

DEGREES OF FELLOWSHIP I
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1. I'm not here to get you saved, and baptized, and blessed. I'm here to BREAK THE BREAD to you. So in the teaching, that's why I have to break the bread all up into pieces and run from Genesis to Revelation with it. I'll talk a little while on this part, and a little while on that part, and then I'm over in the Epistles, and I'm back again over here. Because THIS is the bread. But we have to have it broken into portions. And so a PORTION has to be adequate for everyone in the room. Now the portion which you are going to get this morning, the portion which is adequate for you, may not even interest the one that's sitting by you. But it will be the portion that is adequate for YOU. So, that's the reason I want to explain to you why we wander all over the creation when we're talking. I start in Genesis and end up in the tribulation in Revelation, or end up in one of the Epistles. You see, that's not my business, and it isn't your business either. It's the business of the SPIRIT. And He is pleased to take a passage and break it. Then I say, "Amen." He takes another portion, that is maybe for someone else. I've had it so many times that people will come and say, "Oh that which you said about so and so,..." It was only a little "incidental" thing that was thrown in; "That is what I got this morning. I needed it for so long." Now supposing I hadn't broke THAT piece of bread off? They would have gone without their portion. Because I should have kept the loaf, "good and proper," with points one, two, and three. And I don't do that.

2. Now for a little while, I say "a little while," the Lord knows how long it will be. I don't know. But we start out with good intentions. We start out thinking that we can cover this ground in short order. What's on my heart is to help you with this question of FELLOWSHIPING WITH THE LORD. We are CALLED unto a fellowship with the Lord. It's a CALL, just the same as we are called unto SALVATION. We're CALLED, and it's a CALL unto a FELLOWSHIP with Him. And if we can approach it from that thought, "I'm responding now to a CALL. He has CALLED me that I might enter into a fellowship with Him." Well, then if we have FELLOWSHIP, we have to UNDERSTAND ONE ANOTHER, and there has to be SOMETHING over which we DO fellowship, and in which we also SHARE. He...we come because we feel that we fellowship with Him because He feeds us. But did you ever notice in that lovely little verse...I'll start in Revelation, in the back of the book, you see, it speaks of, "Behold I stand at the door and knock. If anyone,..." He's not saying, now, that this is JUST for YOU. "If you are Spiritual enough, you can get it." NO, no. He doesn't do it that way. "If anyone hear my voice and open the door, I will come into Him and feast with HIM, and he with ME." But you see, we have to know that He is taking the eternal attitude of God, always standing at the HEART; He is always at your heart, (knocking). "Why I let the Lord in my heart years ago." I know. He knows. But that didn't end it. "I stand at the door and knock." All right. Now, "If any man hear My voice." The value of your word, "hear" doesn't mean that you hear His voice in the sense of "hearing." The word has the sense of "heed." If anyman "HEED" My voice, not merely to HEAR it, but to HEED it. Then you OPEN THE DOOR. Well what I'm getting at is this. That FELLOWSHIP of that breaking of that bread in that communion, was not ONE-SIDED. It was not ONE-SIDED, it was a DOUBLE COMMUNION. "I will feast with him, and he with ME." Now there's a double action in there and there's a reason for it. God want US, His primary searching today, is to get us and then to more fully POSSESS US.

3. So I was wondering about it and I thought, He says, "He will feast with Me." Well, why? Because I have to have something to OFFER HIM. He's come in and He's my GUEST, in my heart, HE'S MY GUEST. Well if He's my guest, I have to have something which I offer Him. And I wondered why it was that it should be, "And I will feast with you. Now you offer what you have and then I will feast with him." Double-action. I will feast with HIM, first, because what I have is so limited; it's so exhausted. It's soon consumed. It soon fades out. BUT--He says now, "Don't worry. I feasting with you with all that you can give Me. But I'LL feast with you, and MY resources are endless. Therefore, I put THAT last." Isn't He nice to do that? He so KIND. "I will feast. I will accept what you have." I remember one time, the Lord was dealing with me, and it was concerning some thing which He was asking of me to do. And He quietly stopped me and asked me,

"When did you last FEED JESUS?" Well what a strange question to ask this broken thing. How could I feed Jesus? He said it to me. He said, "When did you last feed Jesus?" Well. Then I found in the Word of God that He both hungered, and He had thirst. Those are two words that are spoken concerning the Lord while He was here. They are TYPICAL WORDS, or symbol words. Not that He got thirsty in His mouth and He got a drink. That was good, but that wasn't it. And He was hungry, but it wasn't to eat some bread. There was a hunger and there was a thirst. So He said, "When did you last feed HIM." Well, it kind of BOTHERED me a little. He was dealing with this question of surrender of the will, and all of that--obedience. He said one time, "My bread, My food is to DO THE WILL OF MY FATHER." Well, if doing God's will was FOOD to Him, it I am OBEDIENT and DO the will of God which He puts before me, I FEED THE LORD JESUS. Because He is living continually, upon the execution of the WILL OF GOD. Wherever that will of God moves, that's FOOD. And He said, "If you will obey Me in this; if you will do the will of God in THIS, you FEED the Lord Jesus. For HE IS FED, where the will of God is DONE." "And My good is the will of God." That sustains Him. I won't open that now, because then you have the thirst too. I don't want to get in there, but I want you to see just this. In this question of FELLOWSHIP, it's not a one-sided affair. It has a BALANCE to it. It's what He brings to me in my fellowship, and it's what I have to offer HIM in the fellowship. It's a DOUBLE arrangement. A double arrangement.

4. When Jesus was here, He had contact with all kinds of people. All kinds of people. He had CONTACT with them. Now on the surface of things, just to have HEARD Him, or to have SEEN Him, or to have SPOKEN to Him; that was the BEGINNING of a fellowship. There was a strange, contact...that was a CONTACT with Him. It may have been very limited, or fragile, or frail, but it was a CONTACT. He had spoken to me, or I had spoken to Him. There's been some kind of a beginning. Well, what I want to open to you this morning, by pictures, in the gospels, so that we will see it more dramatically; it will be a dramatic, actual picture, to illustrate a lovely SPIRITUAL REALITY. But the Spiritual reality will not be open to us until we can see by the picture lesson what He is talking about. What He is saying. Now come back again to start us off. Get some of this settled before we go in.
5. Our fellowship depends upon a strange thing called our CAPACITY. And that's a word that's bothering some people, and a lot of us....it bothers a lot of people where I minister, or where I teach. Because they see right, the message that's on my heart. The ministry God has put upon my heart for His people. My ministry is to the Body of Christ. My ministry is to the saints, to those who have come into the baptism and all this. I'm in THERE, working with them. Well, God sees that. Well, just as soon as I begin to open up some of the lovely things in God, the reaction usually is, and should be, the reaction in the hearers is, "Well where am I? How could I ever get that? How could I ever..." You know how that is. I've had it; so have you. It should be a normal reaction. To sense the GREAT NEED that's in us. To sense it. Not to fall back and say, "Well, isn't that lovely!" and go away. But the CONSCIOUSNESS when that Truth pours out, or the opening of the Word of God, or the advantages found in the things of God. A FRESH presentation of the lovely Christ. Right away the reaction...and some are stumbled, and a little self pity come on them, and say, "Well, I can't help that, and I'm sorry for myself because I don't have anything Spiritual..." Don't do that. That's very BAD. Don't do that. OFFER TO HIM WHAT LITTLE RECEPTIVITY YOU HAVE. If you are really BORN OF THE SPIRIT, you have become a new creature, or a new creation in Christ. There is ALREADY IN THAT, in that idea, in the fact that you are a new creature, a basic hunger and urge, and an amount of receptivity for the things of God because that new creature, that new creation is GEARED to God, and is GEARED to the best things IN God. We may not realize ALL of it here. But I've said so many times, that PARTAKING OF THE DIVINE NATURE, that deposit of the divine nature, that which rests in our heart and we know very little of it; but that is POTENTIALLY all that we shall have. It needs to be brought up, pushed out, expanded in spirit, in life, and EXPOSED to life, until God can cause what He wants of an inflowing, of an incoming of God, by the power of the Spirit IN us. So don't be disturbed about your CAPACITY. What ever capacity anyone has, and that is WITHIN US

ALREADY. He GIVES to EACH severally, according to his ABILITY. Now that's the scripture, that isn't my word. That isn't my word. Well, then I have to take what ability I have and not quarrel with it, nor moan over it, and not do anything with it but OPEN IT like that to God. He GIVETH. He would like to give all that He could. But He can only give to you, and He can only give to me, as MUCH AS OUR ABILITY WARRANTS. And I said the other day, if that ability becomes FULL, you will be JUST AS SATISFIED as the person over here whose ability is LARGER, because when he is full, HE is satisfied. Will that help some of you? I want to help you so much. I want to help you, because some of you become, in your reaction, a little depressed and restless, because you think, "Well I haven't much. I don't know what I could ever get of God." GET ALL OF GOD THERE IS. There is just plenty of God to go around! There's just plenty of God to go around. Just plenty of God. And He will give according to what CAPACITY is OPEN TO HIM.

