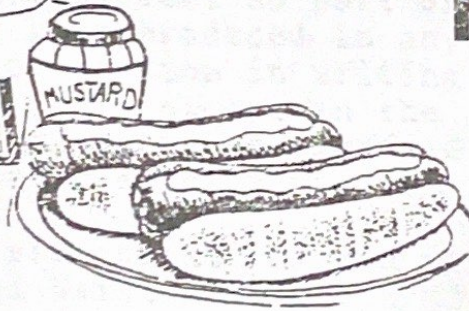


*Bro Rader*

# FASTING, A VOLUNTARY



# FELLOWS H-I-P.



By

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FASTING, A VOLUNTARY FELLOWSHIP

by

KARL F. SMITH

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THIS BOOK IS AFFECTIONATELY  
DEDICATED  
TO THE MANY FRIENDS WHO HELPED IN  
SUBMITTING MATERIAL.

Cover design by Mrs M. Lewis

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the King James Version of the Bible.

First print: 1985 by Ohio Ministries

Printed in U.S.A.

OHIO MINISTRIES  
P.O. BOX 1164  
PIQUA, OHIO 45356

Forward

Why must I fast and go through all that pain? Why should I pass up my food and drink as hot as it is?

How many times have you asked those questions of yourself and others?

The bible is completely filled with doctrines. We can't read or teach anything from the bible without promoting a doctrine and Fasting is one of those doctrines that must be passed on for the growing of that person in Christ. If one wants to know our Lord as he wishes for them to know him, it is needful to start with fasting.

This little book; FASTING, A VOLUNTARY FELLOWSHIP is written to be a blessing to you the reader in your understanding of the reason for fasting in Christ.

May the Lord bless you real good.

In the Master's service  
Howard Collier

FASTING, A VOLUNTARY FELLOWSHIP

That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death.  
Phil.3:10

Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.  
1 Cor. 7:5

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Those who are distressed like to feel that they have some company. There is a fellowship to be known to the servant of God. If you will remember Paul said on one occasion, "That I may know Him, in the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of His suffering."

The fellowship of His suffering means, we are alike in our suffering. If you don't know any other mortal, at the time, that's going through something that you are going through; if you will hold out to do the right, you will just be dedicated to do what is fitting and proper you'll always

have fellowship with Jesus Christ, 'because He was tempted in all points like as we and yet without sin.' So there is a fellowship.

#### OUR FASTING

When the children of the Lord fast and pray, what they are seeking is to [1] discipline their flesh, to bring their body under subjection, [3] to control the mastery of their own flesh.

#### TO HAVE FELLOWSHIP

But another thing, another good reason for fasting is to have fellowship with Jesus Christ in his suffering. Now he who fasted, forty days and forty nights for us, and subjected himself to temptation by the devil, forty days, when we put away our food and our drink, it's not a matter of short rations, it's not a matter of money that's run out, it's not a matter of hard times, the reason is that you can get food, you can get drink, but for the time, for that period of fact, you voluntarily put it aside. Nobody is making you do it. It's not compulsory, but you

VOLUNTARILY put it aside. What for? I want to feel the hunger pains with my Saviour.

When you do it deliberately and know what you are doing, then hunger, a throbbing head, dizziness or a sickness isn't so much to be asked after all. You've done it deliberately; that's the thing you are seeking.

#### MANY MISUNDERSTAND FASTING

I must mean to feel it. It's evident in me. I've known some people who misunderstood a fast and thought about the terrible feeling and that the hunger pains is something that they needed to be delivered from. And they came a few days after, and said "only the Lord helped me through my fast today." And they didn't even know they were fasting because there was no pains of hunger etc. If you haven't known that you're fasting, then you haven't done anything yet.

You ought to take another day and if another day doesn't do it, take another and another. Just keep

on until you feel it. One of the purposes in fasting is DELIBERATE INTENT, with deliberate intent to feel that hunger, that dizziness, that sickness, that throbbing of the head with Jesus, because the scriptures had said, "when he had fasted, he was an hungered." That means, he was feeling it.

