They Continued Daily In The Apostles Doctrine And Fellowship

The title of this article comes from Luke's recording in Acts 2:42 - "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship..." Obviously, they refers to the Christian's in Jerusalem, those who had obeyed the Gospel through baptism as recorded in Acts 2:38-41. Note that nowhere in this set of Scripture, nor in any other to be found in the New Testament, does the inspired writer mention the concept or idea of fellowship being a social thing. Rather, what is clear from Luke's writing is that fellowship, as presented, is a spiritual relationship and a spiritual sharing of the doctrine to which they had obeyed.

The religious world has turned the Bible presentation of fellowship on its head to mean something that God never intended for it to mean. The word fellowship in the religious world usually finds itself attached to the word hall, i.e., fellowship hall. The inference being that fellowship is a place or time where people come together to eat, play, and socialize religiously. Some misguide the word even further by adding in a gym in which to play, a church sports team, or a sundry of other social events organized in the name of the church in which members can enjoy each other's company by having a good time.

When it comes to the Apostle's doctrine, we as Christian's must be faithful to what we believe, teach, and practice regarding fellowship. What exactly then is Bible fellowship? Google AI hits the definition spot on by explaining, "Fellowship refers to a deep spiritual and communal bond among believers in Jesus Christ, rooted in the Greek word *koinonia*, which means partnership, sharing, or communion (what is fellowship in the Bible)." Artificial Intelligence seems to understand that social activities are not associated with religious fellowship, why do some in the religious

world not understand. One must ask Google the word fellowship by itself to garner any social interactions or aspects concerning the use of the word.

Consider how the word fellowship is used by Paul when writing to the Christian's in Philippi. "Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being like minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind" (Philippians 2:1-2). Paul's use of the word fellowship compliments Luke's use of the word in Acts chapter 2. Fellowship is the feeling of a partnership in Christ that exists between Christians. Fellowship describes the close relationship between Christians as they share their commitment and devotion to Jesus with one another. Fellowship is the sharing of our life situations and offering encouragement to each other as we work as sojourners and pilgrims on this earth (1 Peter 2:11).

Let us each purpose to spiritually fellowship together as we "consider one another in order to stir up love and good works" (Hebrews 10:24) as we serve our Lord.