6. Now there is such a thing, you see, as putting that capacity, that receptivity, in the HANDS OF GOD IN THE SPIRIT, that He could do what? TAKE IT'S POTENTIAL AND OPEN IT LIKE THAT. Until it comes to the FULNESS OF ALL THAT GOD EXPECTS. He doesn't EXPECT you to be Paul. He doesn't expect ME to be Peter or Paul. He wants me to be just the creature that I AM. He wants you to be just exactly who you ARE. Not trying to strain, or to be discouraged because you can't offer to Him what these magnificent saints have been able to offer. No...don't be disturbed over that. But be very sure, dead sure, that what opening there is, what capacity you have; you KEEP THAT SURRENDERED all the time to the Lord, open all the time to the Spirit, open all the time to Him, EXPOSED to Him. That as you read, and as you walk, and as you come, and as you go, as He speaks, as he preaches, as they sing, as they pray; whatever it is, you are exposed there to RECEIVE FROM GOD WHATEVER HE HAS TO OFFER. Then He will BUILD UP OUR FELLOWSHIP. He will STRENGTHEN it. He will ENLARGE. Until when He fills that, YOU will be just as blessed, and just as happy, and will be just as satisfying to God, just as pleasing to God, as this one who has capacity of Paul. You can give to God all that He expects of the pleasure and satisfaction from you. So can I. So will Paul. So I call this DEGREES OF FELLOWSHIP. The DEGREES in which we find this fellowship MOVE. The VALUE of it as we see Jesus moving about as He would go up and down the country. As He served and as He ministered. Here were all of these people about Him. Well, there was a certain contact with everyone of them. Now how do they REACT, and how far, how FAR, is He able to get into that HEART, and into that LIFE to do the miracle of the TRANSFORMATION that He is after?
7. So, we're going to have school again. We'll have to have school on this blackboard. I want to teach it with this very simple illustration. I want to teach it by way of a series of concentric circles. Then you'll have another circle within a circle, and another circle within a circle. They are concentric circles, but they all push down. Can you get it? We will make these circles concentric, one circle within another. Because they are all going to verge, and verge, and verge, and come down to this center. This is the Christ. Now He's the center; He's the center of EVERYTHING. He's the center of this universe. He's the center toward which everyone of us should gravitate, and should be pushing in, pushing in. Gravitating. Well, now this first circle, I will classify as the MULTITUDES who surrounded Him. When He went to minister, sometimes there would be five and six thousand people milling about Him, moving about Him. A great MULTITUDE, it says, multitude. Now, they HEARD Him, they SAW Him, they can't say, "I never heard Him." You did. "I never saw Him." Yes, you did. Why? Because you were in that multitude that pressed upon Him and moved about Him. Therefore, you're going to be held RESPONSIBLE, because you have come into contact, a remote CONTACT, but it WAS A CONTACT. And He never forbade anyone to come to Him. He was always ANXIOUS to touch any heart who would be willing to come. He would touch the lowest and the vilest, or the most intelligent. He would touch all of them. He loved EVERYBODY.
8. So this first circle, we will call the MULTITUDE. The multitude. And of course, you will have to have a scripture for that, so I'll give you two scriptures concerning the multitudes who come to Him. Don't look at it now. Take your notes now, and look at it

when you get home. Don't look at it now. Luke 5:1 and John 6:15. Now there are two pictures of multitudes...I spoke of it the other day, and I don't want to go over that ground, but for those who were not here, it's only fair that you should hear this. For those who did hear, you just sit in and "be quiet," while I tell it to those who didn't hear. I was talking to you the other day about the multitudes who moved about Him. These multitudes pressing upon Him. Always remember, MULTITUDES, or groups of people are MOTIVATED. There has to be a MOTIVE why they press about Him, or desire to come to Him. They don't run around like cats and dogs, ignoramous sort of things without any knowledge of any thing. They are intelligent. Then what is it, the MOTIVE in their heart, that made them want to move toward Him? Well, these two illustrations that I've given, I've given to help you see that the multitudes that press upon Him are classified. Always in that multitude you will find a multitude who are moved by CURIOSITY. So this is the word, CURIOSITY, is going to be the word to characterize them. They are ALWAYS curious. "Let's SEE, let's HEAR, let's GO...Have you been? I'm going...you bring her...we'll go..." There is always a curiosity about Him. We're "cosmic-curious" anyways. How would we get anything in the world unless we were curious? Do you know we wouldn't have any inventions unless somebody got curious. They were CURIOUS. They wanted to KNOW. It's a GOOD thing, but KEEP IT WHERE IT BELONGS. Sometimes you project your curiosity where it has not business at all. You come back with headache. So the multitudes are characterized by a sense of CURIOSITY. And they "mill" about Him. These two pictures. What is it? The curiosity was purely on the level of the material manifestation of His miracles. And He had to finally REBUKE them for it. He said, "You follow Me, not for the miracle, that really is here, but you follow Me for the bread and fish." Look at the multitudes that follow the Lord today, just to GET SOMETHING OUT OF HIM. "Let's take Sally, and get her healed!" Why? "Well, to get her healed!" What's the Lord getting out of it? "I don't know about that, but they say she can get healed." There you are. That's very BAD. That's not even polite. That is real "crude." So you'll find these multitudes, and He had to stop them. He said, "Now listen. You aren't following Me for the miracle that I have. This great marvelous thing, this is a miracle of God. He has sent it to you. But you have come because out OF this miracle, you get some bread and fish." And He was NOT pleased with them. He was not pleased with them. And finally that other group, you'll find them, and they were sitting, and He gave them a miracle of bread and fish. He made them there, actually, real bread and real fish, a REAL, genuine, divine miracle. And this multitude received it. Your next verse, "And when Jesus perceived that they would make Him a king..." Why? Because they wanted to CHANNEL this power. This wonderful power and gift; they wanted to CHANNEL it, so that they could make a KING out of Him, and use it politically, for world service. He was INSULTED. He was insulted. It says, He turned on them and fled and went up into the mountain. You don't have any pictures of Jesus doing THAT. You just have the "pretty" pictures of "sweet Jesus," breaking bread to them and being awful "nice." I like some pictures of Him when there is such drastic action. I like to see Him flee from that group and leave them eating their bread and fish! It doesn't say He even SPOKE to them! It says, "He left them, and went alone up into the mountain." I don't wonder. As I've said so many times, I wish that I'd been there, I'd say, "Lord, those folks will kill You yet!" And they did finally. They really did. They killed Him.

