselves to another. When asked where they are going to church now, too often the response is, "I'm having church at home now." If we cut ourselves off from the body of Christ, our Lord soon has nothing to direct in our lives. Jesus is the head of the body and if we detach ourselves from the body, we will be cut off from the wisdom and the mind of Christ. We will not be able to see how the body can function together under the headship of Jesus.

---

## Hope in God's Word

**Psalms 119:132-155** David says several times in this psalm that his hope is in God's Word. Faith is the evidence of things not seen, the substance of things hoped for as we learned earlier in our study of Hebrews. The substance that gives us hope is the Word of God.

---

# You Are My Hiding Place

**Psalm 119:113-131** David in this psalm reveals the secret of getting through trying circumstances. He says, “You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in Your word” (v. 114). Corrie ten Boom wrote the story of her experience in the concentration camps where she lost all of her family. She titled the book *The Hiding Place*. She was arrested for hiding Jewish people during the war, but she was able to get through those trying times because she hid herself in the Lord.

---

# Stop the World; I Want to Get Off!

**2 Peter 1:1-21** Often when our family is gathered at the dinner table, someone will say, “Things are really getting tough out there.” The world is definitely waxing worse and worse, but the good news is those who walk uprightly will get better and better.

---

# End-Time Exhortations

**1 Peter 4:7-5:14** As Peter wrote this letter he had a sense of urgency. He felt the Lord’s return was imminent, and he wanted his fellow believers to be ready for His return. He says, “But the end of all things is at hand: therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers” (1 Pet. 4:7). It is interesting that

his End-Time exhortations were exactly what Jesus told us to do as the day of His return drew near. He told us to watch and pray. None of us know the exact time of the Lord's return, but we all need to be ready. Each of us will have our appointed day to die, and Peter's day came shortly after he wrote this letter. We should all, however, live every day of our lives as if it might be our last day on earth.

---

## **Count Your Blessings**

Thanksgiving Day is one of my favorite days of the year. One reason I enjoy it is because I get to hang out with all my family members. I don't take them for granted because many people are estranged from their loved ones, and I'm not. The other reason is simple—I'm thankful.

I've learned that the warmth of special days cannot be purchased with money or credit cards. Instead we find peace of mind and confidence in God when we thank Him for His goodness and trust Him to meet our needs. Let's step outside our own struggles this year and thank God for the simple blessings and small surprises He gives us every day.

---

## **How to Win the Battle**

Whether you realize it, what you think about yourself affects your life in one of two ways: It either builds your self-esteem or tears it down. Maybe you've gained a few pounds and don't like the way you look. Or you fault yourself for getting

laid off, even though the economy is to blame. No matter the reason, you think negatively about yourself. But demeaning your personhood isn't the answer. To discover what the Word says about negative thinking and self-talk, watch video below.

---

## Helping the Homeless

To contact the organizations included in *Charisma's* report on ministries assisting America's homeless, click on the links below.

### Convoy of Hope

Convoy of Hope exists to feed millions of people in need in the United States and around the world through children's nutrition initiatives, citywide outreaches and disaster response.

## New York City Relief

New York City Relief exists to connect the poor, oppressed, and addicted with a pathway toward help and hope. Through outreach partnerships, we seek to be a bridge between the needs on the street and resources in the community to meet those needs. These things we do...that others may live.

## Word of Life Assembly of God

Through its Hands Extended ministry, Word of Life Assembly of God reaches out to the homeless in the District of Columbia with food and the gospel.

# Rescue Atlanta

Rescue Atlanta is a church that is made up of more than 70 percent homeless. It provides food, as well as showers, laundry facilities, and a medical clinic for those in need.

---

## Top 10 Things to Be Thankful For



In honor of Thanksgiving, I'm happy to announce the top 10 things

Christian guys can be thankful for in 2009. This list is in no particular order and will alternate between meaningful, truly important

things and completely superficial fun stuff.

### **10. Cheap HDTVs**

A combination of better technology and a crummy economy has now allowed

men to view the world as it was meant to be viewed: on a couch in

glorious high definition. So whether you're watching the good (football), the bad (chick flicks) or the ugly (Gregg Popovich), you

get to see every nook and cranny.

---

# Adding Days to Your Life

**1 Peter 3:10-4:6** So many people in the world are almost hyper about adding days to their lives. They go from one health fad to another, hoping against hope that their longevity will be increased. We see the fitness freaks, the joggers, dieters, vitaholics, weight lifters all trying to beat old Father Time.