

Expanded Report: Final Greetings and Benediction (2 John 1:12-13)

Prologue: The Importance of Personal Fellowship

As the family gathered around the table for their evening study, Ryan opened the Bible to 2 John 1:12-13. In this passage, John expresses his desire to visit the believers in person rather than just sending a letter, emphasizing the strength that personal fellowship brings to the body of Christ. He sends greetings from the children of another elect lady, further reinforcing the bond between believers and the importance of mutual encouragement. Even though letters serve a vital role in communicating truth, John shows that nothing replaces the in-person fellowship and love that builds stronger faith and unity among believers.

"Tonight, we'll be talking about why it's so important to not just read letters and messages, but to spend time together face-to-face as believers," Ryan began. "John, even though he could send a letter, wanted to be with the people personally to encourage them and deepen their connection."

Ariel, curious about the phrase "having many things to write," asked, "Why doesn't John just write everything down if he has so much to say?"

"That's a good question," Ryan said. "John shows here that some things are better shared in person. It's not just about the words, but about the relationship and the encouragement that comes from being together."

Alice, hugging Mr. Fluffernutter close, asked, "So, meeting people face-to-face is better than just writing letters?"

"Yes, Alice," Yaya replied, "while writing letters is important for sharing truth, personal fellowship strengthens relationships in ways that words on paper cannot."

Key Teachings: The Value of Personal Fellowship and Encouragement

1. The Desire for Personal Fellowship

2 John 1:12

"Having many things to write unto you, I would not write with paper and ink: but I trust to come unto you, and speak face to face, that our joy may be full."

- **The Joy of Being Together in Person:**

Ryan explained, "Even though John had many things to say, he knew that personal connection was the best way to encourage others. There's something about being physically present with others—sharing not just words, but experiences and moments together—that makes joy complete. John wanted the believers to experience that joy in person, not just through a letter."

Ariel asked, "So, it's not just about teaching people, but about having a relationship with them?"

“Exactly,” Ryan said. “It’s easy to share truth through writing, but relationships are built when we’re together. John wanted to be with the believers to build that deeper, personal connection.”

- **The Role of Face-to-Face Fellowship:**

Ryan continued, “John’s desire to be with the people shows that relationships in the body of Christ aren’t just about information—they’re about love, encouragement, and support. There’s a fullness of joy that comes when believers gather together, share life, and encourage each other personally.”

Yaya added, “It’s important to not only listen to teachings but to walk alongside each other, face-to-face, to truly strengthen each other in the faith.”

2. Greetings from Fellow Believers

2 John 1:13

“The children of thy elect sister greet thee. Amen.”

- **The Fellowship Across Believers:**

Ryan explained, “John also sends greetings from the ‘children of another elect lady.’ This shows that the body of Christ is connected across different communities. Even though they may be in different places, believers are united in their love for God and each other.”

Ariel asked, “Does that mean that even people we don’t know can still be our family in Christ?” “Yes,” Ryan said. “The family of God is global and interconnected. When we meet other believers, we instantly share a deep bond because we all belong to Christ. The greetings from other believers are a reminder that we are not alone in our faith.”

- **The Importance of Shared Fellowship:**

Ryan continued, “John is showing that the joy of fellowship isn’t just local—it extends across communities of believers. The fact that the ‘elect sister’s children’ are sending greetings shows that the body of Christ is bigger than any one congregation.”

Yaya added, “As believers, we share in the same faith, the same mission, and the same love, no matter where we are in the world. That’s what makes the body of Christ so powerful.”

3. The Key Teaching: Fellowship Strengthens Faith and Love

Key Teaching:

The key teaching of this passage is that personal fellowship among believers is essential for building faith, love, and joy. While letters and messages are important for sharing truth, nothing can replace the power of being together. John wanted to personally encourage the believers, knowing that face-to-face fellowship strengthens relationships, deepens joy, and unites the body of Christ. The greetings from other believers also show that the family of God is larger than our immediate circle, and that fellowship with one another is a sign of our unity in Christ.

Ryan summarized, “This passage teaches us that personal fellowship is key to building up the body of Christ. While communication is vital, it’s our shared experiences, our love for one another, and our mutual encouragement that make our faith stronger. We are truly connected in Christ.”

Practical Applications: Cultivating Fellowship and Encouragement

The family discussed how they could apply these teachings in their lives:

1. Spending Time Together in Fellowship:

Ariel suggested, “I can invite my friends over more to talk about the Bible and pray together, instead of just texting or calling.”

Alice added, “I like when we visit Grandma and Grandpa and talk about Jesus together! We should do that more often!”

2. Encouraging Others Personally:

Ryan encouraged them, “We need to make sure we’re not just sending messages but also meeting together—whether it’s at church, in a small group, or even just one-on-one—to encourage each other in the faith.”

3. Recognizing Our Unity with Other Believers:

Yaya reminded them, “We’re not alone in our walk with God. There are brothers and sisters all around the world, and we should be mindful of the fellowship we share with them. Even if we’re not with them physically, we can still pray for them and lift them up.”

Takeaway: The Power of Personal Fellowship

As the family reflected on this passage, Ryan shared how he has seen the importance of fellowship in his own life. “There’s something so special about gathering with other believers in person. Whether it’s at church, in our home, or with friends, that personal connection encourages us in ways that words on a screen can’t.”

Ariel smiled, “So, when we spend time with other Christians, we’re helping each other grow, right?”

“Yes,” Ryan said, “and we’re also showing the world what the love of Christ looks like in action.”

Key Points Summary

1. The Importance of Personal Fellowship:

- Personal fellowship among believers strengthens faith, love, and joy. It goes beyond letters and messages, building deep, lasting relationships.

2. Shared Unity in Christ:

- Believers are united across different communities and churches. Fellowship with one another shows our shared identity in Christ and strengthens the body of believers.

3. Encouragement and Support:

- Fellowship provides the opportunity to encourage, support, and challenge each other in the faith, helping us grow in our walk with God.
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Key Verse:

“Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.” (2 John 1:3)

This passage teaches us that true fellowship in Christ is built on love and truth. As we gather together, we encourage each other in the faith, knowing that God’s grace and peace are with us.