9. So He was displeased. Why? Because He didn't want this marvelous visitation, this lovely coming of God in salvation, the power that He had, He didn't want it CHANNLED in channels which would serve THEM for a satisfaction and spoil and dissipate the thing that God wanted. So He fled. So you'll find here, MULTITUDES. All right. Curiosity: Two groups. What's your next group? The one in Luke. "And when the multitudes pressed upon Him, to HEAR the word of God..." He sat down and talked to them. The multitude did not press upon Him for ANYTHING, like fish or bread or anything else. They had EARS which had been OPENED. "He that hath an ear, let him hear!" Why? Because some don't HAVE ears, they have STOMACHS. That's right. That's HARD to say, but that's the Truth. I'm not here to make you "happy," I'm here to tell the Truth, and I pray to God all the time, "Make me just as gentle as You can Lord, but I've got to give it." I have to give the Truth, whether people like it or not. That's my business. I HAVE to give it. It

isn't easy. I wish you could preach for me. I wish you could teach for me. I really wish you would. I wish God would let you loose just once so you'd have to take it. It isn't so pleasant. He says here that these are MOTIVES in their HEARTS and in their LIVES. So, He ministers to them. It isn't a question, He ministers, but how many see He only ministers according to what they have to receive. He gave to the one group fish and bread, and a real miracle, and it was blessed, and He healed them even. All of that, He gave it, because their powers of reception still rested in that field. And He satisfied them. He couldn't go FARTHER, because they had no EARS, THEY HAD STOMACHS. In THIS group, it was the ears that appealed, and NOT the stomach. They didn't say anything about food. They said, "They pressed upon Him..." Not for even a miracle, "They pressed upon Him..." and there were thousands of them. Hundreds of them. "They pressed upon Him to HEAR THE WORD OF GOD." Now they had EARS. The significance is, in Revelation it says, "To him that hath an ear, let him hear." What does that mean? He didn't say, "Let everybody hear..." Whoever is OPEN AND IN TUNE ENOUGH TO HEAR, LET HIM HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT SAITH TO THE CHURCHES." This Body. Why? Because He will have a message that hasn't ANY CONCERN AT ALL OVER HERE WITH SINNERS. Why certainly. There are many, wonderful, bits of teaching in that Word of God that hasn't anything to do at all with sinners. There's teaching there that hasn't anything to do with merely a BORN AGAIN Christian. Because that is MILK, MEAT, AND STRONG MEAT. That classification God has made; I don't make them. They are here. So He says, "To him that hath an ear, let him HEAR." All right, then if you HEAR, then you HEED. So with this first group, there are multitudes.

10. But you see, there is still another group in here, and this is the second group. I call this group, "the believers." Luke 10:1-2. Now these are BELIEVERS who have come out from the multitude, and have pressed in just a little closer. They've come way in HERE. They've come OUT of the multitudes. They seen the miracles, they've heard Him teach, they've heard Him preach. But something has HAPPENED to them. They have come to become BELIEVERS. Now a BELIEVER is a POTENTIAL DISCIPLE. But, not a REAL disciple. He is a POTENTIAL disciple. Now all believers are NOT all disciples, only POTENTIALLY. The same as a little male baby, just because he is a male baby, he is NOT a MAN. He is a POTENTIAL man, but he is NOT a man. He is POTENTIALLY a man, but NOW, he is a BABY. He is male; he is a male baby, but he is NOT a man! Something has to happen to bring him to a place where you can say, "He is a man!" He is the same thing, but something has HAPPENED to him! He is come INTO manhood. He GROWS and comes INTO all the characteristics that will make him a man. But even though, he is a little male baby...he is a man, he is not a cow, he is a man---only POTENTIALLY. Now BELIEVERS, when they come in, potentially they are disciples, but they are not yet quite DISCIPLES. We'll come to that a little later. They are BELIEVERS who have come in under the impact of this Truth. They are saved. Wonderously saved, gloriously saved. And filled with the Spirit. Let's "build them up good and plenty." They are just really wonderful. And that's allright. That's perfectly allright. So these believers now, have a certain mark upon them. They are overwhelmed that they have come to be a child of God. And they have been blessed with this salvation. And instantly, the REACTION is that where there is LIFE, there is ACTION OR ACTIVITY. For LIFE was made to become EXPRESSIVE. That's the way life IS. What would you think of a Christian who is saved and filled with the Spirit and there is no manifestation of life. Well, he must manifest. He's got to. He has to come out, because that's the way he is MADE. So these believers, they are really AGITATED Spirits. They are ALIVE, now don't you be "naughty" and judge them. They are alive; they are alive. They are all believers. And their first reaction is what? ACTIVITY. Now the Lord knows that too, and He sees it. He can't yet get those believers to sit down in His presence where He can talk to them. The SITTING POSTURE has not yet come yet. Now we're going to deal with posture this morning. How many can see the RUNNING posture coming first? Yes. This is the RUNNING POSTURE. And so He sends them out from Him, hither and yon, two by two. Of course! Now you'll find the development of this in YOUR heart and I find it in MINE too. For this is a picture of how we are MOVING. In our brigation, and in our approaches, and in our coming into real, direct communion with the Lord Jesus. We will go thru all of this. We were ALL in the multitude at one time.

We were all in the place of believers, thrilled with the...the...it was MARVELOUS! It was beautiful. That's characteristic. It's hard...when I teach this way, I'm not putting judgment on you. I'm trying to help you see, so some of us will know where we are. Can you take it that way? I love you too much to try to say,...I don't want to "thrash" anyone. I love you too well. But I have to tell Truth don't I? So we won't mistake this place of BELIEVERS, and think the end has come. It has not come.

11. Let me read you a little verse there. I think it's very good. In this question of the believers. Luke 10:1-2. Luke has to tell a lot of these things, because Luke is the gospel which is so very HUMANE. Humane. "After these things, the Lord appointed the other seventy, also, and sent them two and two before His face into every city and place wither He Himself would come." That's fine. But even though they went, they were God-sent. His blessing IS on them, now He sent them! It wasn't that they were just "razzle-dazzle," GOING! But He says, "I see your spirit. I know how you are. I can't TALK to you now. I'm not going to gather you about me, and expound any word to you at all. You lovely believers, I need you, and I'm going to bless you, and I'm going to send you away from Me." Think of the Lord, sending people AWAY from Him! We always thought He said, "Come unto Me." No, they're times when He says, "Go away." That's very BAD, but it's very NECESSARY. Now they're all COMING BACK. He didn't say all go to hell. He SENT them away, because they WEREN'T ABLE to stay. Isn't that strange? He SENT them away for they were NOT ABLE to stay. No, He says, "Go. And it will be My ministry. My ministry will be upon you. Now GO to all these cities and I'll give you a real ministry." And it was sweet and beautiful. Now, the word I have to characterize them is SERVICE. Because they were sent to SERVE, weren't they? All right.
12. All right. We'll put SERVICE as the characteristic word for this group. They're SERVING. That's good. Now that's your AGITATION. That's the RUNNING posture of the body. RUNNING upon the "errands of the Lord." But that body which is running upon the errands of the Lord, I hope before I get thru with this one, he won't be running too fast. There's a TIME to run, and there's a time for something else. SERVICE is characteristic, and "To the Word, To the Work," is their theme song. And they have a banner, and there they go. Now, that's good; I'm not poking fun at them, I'm just exposing them so we can see. Some can't see until it's laid out like this. Now that isn't the end of what He has to do with them. This is another degree of fellowship. So you have out of the multitude, you'll have the BELIEVERS, and out from among all these believers, He's going to get another group. Now these believers are POTENTIAL DISCIPLES. But not actual, experimentally MADE SO. That has to COME. Anymore than the baby, when he is a little male baby, because he is a male child, does not say he is a MAN. However, he is a man, POTENTIALLY. And if that child is subjected TO LIFE, as he should be, to pro and con, good and bad, all of this, it will react in him until it develops and he becomes a MAN. But you have to wait for the process.
13. Now let me read you another scripture verse. This one we'll find in Luke 6. In Luke 6. Verse 13. "And when it was day, He called unto Him His disciples..." These POTENTIAL disciples, these believers, who are POTENTIAL disciples. He had HUNDREDS of disciples, but only TWELVE apostles. But we into the habit of saying, "the twelve apostles, the twelve disciples, the twelve disciples, the twelve..." They are TWELVE APOSTLES! Of course they ARE disciples, but they are disciples who have come into a place of being a APOSTLE. They are BELIEVERS who have come to be DISCIPLES, and then into APOSTLES. Do you see a GRADATION, or don't you see that? There's a GRADATION all the time in here. So He calls ALL of these potential disciples, these believers, He calls all of them, they are all disciples.(potentially) He has called them. He wants to make them into ALL that they could possibly hold. And when it was day, He called unto Him His disciples, all these believers, and OF THEM, OF THEM, AND OF ALL OF THEM, He chose TWELVE, whom He named APOSTLES. So you see, the APOSTLES are DISCIPLES who are specially called. Multitude, believers, now you got out from among these believers, potential disciples, and so He calls THEM. Now that is your third group. (disciples) The scripture verse for this would be Luke 6:13. And Luke 14:26 is another very good one to get this thing straightened out. We'll put the word...the word for them is "DISCIPLINED." That's the

name which will characterize these disciples in their fellowship with Him. Now we'll come out here to DISCIPLINE. These are those we call the TWELVE DISCIPLES who are of course APOSTLES. But they are disciples, they are coming now into the fulness of what their name stands for.