And you fast because in your own "will" you want to join in with him and have fellowship with him in his suffering. Why do you want to have fellowship with him in his suffering? In his humiliation? That we might reign with him. "Because if we suffer with him, we shall also reign with him." If we go through the humiliation and the pain and the anguish with him we'll also have fellowship with him in his glory.

So fasting isn't such a terrible thing after all. You feel deliberately, things that the Lord felt. You have of your own choice, a fellowship with him.

#### WHAT IS FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship is not merely the shaking of hands. Some folks say I

feel fellowship in the shaking of hands. That's not fellowship. Gamblers can shake hands with you, and you can feel a closeness. There is no fellowship in that if you are not a partaker with him, you're not in fellowship with him.

Fellowship is a participation in kindred experiences with somebody. If you don't know suffering then you don't have fellowship with those who suffer. If you have never walked the floor with a tooth that is throbbing, and setting you wild, if you've never done that, you don't have fellowship in that respect with someone who is now walking the floor. But if you ever walked the floor with that experience, when you see somebody walking up and down, you know exactly what he's feeling and you feel it with him.

#### JESUS DID IT VOLUNTARILY

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* NO ONE MADE \* Jesus voluntarily  
\* HIM DO IT. \* submitted himself to  
\*\*\*\*\* temptation. Why did  
he submit himself to temptation?  
"That he might be a faithful and a  
merciful, high priest unto us."

Because he knew that we would be tempted. And before we were tempted he went and submitted himself to temptation, so when you come along and experience temptation, he knows just what you are doing. You have fellowship.

How much of our suffering is not of voluntary suffering or a voluntary fellowship. You don't truly have fellowship with one unless you choose it. If you choose it, then it's a voluntary fellowship.

Sometimes the Lord chooses who can suffer that they can chafe, and murmur and grumble and complain and try to duck and get away. For they don't have real fellowship with anyone who suffers. Certainly not with Jesus. If he could encroach, or misrepresent or falsely accuse, and they just go to pieces and "I can't stand it, I can't tow the line, Oh I just can't stand it." They may say "if anybody tells a lie on me, but the truth I could bear it, but if it wasn't true." Wait a minute friends. If it's not true you have some comeback, if it's not true you have some balm for your hurt. If it's true, you don't

have a thing to blind to it.

So if a thing is told on you that is untrue, don't go to pieces, and fly off the handle, "I just can't stand it for them to say something about me that is not true." You better thank God it's not true. You've something to praise The Lord for. Not for the bitter thing that's said, but you can just quickly thank the Lord, thank God it's not true.

And no matter who they can convince, (now some people can be easily convinced.) It doesn't matter who of your acquaintances, or an enemy that may be convinced, you're in a bad way, as long as they can't convince the Lord that it true. If the liar can't make the Lord believe that you did the thing that you didn't do, you're in pretty good shape after all.

When that comes, you have fellowship with Jesus, if you voluntarily take it. If you kick about it, if you complain, if you squeal, if you murmur, if you lie, if you draw back, it's not a voluntary fellowship. Anything that the Lord accepts at my hand must be free will.

God doesn't want anything wrung from me, wrested from me, against

my will. God wants the things yielded to him. If it's yielded to him, it's to my credit. If it's wrung out of my grasp, as long as I'm clutching to it and protesting, there's no credit to me for that.

So when you're in your temptation, don't make too poor of mouth. Don't howl too loud. It can stick you sometimes and make you cry, but don't cry too much and don't make the world believe that you're just about to die; and that you just can't bear it. If you want things to work in you, as God would have it work in you, then you must submit yourself and have voluntary fellowship with him in his suffering.

So persecuted they the prophets" If they say all matter of evil against you falsely, for Christ's sake, what should you do? "Rejoice." Don't weep, don't howl, don't complain, but REJOICE...Now if you want the thing to do you good, then you rejoice! So much depends on how you take the things that comes to you as to where you stand with the Lord.

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