14. What is a DISCIPLE? Let's get that straightened out. A DISCIPLE is a "taught one." The word "discipline" comes from the same root word. The same root word that means "disciple" is actually "discipline." Therefore, this group of people who will be subjected to discipline, because that discipline brings them into that place where they are really a DISCIPLE. That's why we say today, "Christians are Christians, but all Christians are certainly not disciples because they never MET THE CONDITIONS for BEING a disciple. Where will you get that? Well, we'll put three scripture verses for this disciple business. Luke 6:13 is where He calls them, all right. Now take Luke 14:26, and Mark 13:14, and what do you find in there. You'll find that Jesus says, "If any man..." Now get this straight. "If any man wants to be saved, let him come to Me and thus and so..." He didn't say that. He said, "If any man wants to follow Me in this discipleship, fellowship...if any man wants to follow me, let him..." "Let him..what?" Let him MEET THESE REQUIREMENTS. Let him FORSAKE ALL THINGS, father, mother, even unto a hatred...which I'd like to explain because He's never asked anyone to hate your father and mother for God's sake. "Mother I HATE you, I HATE you, I HATE you!" "What's the matter with you?" "I'm trying to be a disciple, and the Bible says I can't be a disciple unless I hate my father and mother. And I'm trying to hate you." Well, you see how ridiculous THAT WOULD BE! That's not what He's talking about, but I haven't time to explain it to you. That is very foreign. He's never asked you to do that. He says, "HONOR your father and your mother. HONOR, Bless them." He has an entirely different meaning from that. But there is a requirement. FORSAKING ALL THINGS. "Hating" your family. All of this. And IN that very chapter, He says, "NEITHER can he be a disciple UNLESS HE WILL DO THIS." He didn't say, "Unless he will do this he can't be SAVED." He is talking to SAVED people. He's talking to saved, baptized people. Saved, baptized, people, who He would like to bring into a fellowship of being a disciple, where He can sit down and could EXPOUND something to them. That's what He's AFTER. He didn't say, "Neither can he be saved." It's in that chapter there two times, "Neither can he be My DISCIPLE." Unless what. Unless he meets these REQUIREMENTS. Now listen carefully. The requirements which are laid down to come into discipleship are NOT the requirements laid down to come into SALVATION. When you come into the fellowship, OUT of sin, into a fellowship with Him, out of that realm, you FORSAKE sin, all those questionable things which are NEGATIVE, and unlike the Lord; we FORSAKE that, and we come into SALVATION. But NOW, after he's saved, and filled with the Spirit, and is really "good," the requirements have to do with LEGITIMATE things. NOT "bad" things. NOT ONE of the requirements for discipleship has any relation at all to SIN, AND FAILURE, AND UNBELIEF. The requirements are ALWAYS CONCERNING LEGITIMATE THINGS. Legitimate things. Why? Because IF those things which are LEGITIMATE, become OFFENSIVE to God, and a DETRIMENT, then He says, "You'll have to HATE that. You hate that." Now hate WHAT? The person who becomes that object? NO. NO. You LOVE your mother. You LOVE your father. But if their judgment, their wisdom, their thought, their plans, their affection, comes in BETWEEN YOU AND WHAT GOD IS SAYING, THAT'S the thing we HATE! NOT the person! But what the enemy is able to do through them. You HATE it. You're not hating the person! You're hating the thing which is PROJECTED THROUGH THEM. Jesus had that too, with Peter. What ailed Peter, when Jesus turned and said, "I have to go to Jerusalem and be offered up." And He was suggesting Calvary and death? Well, Peter couldn't take that. He didn't want a DEAD Messiah. He's left his nets, and left everything that he had, to get in on the "ground floor" of that kingdom if He'd ever get it going! And now Jesus doesn't get any kingdom going at all, and Peter's disappointed, and when he hears Jesus say, "I've got to go and die," he says, "Be it far from Thee!" And actually SHOOK Him. "We don't want a DEAD Messiah! Stay ALIVE!" Now listen. That wasn't because Peter loved Jesus so sweetly. It was because Peter saw the bottom going out of his boat! It was his SELF-PRESERVATION. His self-interest that came first. It was not

because he loved Jesus, and didn't want to see Him hurt! No. No. How do I know? Because Jesus turned around and called Peter the DEVIL!! Certainly. Now didn't Jesus LOVE Peter? Sure He did. But when Peter becomes an INSTRUMENT in the power of the enemy, using him to defeat the purposes of God, and to defeat the pattern of Jesus' life, Jesus has to HATE that! Don't HATE THE PERSON! Hate what may come through the working of enemy in them. He still loves him. He still loves Peter. He says, "That savors NOT of God and Truth and righteousness. That desire that you have, to do thus and so, I don't thank you for it. You would RUIN the whole thing. Get thee hence Satan!! You speak like hell! I am under the power of the Spirit of God to bring to pass this glorious, glorious, thing. And YOU would defeat it? You, my closest friend. To whom I'm going to trust so much, and now, I see in you the awful danger that you will even defeat the purposes of God, and the purposes for your own life." He's trying to make a REAL disciple of him. You have to hate...now some translators, who don't see this at all, say the word "hate" there means, "to love with less degree." You've SPOILED the whole thing! He did not use the word that expressed love of a less degree. He used the word that He should, which was to HATE. There isn't such a thing as hating the Devil with less degree. If you hate him, you HATE him. If God wants you to get clear, then He says "clear." Not, "partial." And He turns to him and He says...called him the Devil! Peter, the lovely...He's not calling Hades, Peter! He loves him. He's trying to reach His hands out like that to rescue him! But He says, "The power of the enemy which is subtly working IN you and through you, in what seems to be a RIGHT, GOOD, PLAUSIBLE thing, is DANGEROUS. It's dangerous. Don't do that! You savor NOT of the things of the Spirit of God. You savor of FLESH. And you will DEFEAT the thing that I'm after."

15. Now, I won't go into ALL of that, but all the requirements to come into real discipleship, all of them, all of the requirements, are concerning LEGITIMATE AND LAWFUL THINGS which have COME OUT OF THEIR PROPER PLACE. Or are OVER-EMPHASIZED. And when any of those things become over-emphasized and out of place, then they become DANGEROUS. They may be good and wholesome IN THEMSELVES. But God sees PAST THAT. Past that. He says, "Unless you do, you cannot be My disciple. You can be a believer, and I'll bless you to death, and I'll take you to heaven and everything, but you will never come into this thing that I am after, that I'm wanting."
16. DISCIPLINE. Now listen. Here He's teaching the multitudes. He even gives a commission to these serving, lovely, people. But when He is, get is---ALONE...alone...ALONE...with His disciples, TWELVE, He EXPOUNDS unto them ALL THINGS. Now why can't He stand OUT HERE and expound all things? They are not CONDITIONED. I said in the beginning of my talks here, my teachings, last week, never forget it, ALL REVELATION, ALL TRUTH, ALL MOVING INTO GOD, ALL THIS LOVELY, LOVELY, DESIRE, all of that, IS PURELY PROGRESSIVE IN IT'S UNFOLDING, AND IN IT'S MOVING. But the HEART HAS TO BE CONTINUALLY CONDITIONED TO RECEIVE IT! And you can STAND before this revelation, and STAND before this teaching, and STAND before the Truth, weeks, months, years! But if the heart is not CONDITIONED FOR IT'S RECEPTION, you only get it's first, simple, implication. And you can CONSENT, and say, "yes," but bless you, my dear, precious, child, that CONSENT, that little EMBRACING, HAS NOT BROUGHT IT YET. It takes LIFE sometimes to condition it. I'm older than you. As I said the other day, I'm not just teaching because I'm a novice. I'm 75 years old, be 76 in October, and I'm filled with the Spirit 51 years, plowing thru THIS. It would be very funny if God hadn't been able to show me something. It's not MINE. I lay not claim to Truth. No one's original with it. But it is from God and it comes pouring out like that. And so receive it. Do you think that I could enter into the things that I am entering into even 5 years ago? No. Why? Well, dear, because I hadn't lived long enough. No. It takes weeks, months, years, to condition a heart for it's RECEPTION. Not it's ACCEPTANCE! Oh, we ACCEPT it gladly! But there is no RECEPTION. It is ACCEPTED. We say, "Yes. Praise God! That's wonderful!" But your HEART has to be conditioned, maybe for YEARS. Oh how I know that. Before He can really GET IN. There are NO short-cuts in the things of God. It takes INTENSIVE LIVING And INTENSIVE

SUFFERING. Those are the methods which He will use.

17. Now He can't talk like THAT to these multitudes; there's no RECEPTION. They will HEAR it and some of them say, "Amen! Preach it brother!" Yeah, and absolutely, there is no real reception in their heart, because they are not CONDITIONED. It takes TIME to condition a heart. He's had to work with me 15, and 20, and sometimes 25 years for the reception of something which I gave lovely ASSENT to when He filled me with His Spirit. That's the VISION. That's not the POSESSION. So when He is alone with His disciples, He EXPOUNDS all these things to them. For He has been CONDITIONING them all along the way. All along the way, He is conditioning them for the time He can sit down and speak to them. I gave you some "homework" the other day, do you remember, even after He'd been with them for three years, the teacher of all, Jesus Christ, the TEACHER; after He has taught them for 3 years, intensive courses, intensive courses, what was His comment? He looked at these disciples and He said, "NOW are ye clean." Not, "Now are ye saved." They are ALL SAVED. "Now are ye CLEAN." How? "Through My precious Blood?" No. Your SINS are taken care of by the Precious Blood. The Precious Blood, the atonement work of Christ will answer all of your sin problems. But there are a lot of difficulties LEFT IN THIS CREATURE. The "application" of the Blood, that doesn't "work." What WILL work? What He said, "Now are ye CLEANSSED, after three years, not from SIN, you HAVE that all taken care of, now after 3 years of intensive work, ye are CLEAN thru the WORD, THE TRUTH, which I have spoken to you." Why? Because the WORD, TRUTH, has a CLEANSING POWER. When the Blood came to you, the Blood was use for your SIN PROBLEM.

Continued on

Degrees of Fellowship II

Degrees of Fellowship II
John Wright Follette

1. For your IGNORANCE, and my IGNORANCE, my lack of DISCERNING, my lack of breaching the TRADITIONS that have accrued and clung to us...miserable traditions! Oh, just "good" ones! They're just awful "good!" And they can say "Hallelujah, Glory to God!" and be purely traditional things. Now all of that CLINGS to them. They were FULL OF IT! How did He get rid of it? It was the application, the continual overflowing of that Truth, this Truth...this Truth...this Truth...this Truth...WASHING THEM! Washing them. Washing them. Not from SIN; their sins were all taken care of! But here were all these OLD TRADITIONAL PATTERNS, the wisdom of man, the forms of their religious life, that they were used to. He couldn't get at them, they were INCASED in them. And so thru the power of His Truth, of the Word, HE WASHED THEM. He was soon going away. He didn't want to leave them with all that in them. He has washed them by His WORD.
2. Now, that's like the disciples. When He is ALONE, He can teach them open, because the...receptivity. So here are these disciples, and He deals with them, trains them. Your homework, if I were really teaching you, I would give you homework, I gave it to you the other day. You read thru your gospels in the life of Jesus, wherever He is ministering and dealing. Now see how many places you can find, where He is not healing the sick, that's all right, but where He has a specific action toward the disciples, what He is saying? Sometimes it is dramatically something which He will do. Sometimes it's just plain words. Whatever form it takes, WHERE do you find Him WASHING HIS DISCIPLES. I might tell you so far, I have NINE. Ever once in awhile, I find a new one. I'm always happy when I find one, I'm like that hound that goes around smelling to find it. I have nine places in the gospels where Jesus, in His work, in His dealing, is SPECIFICALLY WASHING THE DISCIPLES--from NOTIONS, IDEAS, STANDARDS, TRADITIONS, all of that, which is on them, NOT sinful things at all. But HINDERANCES. I've got nine of them, where Jesus what? WASHES them. So they are clean from that, they don't walk under that at all, they don't figure in it at all. That is a WASHED OFF thing.
3. Well now, you'll get this circle going down just a little bit closer. Do you remember any that got seemingly, a little bit CLOSER to the Lord? Even out from the twelve? Three! Good! Who were they? Peter, James, and John. So now we'll have another group. They're coming out from the disciples. They are coming yet closer, out of the disciples. And so we'll find here, Peter, James, and John. There are little verses for that which I'd like you to have. The word which I think characterizes them is not that they "love" Him so much, or that they are so perfected, that that was the reason He took them, that they were so "perfect" that they were the only ones that He could talk to. They were kind of in the "upper strata" of spiritually, that they were "super." It wasn't that. It was merely the fact, that what CAPACITY they had was so EXPOSED TO HIM, that He could reach them, even in their little, limited, capacity. He could reach them. Now I didn't know that until the Lord spoke to me about it; I was working this out. The Lord has helped me to see how it goes. I thought that it rested upon the fact that they were like, you know, "more understanding." Maybe "more holy," or more "so and so." It wasn't. It was because what CAPACITY they DID have, had been so EXPOSED to Him, that He was more than happy to fill it, just as FAR as they would LET Him. EVERYONE OF US CAN HAVE JUST AS MUCH OF GOD AS WE WANT. I was talking to a man just this morning, or somebody I was talking to about Spiritual thing, I said, "Listen. The limitation is NEVER IN GOD. The limitation is ALWAYS in US." The limitation is always HERE. It's always HERE. I blurr it, I hinder it, I mar it, or I CLOSE Him.
4. So here, I take these passages to read, concerning the three, in the Lord's dealing. Mark 5:37, Luke 5:1-12, Matthew 17:1-17, Mark 4:14-32-33. Now in those passages, you will find the Lord Jesus calling them OUT from the others on special occasions. These four are special occasions in which we find the Lord Jesus dealing with three who have COME OUT even from among the disciples. Here are three who have a sense of openness. Now get this. They are NOT perfect. They're reception is NOT perfect. I thought it was so wonderful and good and the Lord stopped me and said, "Now you go and look those

stories up." And I got my bible out and I read them one by one. He said, "Did you notice something?" I talk with the Lord; it's good to talk with Him. He said, "Do you see a mark of FAILURE AND LACK in them?" Well, bless my soul it was there. It was a LACK, it was not perfection. They weren't so capable. Look at that Mt. of Transfiguration; remember when they went up that Mt. of Transfiguration? "And they understood that transfiguration so well, so perfectly..." They did NOT, at all, they said, "Oh! Glory to God! Isn't this wonderful! Let us all camp right here! Make three tabernacles, and let us maintain a status of openness, and glory, and vision, and live in that!" And He said, "No, you don't! You don't know what this transfiguration IS, at all! But I like to have you with Me, because I want you to see something." But they made a BLUNDER of the thing right away. Transfiguration wasn't something to take hold of and occupy a place to live. The glory and the expression of God in you and me which sometimes come up...that isn't where we are to live. We live and move and have our being in GOD.

5. Well let's look at them at the fishing, where there were three, and they were out there fishing. Remember how Peter had to REASON with the Lord? He had to REASON. The Lord said, "Come on, now do this." "Well, Lord...You know...I know about fishing, and of course You don't...and I'll tell You how." No. The Lord says, "Peter. Do this." But Peter can't, until the NATURAL of Peter has to have it's "fling" and it's EXPRESSION... ..and it's EXHAUSTION. In everyone of those incidents, you'll find that there is some LACK in them, that they didn't understand yet, fully, the thing in which they had been caught up, and intruded with. He said, "I have a great burden..." He was burdened even unto DEATH. He would have died if God hadn't saved Him. He would have died under it, because the marks of death were upon Him. And He prayed that God would save His life, and God saved His life. (Heb. 5:7) But He said, "Will you come and watch with Me a little while?" "Oh yes Lord! You know I'm wholly consecrated and devoted, and I would do ANYTHING for You!" He says, "My soul is weighted under this even unto death. Will you watch with Me?" And they understood that so perfectly, that they all went to sleep! Yes, they did. They understood it so perfectly, that they all went to sleep. Well, what kind of appreciation or understanding? No...but even what they DID have of that support, Jesus, even in His...the Divine Son of God!...was GLAD for the support. He was. He said, "Even though you don't understand what it's all about, even be conscious that you are asleep." I often think that wasn't it wonderful that when He went up to Calvary, and He fell under the weight of that burden of the cross, they had to get a SINNER to help Him out. No DISCIPLE rushed to Him and said, "Oh precious Lord.." No. A sinner. FLESH!! Flesh offered him, even "flesh" would offer Him when it saw the service of this suffering Man! Even some "flesh" sometimes can be "respectable!" A sinner. No disciple ran to help Him. A sinner, "Come up here and help Him." I often thought, that cross has been going every day. I don't want it said that we, as Christians, who love Him, and live with Him, couldn't understand Him enough to know that there IS a place for YOUR shoulder and MY shoulder...to carry it along...carry it along. Carry it along. He was the SUFFERING, BLEEDING, Messiah.
6. So, with these three, even though they are LIMITED, He accepts them, even though they have failed. But there is the CAPACITY. Now I have a couple more circles. There is another one here, my fifth circle...I won't open that because that's too long and I get all lost in it. This is my fifth circle, and I think you will know that any people that came very close to Jesus: now I don't mean in His doctrinal teaching ONLY. But they were familiar with Him in His everyday, natural, disposition. Can any of us think, how any people who came to know Him INTIMATELY, they knew perhaps what He liked and what He didn't like in the way that the others didn't...who were they? Oh, that lovely home. Jesus had a HUMAN ASPECT OF BEING! Don't forget it! He wasn't "just" a DIVINE GOD WALKING AROUND IN FLESH! He had LIMITED HIMSELF to DARE to be HUMAN. And it's HUMAN that one should be hungry, thirsty, and like bread, and a little friendly communion---HUMAN!! And I think He delighted in it. In the stories, in the books that have been written concerning the visitation of the Lord, in the village there, not from the religious side

but as the people saw Him, there's quite a story or discourse concerning His life to be in that home. And it's recorded by some old teacher who had visited that home afterwards and they wanted to know how did that man act in this home? Why, He LOVED to be with them. There was a RELAXATION. I don't think He went into the home with Mary and Martha and Lazarus, HOLY, HOLY, HOLY! I don't think it was that way at all. He IS Holy, but I don't think He ever ASSUMES those "funny" roles at all. I think of a man, tired,...stretched...a day's ministry like that takes everything out of Him. I can see Him coming into that home, and I think He'd say, "Martha. Did they bring milk from the hills today? Let us have milk and some food and bread. I'm just weary. Oh, I want to tell you what happened...!" I believe He talked JUST LIKE THAT! He does with ME. He's very, very, REAL. He's knows what I'm eating at the table. He's not off here....No. I think when He went into that home, where He could share with them, many things He couldn't share with other people. I believe it. It was His little RELEASE that God had arranged for Him. I visited the old home just this last summer; the home of Mary, and Martha, and Lazarus. It doesn't look anything like I imagine it must have looked at that time. Because the face of the whole country, two thousand years has been washed out, that you have only the rocky soil left. But when I stood there, I could sort of visualize how it might have been. Well now, what would make a home like that? Furniture? No. There are a lot of home that have furniture that are NOT homes at all. No. They didn't have any apolstry that is overdone....they didn't have that. It was a very humble home. I think of a plain, wooden, table. And some peuter pot ware. Peuter bowls and pots. And I think that He must have liked to drink the fresh milk that would come in from the hills. And the fruit; I believe that. That's the way I think He WAS. A Hebrew looked... (we have Him) with a light over His head, a white dress on, coming in saying...He didn't. Why the people didn't know who HE WAS. They thought He was the son of Joseph, running off on a tangent of religion. "Isn't he the son of Joseph? Aren't these His brothers and sisters, and yyou're trying to make out that He's that? Why He's lived here all the time. We've known Him ever since that women had that baby, that "miracle" baby that she thought she had! She said the Lord gave it! Who ever heard of such a business as that? But we didn't tease her about it; we accepted it! She used to go to the mountain too, you know with this darling little lad, I don't blame her for loving Him. We don't have the Lord giving babies like that. We're HERE! We're PRACTICAL. We are REALISTS!" Well, don't be too real, you're miss something too! Yes, if you're too real, you'll miss something.

7. So now, here you'll find another circle, and this is the HOUSEHOLD. And the word that I think would characterize it is the SELFLESSNESS...not selfishness, but SELFLESSNESS, THE SELFLESSNESS, they each gave, He was glad to give, and they shared in what each had to offer. Selfless. Not "I". I wish, I want, I...No. That thing was erased and each shared alike. Selflessless. They were not selfcentered, selfish in their thought and desire. I can't take time to develope this household, but I would like a message on that. This household of FAITH with Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. And that HOUSEHOLD is in your heart and in mine. The Lord showed it to me, definitely. He said, "That household is in you. You have Mary, you have Martha, and you have Lazarus." Your antecedent is a drama in three acts. The story is told three different times. With three different acts. Just like a stage set up with these actors moving. It's a DRAMA, with these "actors" in three "acts." But it takes an evening to get through that. So that will be another lecture in the "millenium!" I'm going to talk about Mary, Martha, and Lazarus, and I will show you. YOU have Mary IN you. What is that "Mary?" Mary is the SPIRITUAL ASPECT of your BEING that reaches toward LIFE AND HEAVEN. This is "Mary." You see, ASCENT. Life, this is "Mary." Whenever that comes in, that's the "Mary" aspect of your being going this way, toward LIFE and toward TRUTH. And as soon as Jesus came around, how many know Mary was the first one to respond? She knew to take that part. Well, WHO is Martha? Well, now "Martha" is that one in you that gets up and "bussles around." Just "bussling" around, you know. You don't have time to sit still two minutes for the Lord. You're just "helping" Him out! "Well, look at that mess that He's in, and we'll have to ooooh!" Did you ever have "Martha?" Some of you know WHO Martha is. I'm sire you do. You don't want to call her by name, but that's who she is! That's "Martha" in

you, BUSSLING around! Till the Lord has to say, "Please, please, Sit down." "But Lord!" Now, don't "but" Me, I just want you to sit down." She can't. You have a Lazarus, too. We all have Lazarus'. And the dreadful part of it is, God has to let him DIE. Now when he dies and God strikes death upon him, don't leave him out of the tomb too long. Some have had Lazarus dead; I've met people that have had Lazarus dead for 10 years, till he, he gets "bad" after you leave him out for 10 years. And even THAT is on their spirit. I smell it. I smell in the Spirit, and I see and I feel, just like I do in the flesh. I was dealing with a person one time and all I could see was dust, in the Spirit, on them, dust, like this. I thought, "My, this is dusty." Do you know what that was? Then the Lord turned to me and says, "He's been walking the road so long, that the dust has gathered...he will NOT sit down." Well, there's some people that are just dust-laden. They've traversed the road so long; this activity, this "do something for God, anything..." Suppose the Lord went, "PARALYSIS!!!!," and He put paralysis on 17 or 18 of them. What would happen? Well, you'd have all the divine healers out trying to get you put back again! That's what you would do. The Lord says, "I just got him DOWN where I could help."

8. So, with this "Bethany" group, don't be disturbed if Lazarus DIES. I just ask you, BURY HIM QUICKLY. And wait again until the Lord Jesus can bring him BACK AGAIN TO LIFE. And he will function in your "last act." The "third act" you find Lazarus. Functioning. Well I won't go to that one, I have only one more here. Now, aside from just that, how many get another one? You know anybody that got any closer to the lovely Lord? Good! I can even read sign language! Who was he? JOHN. Don't you love him? I love him. I've said to people, I don't need an intro duction in heaven, for an angel to come along and say, "Follette, this is John." I'd say, "Sure is. I've known him for a long time. I don't need you to introduce." Why? Because I know his spirit. I know who he is, I've had lovely fellowship with him. "Why...are you a spiritualist!!" No. You don't have to be a spiritualist. Don't have to be a spiritualist. But isn't it lovely to have fellowship with spirits who have contributed and still contribute, who minister to you, NOW, a thousand, two thousand years after they have lived. They are still ministering to you. You know their spirit. You know...you know them. When you read, you can tell who's that. It's like in ART. If you are, even limited in art, and you are familiar with a certain artist and his technique, you don't have to go up to the picture and see if his name is in the corner. You can go and pick this one out and that one, this one, that one, by name? No. He has "thrown" himself upon the canvas, and you know him right away. Sure, you don't have to go through and read the name. You know him already. That like with John. We KNOW him. So this story of John is so interesting. I want to talk about that because I like this story. This will be John 13:23. Now you'll say, "What is the characteristic word here?" Well, I had to wait quite awhile till I got still so the Lord could talk to me, because I had all kinds of words going through my mind. Oh, I thought, this will be "love." Well, I couldn't accept that exactly, because all the rest loved Him. They ALL had love. But in a minute, we'll find it, after we find out how he acts and how he does, then we'll get his name and the WORD. The word that will characterize him. Where do you find this man in this last picture, that really tells you the nature of him, HOW he is, and WHO he is? You find him at the last little gathering at the Passover feast. Now Jesus has set them down, and He says, "I want you to go down and make ready for the Passover. It's time and I like it." Because the Lord still holds Him under the old Jewish pattern, for His NEW PATTERN hadn't yet broken out to become so that they could see it. So He walks with them. It took them a long time to get away from THAT. Even Paul couldn't break loose from it. It takes a long time to GET RID OF THINGS. Paul, even Paul, didn't break from it easily. He was still going up for the feasts and thing. Jewish, and yet he was a Christian with all this great concern. Do you remember it? He was still under the impact and power of the thing that had actually PASSED OUT. But the VIBRATIONS of it were still in his spirit. The NT hasn't anything to do with going to the Temple! NT hasn't anything to do with the law of the offerings! It a BRAND NEW ORDER. But you can't come into a NEW ORDER like that so swiftly! No! Everyone DRAGS something of the OLD, still vibrates when it is worn out, and passed, and gone! Even those early Christian teachers, trying to get them all circumcised! Well what's that? A HANGOVER of your OLD ORDER, and you're trying to drag that and put it into this NEW ORDER! It won't FIT! It

took a long time to SLUFF OFF of them these funny, traditional things, lawful things, which DO NOT PERTAIN TO THE NEW LIFE INTO WHICH THEY HAVE BEEN BROUGHT! They've been brought into a BRAND NEW ERA! A brand new ORDER OF LIVING. NEW CREATURES IN A REALM OF SPIRITUAL REALITY, with God, with the power of the Spirit, accomplishing in that, as He wrought in the OT with Israel. And He didn't want any of that paraphernalia with them, and it took them so long to let it "sluff off" of them, because it was RELIGIOUS. "Well...the Temple is good!" "The Temple IS good, but you're THROUGH WITH IT! You are THROUGH with that now. All right I can't get you far if you are still mauling around in that Temple business." Your out of it! It's played its' part. Beautiful; God designed it, God used it. But He says, "This is FINISHED. Here's your new order." But it hangs on.

9. Now here's the Passover. And of course this is His LAST Passover. He says, "You go down and prepare a place for us." So they go down and prepare a place. Now let's get this little story straight, and as we see it and visualize it. You see, they had to go up the steps, because it's in an upper room. A large room, an upper room. It isn't here on the level. Up your flight of stairs. Now that means something, to have an UPPER ROOM. It's never on the level that we are. No. You see, the creatures of earth would WALK IN UPON THEM. But it is an UPPER ROOM, where the creatures of earth can't climb up. YOU climb, and it has steps, and all those steps are significant. They come into this upper room. All right. So Jesus is there and has invited His disciples to COME. Now when they come clammering up the steps, talking of course; can't you see them? Can't you see Peter, that agitated spirit talking? Of course you can. They were ALIVE. They were interested. "And here's this Passover and He's called us to come..." Now when they go into that Passover room, and Jesus is here ready to have the feast, there are NO PLACECARDS FOR ANY OF THEM. FOR EACH HAS THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE THE POSITION. EACH has a right to CHOOSE A POSITION. There are no placecards saying, "Now you're nearer the Lord, you sit here. And you are not quite so near the Lord, you sit here. Peter you fail the Lord anyway, you sit there." It didn't. No. No. There's no classification like that at all. YOU CAN SIT JUST AS NEAR THE LORD AS YOU PLEASE. There's ALWAYS A VACANT PLACE AT HIS SIDE. But anyone who desire to come and sit by Him... YOU MAY DO SO. And LOVE is "quick sided." Love can see things when nobody else can see. Love penetrates things...how many know people who are in love; they notice things that nobody else does at all? Sure. Well why? Because love is quick sighted and discerns the situation and sees the thing. "Well I didn't see that!" "You didn't?" "No! I was there and I didn't see it." Well of course not. You get in love and perhaps you'll see something that perhaps somebody else didn't see. Love is like that and that's John. When he comes clammering up the steps with the rest of them, he's not too busy talking about the last issue with them. He comes in and he sees WHERE THE LORD IS, and he makes his way, RIGHT THERE. BY HIM. Wasn't that good? I like him. And the Lord didn't say, "Now come and sit by Me." HE DOESN'T WANT A LOVE THAT'S FORCED, or invited like that. He would like a love that would move gracefully to the place. And so John comes, and he sits down by the Lord. Peter could have sat there if he'd have wanted; there were no placecards, no arrangement. But you see, he's too "busy" to sense that. "Well, where's the Lord. Oh, He's over there. Yes, and we must get in by Him, and did you know this...and chat, chat, chat, chat..." And of course they sit down. "Let's be seated." Where are seated? "Right here." You could have been seated THERE. "Oh..oh." Take the seat right BY HIM. You can get just as near the Lord as YOU WANT TO. Just as near as YOU like. So John sits there.
10. Well now, they're having this feast. And finally it says, "And John leaned upon the breast of Jesus." He wanted to get as NEAR to Him as possible. And he knew in the end, what was coming, this terrible tragedy, just hours away. He knew that. But he wanted this last little time of fellowship very close by Him. And he even LEANED upon the breast of Jesus. Now we're coming to another attitude of body. How many know that? What is this one? THE LEANING ATTITUDE. You have the RUNNING attitude, the SITTING attitude,...there are 7 attitudes of the body. Every one of them with Spiritual sig-

nificance, and everyone of them mentioned in the word with the WORD---running, walking, standing, leaning...they are all named with the WORD. And John LEANED upon the breast of Jesus. That's a LEANING POSITION. Well, do you find anything else in the scripture about LEANING. Yes. Where is it? You'll find two pictures in the OT of the BRIDE. Israel as the bride, and then the picture of the BODY as the bride of Christ. They're both there. This one in Hosea is very good. And we find there, a lovely picture. She has FAILED the Lord, very, very, very, badly. Just dreadfully. You read that whole chapter, and it's terrific how God speaks of her, as the one that's unfaithful. The children are born of whoredom. A terrifying picture. You would think that He could have no more to do with them at all. Just nothing. How could He have anything more to do with her when He is married to her, married. But if you'll turn, it says even though there is great judgment and cleansing, and terrific moving in there, He says, "Listen. This is what I will do. I will allure her into the wilderness, that I might speak comfortably to her. I will restore again, our old trust of love and faithfulness. Thou they have failed Me, I can forgive. And I will push back the enemies which have robbed Me. They've have taken My...forest and My grapes and My grain and My corn. They have taken it. But I will ALLURE."

11. Now when you use the word "allure," don't use it as it is often used in the sense of wickedness. "The Devil just lured them in." It isn't that. "Allure" means to CHARM. To CHARM. "I will get her ATTENTION. I'm not going to deal with all this terrible condition. But I will get her ATTENTION." And so He gets the attention and He allures her into a WILDERNESS. Why? TO TELL HER A THING OR TWO? "Well she should have been told!" No. Now all these people who are so swift to bring judgment and correction on everything, I can't fellowship them too far. I always say, "Let God do that. Let God do that." Peter failed walking upon the water, and he began to sink. Why? Because he was afraid; his faith failed him, he was going to die. And the Lord turned to him and said, "Oh you coward! Why are you sinking?" He didn't. It says He reached for his HAND and TOOK him. THEN, after he was in the ARM of the Lord, He says, "Oh thou of little faith...why did you fear?" Now, the SAFE PLACE FOR THE REBUKE IS IN THE ARM OF THE LORD. That's the SAFE PLACE. And He knows that, so He says,...reached out His hand, took him by the arm, and said, "Oh Peter...why did you doubt? Why have you come to this?" So he's rebuked, but he's rebuked IN THE ARM OF JESUS. This BRIDE. This WIFE was in a terrible state, but He says, "I will allure her. I will allure her." And it's overtures of love. "Come on." Well of course, if she's sensible, she knows what she is, but she DARES. She notices, she dares. Then she follows Him. He allures her; charms her by letting her feel and see and sense his presence, the radiance, the fullness of His love. That eternal compassion and love, "I will let her sense it. I will allure her that I may speak comfortably." Now your Hebrew is better. This word of love, "comfort" means to STRENGTHEN. "I will strengthen her with My word. My comforter." The word, "comforter" comes from two words, "cum"--WITH; "fortae"--STRENGTH. A comforter is one who "comforts with strength." Not---a comforter is one who weeps on your shoulder when you get sorrowful. That's SYMPATHY. COMFORT is NOT that. Comfort is "cum-fortae," COMFORT--"I will come with strength. I will speak the words of love which will strengthen and gird her." And so He speaks comfortably to her. And she begins to REVIVE. Now, why is it in the WILDERNESS? Because if He dares to speak to her what He REALLY WANTS TO CONVEY, out here will be the "babbling brooks," you know, and the fruit trees, and the soft wind, and of these EXTERNALITIES which might touch her spirit and occupy her. There IS a time for the babbling brook, there is a time for the green pastures, that's all right, there is a time. But there is a time when they will INTERFERE. "I can't contact her when all this is the thing which touches her spirit. We'll push all of that back. And I will allure her to a most BARREN place, most lacking. But I will speak comfort to her. I will speak the words of love. Love, compassion, understanding, faithfulness." So He speaks words of comfort.
12. Now your next picture is in the Song of Solomon. What does it say? Here are these people who are looking, and they say, "Who is this that cometh UP OUT OF THE WILDERNESS,

LEANING ON HER BELOVED?" LEANING on her Beloved. When the Lord opened that, he said, "Now listen. How did she go into the wilderness? IN HER OWN POWER. In her own strength. Even though needing. Even though needing. Even though needing. There was yet enough of SELF-SUFFICIENCY to CARRY her to the wilderness." Where He's going to speak to her, she's going on her own...with a motive, she's still going in her own strength! But when she comes OUT of the wilderness, she comes LEANING. Why? LEANING means DEPLETION. Complete EXHAUSTION. The end of all RESOURCES. The finish of all NATURAL POWER. The ending of all EFFORT. TOTAL COLLAPSE. And she can't get out of that wilderness WALKING. Her strength has been consumed. She just collapses and falls back upon her beloved, exhausted, and He says, "Never mind, never mind. Just come OUT of the wilderness." And she goes out LEANING. Complete EXHAUSTION. Complete HUMILIATION. Complete REDUCTION. Complete EMBARRASSMENT. He says, "Come on." So she comes on out.

13. Now let's look at John and we will go. Now here is John. He was the man of THUNDER. The man of thunder was so weak that he LEANS over on the Lord. That's good. He was the one who ran out on the errands of the Lord! He's even the one who could SIT while Jesus ministered. The RUNNING has gone, the WALKING has gone, the SITTING has gone. What is he doing now? Now he is LEANING. That's complete exhaustion. Many people can't lean upon the breast of the Lord Jesus because their not EXHAUSTED yet. God has to just EXHAUST people to get them anywhere near Him. To get them anywhere near Him, He has to completely exhaust them. But there is a total collapse. So John was conscious of it; he knows it. So he LEANS; the last little touch he'll have with his Lord. He LEANS on Jesus' breast. What is Jesus doing? Well, Jesus is purging out from His heart these lovely words of COMFORT and STRENGTH. "Let not YOUR heart be troubled, you believe in God, believe in Me, just the things you do God the Father." The man whose heart is going to break is comforting all the others. That usually the way. THEY should have been comforting HIM. They should have said, "Oh Lord. We'll stand with you while you go thru this tragic thing!" No. They sat there all weeping. Well, let them weep. We all weep. They're all disturbed. We all get disturbed. The thing has all collapsed. We have our collapses too. The whole thing's done. But right in the sight of it He sits there and says, "Let not your heart be troubled, now you're troubled, you're disturbed. This is all in the purposes of God. This is all in the plan of God. Now be quiet; be restful, while I speak to you." Well, didn't John do that? Yes, John was leaning right on the breast of Jesus. And he heard Jesus talking all these good words. The disciples heard all those good words. But they were NOT leaning, they were still SITTING. John was LEANING. Well, if he leans upon the breast of Jesus, he HEARS the word of God, but he hears somethings else too. Something that none of the disciples heard at all. What is it? HE HEARD THE HEARTBEATS OF JESUS. The SOURCE of the Word! Not the word spilling out here, but he found the source from which it was moving. He heard the HEARTBEAT of Jesus. That heart, which in a few hours, will BREAK...but John had learned something. A total REDUCTION AND A TOTAL COLLAPSE of any effort, AT ALL, in the realm of John---that's FINISHED! That's FINISHED. And in total collapse, he falls back upon the heart of JESUS. But all the while he's there, suddenly he's conscious of something. No one else hears the heartbeat of Jesus. John has heard them. That's the SOURCE of the Word that is pouring out through Him. For out of the abundance of the HEART the mouth speaks. And He speaks out of the abundance of His heart. Now we use the physical heart as the example. But it's quite possible yet today, to be near enough the Lord in SPIRIT, to HEAR HIS HEART BEAT. Why? Because you come into a sense of the rhythm, the LIFE. Do you see how life is RHYTHMIC? It's rhythmic. The life forces in you and me; they are all rhythmic. John began to sense that. He was never the same. Though he had been reduced to a place of utter leaning, I think he went out strengthened with a strength that none of them could have because THEY DIDN'T COME. Nobody said you couldn't COME. You can come just as CLOSE TO THE LORD JESUS as you WANT TO. And according to the CAPACITY that you have, He will be so happy to FILL IT. He will so happy to share with everyone of us the burden that's on that heart. If you HEAR the heartbeat of JESUS, you're going to hear what's HIS concern. Not what's the church's concern, and people's concern. You're going to find

out HIS concern. For it ISSUES FROM HIS HEART. From His heart. John came. Now, what is the WORD there? I thought is was "love," but they ALL had love. But it takes great HUMILITY, great HUMILITY, TO DARE TO BE REDUCED AND TO DARE TO TAKE A PLACE, AND ALL THE TIME BE CONSCIOUS OF "I AM UTTERLY UNWORTHY OF THIS"... "I am completely unworthy of it, Oh Lord! But YOU have made it possible! And the PLACE is waiting for me, and even though it kills me to do it, I can't come with my open. No, I can't. I come this way, because you're DRAWING, and I'll die if I don't. I'll die if I don't. I'll perish. I'll perish; I'll perish if I don't come, Lord!" So we go quietly and sit by His side. And after you've been there a little while, you'll find that what little strength you had to get there will be TAKEN. That is just a total, absolute collapse. WITH HIM. ON HIS BREAST. And there we will HEAR, and there we will FEEL WITH HIM what the heart is beating.

14. Our loving Lord, Thou art standing at the door and knocking. Knocking at the door. You stood at the door of Your bride in the Song of Solomon and knocked, and she was so wonderfully comfortable in the experience into which she had come. Her feet were light; she was so comfortable. A good, lovely, lovely, lovely, life with Thee. You wanted a FELLOWSHIP.... You long that someone would move over these hills with you, in the fellowship that's in your heart. And You knock, even at the CHRISTIAN, the baptized saint. You are standing yet, knocking. The eternal attitude of God, seeking creatures. But You couldn't. She was still HELD. She was still HELD by even the thing GIVEN her, hindered. And when she does come, she knew not the hour of her visitation. And You had gone. Oh Jesus, precious, lovely Son of God. Don't let US miss the hour of our visitation. Don't let us miss the WHOING OF THE SPIRIT. The touch of God. Don't let us miss that. But may there be in every heart, a total, absolute surrender, that we shall LEAN upon Thy breast. That when You knock at the door we shall run and say, "It's my beloved. It's my beloved. It's my BELOVED!" And GO WITH THEE. We ask it for Jesus' sake. Amen.